tasked with overseeing and coordinating development in regional and local authorities, housing and progress in rural areas.

Minister Ekandjo pointed to many development projects which had so far been implemented since independence, saying that the first years of independence were spent on policy formulation and establishment of solid governance structures.

He added that the time for policy formulation had come and gone and time had come for people to see and feel development in their areas, especially in rural areas which had been deprived of development by the colonial regime.

“Twenty years down the line,” he said, “we can no longer talk about establishment but development, programmes and projects. Development is a process that is not only dynamic but full of challenges.

“Okahao Constituency, like all other constituencies in this part of the country, had been deprived of development by the deliberate system of colonial opposition. It is one of the areas in the country that bears the brunt of the war and devastation perpetrated by the deposed South African racist white regime during the liberation struggle.”

Of all the 107 constituencies in the country, Okahao has been the only one without a Constituency Office. Minister Ekandjo said that by having on office now, development programmes and projects should be accelerated to benefit the people.

“Is development to this constituency enough?” asked Minister Ekandjo. “The obvious answer is no. A Constituency Office is needed. The obvious answer to such a question is an emphatic NO. There are still mountains to climb, hills to cross and rivers to swim across before the Constituency of Okahao can be declared developed.”

The Minister appealed to community leaders and members of the public to identify projects that could improve the living standards of the people and bring about development in the area. He said community leaders should bring forth ideas and actively take part in activities that were designed to build and sustain Okahao Constituency.

“An important part of your responsibility, as a community, is for you to ensure that you fulfill your obligations to participate in working programmes, projects, meetings, and guide against destructors who may have destructive irresponsible intentions,” said the Minister. “Without such an exercise, Okahao Constituency will lag behind in development as it would not exploit its resources fully, be they in areas of human resources, agricultural development, tourism, aquaculture, business development, manufacturing and processing, technological innovation, education, health and others.”

Minister Ekandjo was quick to point out that development always came with multi-faceted aspects which involved the shaping of a society, a community and individual beings.

He said that parents, community, traditional and spiritual leaders should intensify their role in shaping and breeding good behaviour, conduct and principles which had the hallmark for shaping the resilient Namibian leaders. “A misfit society without morals, beliefs and direction is doomed to failure, would wither and is vulnerable to subjugation by external forces,” he said. “Our pioneers and youths must be made to understand the consequences of irresponsible behaviour, while, at the same time, they must be sensitized about the enormous derivatives which they would enjoy if they are to follow the path of expected societal good norms.”