



**Official announcement statement
By the
Chairperson of ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL: Honourable
Hafeni L. Ndemula
ON 5 APRIL 2019**

**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, STATEMENT BY
HONOURABLE H. L. NDEMULA, CHAIRPERSON OF THE
ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL AT THE 2nd ORDINARY
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 2019, HELD ON THE 5th
APRIL 2019 AT THE ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS AT 10H00.**

Honourable Governor
Honourable Councillors
Madam Chief Regional Officer
All Management Cadre
Distinguish guest
Members of the media
Members of the public
Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

It is once again, with sore hearts that we have to commence our Council duties today. I would therefore like us to observe a minute of silence in homage of Late King Immanuel Kauluma Elifas, the stalwart of the liberation struggle and the Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders. Late King Elifas passed on Tuesday, 26 March 2019 in Onandjokwe State Hospital in the Oshikoto region. May the Late King Elifas' soul rest in peace.

It is only a month apart, since we laid to rest, the Late Chief Seth Madawa Kooitjie. Although we are grief-stricken, let's find solace that these leaders and those who have gone before us had tirelessly fought for the freedom that we enjoy today. Their stance on prosperity for their people had taken root. We honour all our fallen traditional authority leaders.

Honourable Councillors
Madam Chief Regional Officer

Late King Immanuel Kauluma Elifas had been accorded State Funeral to be held on Saturday, 13 April 2019. Therefore, let's consider postponement of the 29th belated independence day regional celebrations scheduled for Saturday 13 April 2019, and that Council announces an alternative date. Let me advise this August House that the regional celebrations should not be held later than four (4) weeks after the national event. Thus, the proposed date Saturday, 27 April 2019 should be considered.

Honourable Councillors
Madam Chief Regional Officer

Having expressed our gratitude to the foundation laid by our belated leaders, it is now our responsibilities to take the country to the next level. We are accountable for the rise and fall of this beautiful beloved motherland – Namibia. In order to continuously preach the advantages of prosperity and wealth, we need to strengthen unity and advocate harmony on a daily basis. It is now time to hold hands and constantly respect opinions and view-points of others.

Honourable Councillors
Madam Chief Regional Officer

Our region has been privileged to tap on the knowledge and expertise of the great leaders, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya and His Excellency Andrew Young, Former United

State of America Ambassador to Namibia visited the Erongo Region in March 2019.

Both leaders elaborated on the economic potential that needs to be developed for the development of the country and the region at large. His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya in March 2019. During his visit to Namport, President Kenyatta applauded the regional leadership on the achievements so far and elaborated that Africa will not succeed as individual countries but through collective effort by all.

This statement by His Excellency has made me realised that if Erongo Region want to compete nationally for sustainable development, it need to attract investors not only for potential economic growth but through encouraging collective effort of unity and harmony in the region. It is therefore, imperative for paradigm shift in our operations and mind sets. One of the shift is in the way we communicate and engage with public – the citizens of this great region. We should evade speculations but react factually. Keeping our citizens informed of our programmes and activities will avoid misconception and misunderstanding among the masses. We are therefore urged to continue engaging with our citizens at all times, and with due respect.

Honourable Councillors
Madam Chief Regional Officer
Ladies and gentlemen

We have launched our Strategic Plan and the Customer Service Charter in December 2019, I urge that these living guiding documents need to be utilized for the intended purpose of “**ENHANCEMENT OF SERVICE**”

DELIVERY”. This House and I repeat, this House will not in any circumstance dictate the Technocrats on how to implement the set objectives, but due diligence is needed, thus we will advise and guide where necessary, thus constant dialogue between the Technocrats and Councillors is encouraged.

Honourable Councillors
Madam Chief Regional Officer

I am reliably informed that all the Regional Councils and O/M/As will be monitored on constant basis on the implementation of its set objectives. It is against this background, that the Customer Service Charter Implementation Team will visit respective Constituencies to advocate the importance of service delivery. I thus urge all the Councillors to avail support to this national initiative.

Honourable Councillors
Madam Chief Regional Officer

As we have entered the new financial year of 2019/20, I trust we have our Annual Procurement Plan is in place in order to execute our duties timeously and effectively. Proper planning is the essential element of Good Governance, we are all thus urged to plan our activities and execute the desired development in the region. ERC to prioritize the signing of the Performance Agreements from CRO and institutional worker, and ensure review quarterly and arrest variances early.

The Management letter from the Auditor General’s Office indicate certain concerns and it’s imperative that we strengthen internal controls

and ensure ERC maintains an Unqualified Audit that we are accustomed to.

During the month of March, accompanied by Madam CRO and Deputy Director – Finance, I attended meeting with Deputy Minister of Ministry of Urban and Rural Development on the delays encountered with ministerial approvals and we expect that it will yield positive outcomes.

Also on the same day, we visited the Office of the Auditor General and raised issues of concern. Amongst others the late transfer of funds by delegated functions and our conviction to implement projects. As such late transfers cause audit queries and affects the overall audit opinion of the ERC. We believe that the planned Decentralisation Forum and other platforms will address and find a resolution to these issues. But as ERC we should recommit our efforts to comply to sound financial management practices and functional Enterprise Resource Plan.

Lastly, let us remind ourselves that our people hold us accountable for the development in the region, they heavily rely on us in improving their livelihoods, we thus need to be transparent and consistent in our activities. I will thus not take too much time from your busy schedule and will just encourage you all to go out there and make a difference in our society.

Thank you very much for listening. May God Almighty bless us all.