



**OPENING OF THE ANNUAL PLANNING WORKSHOP
BY
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PRIME MINISTER**

**28 MARCH 2022
OTJIWARONGO
OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

Hon Governor of Otjozondjupa,
Excutive Director,
OPM Managers
Our stakeholders from Okonguari

Very good morning!

1. It is a pleasure for me to join you today, at the commencement of the planning workshop where we will review progress on our five years' strategic plan and our annual plan for the current year, and to craft our strategic and annual plans for the next period.

On the 21 March this year, our country attained 32 years as an independent nation. The attainment of independence, marked the end of colonialism and oppression, and ushered in an era of self-determination.

State institutions through which the sovereignty of our State is exercised are entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard and promote the public interest by implementing programs to promote the welfare of the public.

Strategic planning enables public institutions to actualize the policies adopted by State institutions for the promotion of the public welfare.

They also enable public institutions to account to the public on how they are meeting their respective mandates by establishing performance thresholds and targets to enable the public to monitor and assess their performance.

2. It is therefore required that our strategic and annual plans speak to Vision 2030, NDP5 and Harambee prosperity plan² to ensure that the Office's resources are geared to bring about their realization.

3. Besides ensuring that we have in place strategic and annual plans for OPM, as a coordinating office for the public service we have the responsibility to coordinate the implementation of the PMS at all levels across the public service.

4. I am happy to note that implementation of the PMS has been rolled out to all OMA's and all OMA's have strategic plans, annual plans and conduct annual reviews.

We must now ensure the automation of the system, optimizing the Commonwealth SMART technology, and cascade the PMS to all levels of the public service.

We are also required to coordinate the roll out of PMS to RCs, LAs and PEs.

5. Our economy has experienced several exogenous shocks over the last five years, which have constrained economic growth and eroded the socio-economic progress that was realized since independence. These include weather related conditions, adverse developments in the global economy and recently Covid -19.

These developments have highlighted the vulnerability of our economy and the need to build the resilience of our economy and systems to external shocks. We should thus prioritize mainstreaming of resilience in the policies and operational plans of public institutions. In this respect, the completion of the resilience strategy need to be prioritized.

6. We have just concluded a field trip around Kunene Region, and it's evident that the drought conditions continue in many parts of the region, which call for more timely and responsive, well-coordinated interventions.

7. In 2020, we launched the public sector innovation policy. I note the induction and training of innovation champions in all OMAs, All Regional Councils, some SOE's, some Local Authorities and some Village Councils. We must further build on this progress to ensure the creation on innovative products that will help improve public service delivery and reduce cost of administration.

Under Harambee Prosperity Plan II, a commitment is made to introduce e-government services. Digitalization holds great prospects for accelerating the roll out of public services, reduce cost of administration and improve efficiency and effectiveness of public service. Our plans must articulate in concrete terms arrangements for realizing digitalization of our systems and processes.

8. Some agreed programmes are not executed, even when funding is availed, on account of bureaucracy or lack of coordination in executing our projects. It is, therefore, important that we identify and eliminate such bottlenecks, and ensure the fast execution of government programmes.

9. In early December 2021, we launched the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy. Looking at challenges of securing food in the unprecedented times of Covid, this Policy should translate in transforming of communities to be net producers of food items required in the country.

I wish to call upon all of you to embrace government policy to support locally produced goods in all the programmes we implement.

Through such interventions, we strengthen local communities, create markets linkages and sustain local jobs, which are crucial for improved living conditions of our people.

I further wish to reiterate our call for prudent management of resources at our disposal and promotion of transparency. Through such, we sustain the cornerstone of our democracy, which as our President reiterates, is founded on strong systems and institutions. It is through the actions of us who are at the center of public service delivery, that such cornerstones are nurtured and strengthened.

Just about a week and ago, I officiated at the launch of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan. This strategy requires that we establish Integrity Committees in all OMAs, and that we identify processes that are prone to corruption to be reviewed in order to address such vulnerabilities.

Our operational plans should prioritize such aspects.

Other important tasks that we are entrusted with are; wage bill reduction, expenditure audits, HCMS, customers' satisfaction survey and Business Process re-engineering. These must receive due attention in our plans and in implementation.

Lastly, I wish to underscore that civil servants are serving the public on trust given to us to govern on behalf of the citizens who are the absolute sovereigns. Such trust requires that we at all times deploy our maximum efforts to provide public services without favour to all needing it, and that we excel in so doing. We must also be results oriented and coordinated.

As managers, it is expected that we motivate our teams. Through motivated work teams, we shall be able to easily reach our performance targets.

I wish you all a fruitful Planning and Review Workshop, and it is my pleasure to declare the Workshop Officially open.

I thank you