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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



UERIKUA ACCOUNTS TO OTJOZONDJUPA INHABITANTS

The Governor of Otjozondjupa Region Honourable James Unomasa Uerikua delivered the State of the Region Address on the 7th of July 2021. The State of the Region Address is done in terms of Article 110 (a) sub article 5 and 6, and by the constitution of the Republic of Namibia which gives right to the Regional Governor to give a State of the Region address at the a Special Regional Council meeting of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, on developmental achievements and planned activities of the Region. Equally so; to report on the previous year's activities of the Central Government and other developmental partners of the region.

Honourable Uerikua's State of Region Address was further tailored to the annual progress on Central Government projects

in line with National Development Plan of Namibia, Harambee Prosperity Plan and Vision 2030, as aligned to his Declaration of Intent.

Covid-19

Uerikua said, Otjozondjupa region as the rest of the country is in a strained state of affairs and overwhelmed by the impact of this virus, we are losing fellow citizens, hospitals and health systems are under immense pressure than ever before, families are traumatized and depressed over the grieving the loss of their loved ones, families are financially distressed, the economy is stretched, the way of life changed totally.

Effective Governance

The Region has a strong and resilient regional Governance architecture rooted on the principle of democracy and good governance.

There is no room for corruption in this region and anyone irrespective of your standing or position in the society will be subjected to the full wrath of the law if found wondering. Let us report cases of alleged corrupt practices both in private and public sector. Officials should be impartial and transparent in their dealing at all times.

To date the ACC has arrested 3 officials, 1 civilian and 1 medical doctor who are implicated in corrupt practices and statistics are as follows; 1x MAWF, 1xGrootfontein Municipality, 1x Otjiwarongo Municipality, 1x civilian and 1x medical doctor).



Mrs Cornelia Shikongo
Senior Public Relations Officer

Welcome to the first edition of Ondjupa for the year 2021. Ondjupa is a newsletter of Otjozondjupa Regional Council and will be produced quarterly. It features activities of Council and the entire region with the aim to keep the region's inhabitants abreast with happenings in and around the region especially with regards to development and the improvement of their livelihood.

In this issue we take a look at the state of the regions as delivered by the Regional Government Honourable James Unomasa Uerikua. He addressed the region on the status of the implementation of government programmes and projects for the financial 202/21 and its impact in terms of service delivery to the region as a whole. His address focused on the four pillars of the Harambee prosperity plan and how the region has fared as such.

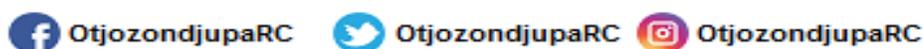
I once again look forward to working with all the stakeholders of the Regional Council in our efforts to maintain and promote the image of Otjozondjupa Regional Council and the region at large.

In conclusion I would like you our stakeholders and readers to enjoy this issue and be informed of the relevant developmental issues taking place in the region.



Otjozondjupa Regional Council

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Economic Progression

The Economic potential of Namibia is driven by its gross domestic product and Otjozondjupa as a region is no exception. The strength of Otjozondjupa and its ability to contribute to national economic progression is driven by its competitive advantage in terms of geographical and ecological zones suitable for livestock, agroeconomic and game farming as well mining activities.

In terms of agriculture, farmers in the region managed to benefit from the Namibia Agricultural Mechanisation and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP) aimed at improving food security and resilience. This program is advanced stage and to be implemented during 2021/22 FY. Beneficiaries are selected and various tools and implements are being sourced for



distribution to farmers. A cluster of seed multipliers has been selected and ready for production.

Social Progression

Otjozondjupa region is no exception for the growing need of strengthened government and private sector social interventions to help our most vulnerable inhabitants mitigate the effects covid-19.

For the period under review, N\$10.2 Million was spent on the drilling and rehabili-

tation of boreholes to address water shortages in communal areas.

Under the Rural Services Projects 232 new toilets were constructed in various constituencies at a cost of N\$1.5 Million. A total of N\$ 521,850.00 worth of livestock and chickens were procured and distributed in various constituencies for improved agricultural production and food security.

Furthermore, a leather making project at Gam Settlement in the Tsumkwe Constituency was commissioned to the tune of N\$1.2 Million, benefiting 10 beneficiaries.

Infrastructure Development

Construction and renovation of Sixteen (16) classrooms, One science laboratory, One library and Two septic tanks at schools in the region to the value of N\$6, 562 488.

A further 31 was spent on renovation and construction of ablution facilities at 38 schools in the region.

OTRC INDUCTS AND APPOINTS NEW COUNCILLORS AS RDRMC MEMBERS

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council Disaster Risk Management – RDRM unit inducted and appointed the members of the 6th Regional Council as members to the Regional Disaster Management Committee

The Regional Disaster Risk Management - (DRM) Unit was established through the Disaster Risk Management Act number 10 of 2012 is mandated to coordinate Disaster Risk Management amongst sector governmental institutions, local Authorities, communities and other role players involved in DRM. It is an approach that focuses on prevention and reduction of risks



associated with disasters, mitigating the severity thereof, emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response during disasters, post disaster recovery and resilience building.

The aim of the induction was to ensure newly elected Hon. Councilors (RDRM committee members) are familiar with key concepts related to Disaster Risk Management and the regulatory frameworks and to equip new members with knowledge and skills in

reducing if not alleviating disasters and risks for developmental gains at different levels of the communities, constituencies, region and country in general.

At the opening of the induction workshop the Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council Honorable Marlyn Mbakera said, if the issue of disaster risk management is not addressed, they can render organizations, communities, economies and families dysfunctional as seen with the impact of climate change and that of the prevailing corona virus pandemic and recent outbreak/ infestation of African migratory Locusts.

She further added that the induction also explored disaster risk management concepts and practices using practical examples and knowledge base and the concept of various disasters including both natural and manmade and a hybrid disas-

ter will be uncovered. The Chairperson also emphasized a need for vigilant and effective communication channels or system within DRM actors/ stakeholders.

The new members are Hon. Marlene Mbakera for Otjiwarongo Constituency, Hon. Israel Hukura for Omatako, Elder Filipe Grootfontein, Abdal Mutjavikua Okakarara, George Garab Otavi, Betuel Tjaveondja for Okahandja and Johannes Hausiku for Tsumkwe Constituency respectively.

The members were handed their appointment letters by the Governor Hon. James Unomasa Uerikua. They are to serve as members of the Regional Disaster Risk Management Committee for the duration of their term.



OTRC TO INCORPORATE KOMBAT INTO ITS FOLD OF SETTLEMENTS

Otjozondjupa Regional Council's in full gear to incorporate Kombat Settlement into the fold of its settlement. The mandate of the Regional Council as derived from Article 103 (3) and Article 108 of the Namibian Constitution, and Section 28 of the Regional Council Act of 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992) as amended, is to plan and develop the region in a sustainable manner for the benefit of its inhabitants. O

Otjozondjupa Regional Council currently administers to eight (8) Settlements namely: Kalkfeld, Tsumkwe, Okandjira, Coblenz, Okatjoruu, Okamatapati, Okondjatu, Gam and the new addition which is Kombat bringing the number of Settlements under the Council's administration to Nine (9).

Through the administration of the Settlement Otjozondjupa Regional Councils is expected as mandated by the regional councils act no: 22 of 1992 as amended to run Settlement areas as local authorities through the provision of basic services such as land on a leasehold, roads infrastructure, water and sewer reticulation and refuse removal. Kombat Settlement is located 37 kilometers East of Otavi

and 50 kilometers on the B8 road to Grootfontein. The area originated as a mining town due to the abundant mineral and water resources in the area. Kombat was declared as a Settlement with the Regional Council of Otjozondjupa in 2006 under section 31(l) of the Regional Councils Act, 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992) as per Government Gazette No. 119 of Notice 3679. Kombat proper has a population of about 500 while the adjacent Neu Sommerau Group Resettlement Farm has about 2000 inhabitants.

The Minister of Urban and Rural Development Erasmus Uutoni called on the OTRC to fast track the administration of the settlement in order to bring about community development at the settlement. He said the area has a lot of potential as it has abundant underground water and fertile soil.

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council through a Council Resolution RC003/01/06/2021/10.1 resolved for council to acquire all certificates of transferable immovable assets and properties to the Otjozondjupa Regional Council from deeds office, Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. It also resolved

for Council to engage utility services providers such as the Trigon Mine for the water and CENORED for electricity.

It further resolved for provision for an application to incorporate a portion of Neu Sommerau Farm into Kombat Settlement and to carry out an infrastructure audit (water, sewer, roads and landfill site etc.) at the Settlement. OTRC already has a proposed plan for two townships at the settlement on which through consultation with the community will serve as new townships which the community especially those at farm New Sommarau will be resettled. The farm will then be reserved for a green scheme project on which the community will be employed to work to earn an income and subsequently improve their living standard and ensure food security.

OMATAKO PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEIVES TWO NEW BLOOCKS



Omatako primary school in Tsumkwe constituency recently received two nearly constructed blocks consisting of six classrooms and a store room as donation from MTC under the MTC Rural School Project and an additional classroom from the Pupkewits foundation.

The donation was made possible through the two institutions' corpo-

rate social investments initiatives as well as their continuous contribution and support to the education sector. The donation is valued at a total of N\$ 1.6 million.

During the handover ceremony, MTC's Chief Human Capital and Corporate Affairs Officer, Tim Ekandjo used the opportunity to appeal to other major corpora-

tions and intuitions from different industries to join hands in achieving the country's national development goals and not shy away from their corporate social responsibilities especially in the education sector.

"MTC is prepared to drop its name from this project to accommodate other institutions willing to contribute to the national development goals of this country and make this project a national project in dealing with matters that matters" Added Ekandjo

The new classrooms will assist the school in immediately retiring its prefabricated classroom structures that are small and deteriorated and have been with the school since 1981 as well as go a long way in creating a physical and mental conducive learning environments for learners and contribute to infrastructure development at the school.

TSUMKWE FARMER APPLAUDS LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME



Fritz Gaiseb, a 71 year old San farmer from Rooidag Gate in the Tsumkwe Constituency has applauded the livestock distribution programme by the Otjozondjupa Regional Council where he too benefited from the 70 goats that were donated to small scale farmers in that particular constituency late last year.

The livestock distribution programme was launched last year as an initiative to improve the livelihood of small scale farmers in the region through livestock farming and wealth generation through agriculture.

"I am a full time farmer now, I take care of my goats with my family as we know they will take care of us financially in the future. The Government needs to roll out such programmes in this area as they help us to become productive and self-dependent. I am really happy to have benefited from the goat project and want to see my neighbours and friends also benefit like me" said Gaiseb.

The 71 year old pensioner has 15 dependents, of which 10 are children and is currently struggling to provide for his family since they are all unemployed and look up to him for survival.

"When these goats reproduce, I will be better off than I am right now because I will be able to sell some of them and use the income to cater for my family's financial needs as well as pay school fees for my grandchildren" explained Gaiseb.

Gaiseb received a total of 10 goats, 9 ewes and one ram but currently only has 5 left in his kraal due to the heavy rain received last year and poisonous plants in his area. He urged the regional council to distribute older goats as some of the goats he received were young and fragile and required more attention as he is still a farmer in the making.

"Of the 10 goats I received from the Councillor's office, only 5 remains and the other 5 died from the heavy rain received last year and eating poisonous plants because they were very young and fragile to care for and I am a new farmer and currently struggling to buy the necessary supplements and vitamins for them" added Gaiseb.

Gaiseb is expected to pass on the goats to another beneficiary after a period of 5 years and will only keep the projects off springs.

National Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced subsidiary level teachers and learners prepare for their first examination

Teachers and learners from Otjozondjupa region waiting to participate in their first National Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS) level examination at the end of the year were recently encouraged to embrace the curriculum change amidst claims of it being difficult but rather flourish the opportunity to participate in a more globally recognised and competitive level of education by the Minister of Education, Art and Culture, Anna Nghipondoka in Otjiwarongo.

“Change is inevitable and it is necessary, it is true that these changes do come with a lot of challenges but we cannot say that the curriculum is difficult. We can all agree that the curriculum is demanding and it requires a lot of effort and commitment from both learners and teachers” said Nghipondoka.

Nghipondoka also added that the new curriculum change will really push both learners and teachers to their limits and will require teamwork, change in attitude and sharing of both materials and human resources as well as moving out of their comfort zones to deal with this new change.

The NSSCAS is meant to fill the knowledge gap between Ordinary Level and High Level Grade 12 certificates as well as keeping up globally with the changing trends in the education sector and equipping candidates with the right tools and in depth knowledge to compete globally.

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture procured and distributed 97 smart screen television sets with their licenses for all 82 schools that will be participating in the upcoming NSSCAS examination to help schools in sharing learning materials and human resources through smart gadgets.

Otjozondjupa Regional Council’s Directorate of Educa-



tion currently has 201 learners register for the upcoming NSSCAS examination representing 4.1% of the total number of Grade 12 learners in the region.

10 schools from the region will be expected to part take in the upcoming NSSCAS examination, 7 of which are Government schools while 3 are private schools with a total of 98 teachers and 23 Advanced Subsidiary subjects across the region.



KOMBAT TRIGON MINE TO START OPERATIONS BY DECEMBER 2021

The Kombat Trigon Mine is to start operation during December 2021. The mine is owned by Trigon Mining Namibia with an 80 per cent ownership by Trigon Metals a Canadian Company listed on the TSX Venture Exchange and ten percent is owned by Epangelo Mining which is a Namibia state owned company while the remaining ten per cent is owned by Havana Investment which is a local partner.

According to the Mini’s Technical Manager Sidney Garoeb, the Trigon group is focused on copper and silver exploration, development and mining in attractive jurisdictions in Africa, and is also the owner of Gazania Investments Nine, which holds an EPL representing a significant area surrounding the Kombat Mine; and Technomine Africa, which owns two early stage copper and silver exploration projects (Silver Hill and Tamdout) in Morocco.

Trigon is currently working on the restart of open pit mining at the Kombat Mine by the end of 2021. The Kombat Mine, Garoeb said has a strong track

record of production having operated for 45 years from 1962 to 2008 during which time it produced 12.46 million tons @ 2.62% copper, 1.55% lead and 18g/t silver. He said the project has significant existing infrastructure which means that production can be recommenced at an attractive capital cost/returns ratio.

The project is shovel ready and onsite activities for the restart are already well underway. Garoeb further added that Trigon is extremely

Continues next page...

aware of the economic situation in Kombat and the surrounding region, and they will have a responsibility in terms of their corporate and social engagement and investment at the Settlement.

As Trigon he said they are committed to creating a culture which promotes social justice and restores the dignity of the Namibian people.

The mine has already commenced with engagement at a local community level and will over the next few months design and implement a Corporate Social Investment program focusing on youth groups, woman from the previously disadvantaged groups. It has so far established a community vegetable garden which fulfils a dual role of employment (70 women from Neu Summerau on a weekly rotational basis) and providing food to the community. The mine will also set up other community projects to serve as support services to the mine.

The restart of the mine is planned to take place in two phases, processing of 30ktp from the open pit and another from underground operation. Once fully operational the mine will employ about 300 in phase one and about 1000 people in phase

two, however recruitment and employment for the mining operations will be done first from the local community where the necessary skills are available. Ongoing training will be provided to up skill employees once operations have commenced said Garoeb.

ALWEENDO OTRC'S NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

The Senior Public Relations Officer sat down with the recently appointed Director of Finance and Administration Mr Shikongo Alweendo for a Q & A session. Alweendo assumed duty at OTRC on the 3rd of May 2021.

SPRO: Can you please tell us about your educational background?

Alweendo: At the beginning of 1996, as a young boy from the rural areas, I found myself in the dusty town of Ongwediva, yes it was dusty those years, competing for high grades with learners from urban areas at Gabriel Taapopi Senior Secondary School.

It was a bit of a challenge moving from a rural area to a town, but my background did not derail my focus. Two years later I was registered as a student of the University of Namibia pursuing a Bachelor Degree in Accounting, which opened doors for my career.

After many years of practical experience, I enrolled for a master degree in International Business at Namibia University of Science and Technology. Business.

SPRO: Where did you work previously and what were your roles and responsibilities?

Alweendo: My working experience started 18 years back as a graduate from the university, at one of the great audit firm, Deloitte & Touché as it was called then. I joined them as a Trainee Auditor, and my intention was to pursue a career as a Chartered Accountant. However, due to conflicting needs in my life I had to abandon that project in exchange for a career in the public service.

On the 1st April 2004, I joined Omusati Regional Council as an Internal Auditor. As an Internal Auditor, I was charged with the responsibility of overseeing whether the employees comply with the laws, policies and internal controls as

well as to assess whether the control in place are sufficient to mitigate different risks.

The following year, Council rewarded me with a promotional post of a Chief Control Officer, the Control Administrative Officer post today.

Although as a Chief Control Officer I was more responsible with administration functions such as procurement, fleet management, inventory management and assets management, my focus remained the improvement of financial management. We invested extensively in the team and resulted in Council receiving clean audit reports.

I then moved to Okahao Town Council where I worked as a Senior Manager for Finance, Human Resources and Administration. After a period of four years and eight months, I moved to Oshana Regional Council as a Deputy Director for Finance.

When I joined Oshana Regional Council, I found them using financial consultants to prepare Annual Financial Statements, but I am proud to say that I left them well equipped to produce their own financial statements.

SPRO: What do you bring to Otjozondjupa Regional Council?

Alweendo: Finance and Administration is my stronghold but it should not surprise you if you see me pulling out a trick or two in the area of Development Planning.

Given my vast experience in Regional and Local Authorities operations, I bring a long valuable and wealthy experience which will assist OTRC to improve in various disciplines.

I have spent the past 17 years improving financial management systems where



ever I worked, an area that has drained government coffers for too long.

I therefore believe my presence here will supplement well the efforts being employed by the Council to improve its operation.

SPRO: Having spent two months at Council, what changes do you want to bring to OTRC?

Alweendo: When I arrived here, it did not take me long to

analyze and understand the organizational culture. I observed lack of efficiency in a number of our business processes. Many of our processes are conducted manually, making it time consuming, and frustrating to those we are expected to serve.

I also observed that some of the staff members are not motivated, salary become the only reason they are still hanging around.

I will therefore invest all I have to improve work ethics, promote a working culture of self-driven, a culture of hands on task and a culture of self-accountability.

SPRO: What are your top priorities for OTRC?

Alweendo: Although there is a substantive number of issues to tackle to effectively run this Council, I am prioritizing corporate governance to top the list of my priorities.

It is my strong conviction that if we lay a strong foundation of good corporate governance, this Council will be one of the top performing entities in this country.

SPRO: What do you do in your spare time?

Alweendo: I hardly have time to spare, but whenever I feel it is necessary to take a break from my work as a public servant, then I am glued to the TV screen watching soccer. I like reading, more particularly on issues that can enhance my work performance.

I like keeping fit, hence when time allows, I go for workout in the evening. I play soccer and I do short distance (5-10km) running.

OTRC OFFICE PARK NEARING COMPLETION



The construction of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council Office Park, is currently nearing completion. The three-block triple storey building and conference facility is being constructed at an amount of One Hundred And Twenty One Million (N\$ 121 000 000.00).

The overall construction progress is at 95% for the office building and 90% for the conference centre. The first phase of the office park was completed in 2006 and was constructed to an amount of 20 million Namibia dollars. The first phase is double stories administrative block which consists of 18 offices, 1 boardroom and a Council Chamber.

This is also the block that now hosts the office of the Governor. Phase two of the office parks consist of 9

executive offices one on each floor, 9 boardrooms, 9 server rooms, 81 offices, reception areas, two conference facilities with a capacity of 200 people, a kitchen with a 100 capacity sitting capacity and a 40 people sitting capacity and a Council chamber with a 70 seats capacity in the public gallery.

Once completed the office park will host Otjozondjupa Regional Council proper, some of the Ministries delegated to the regional council and other Ministries, Offices and Agency. The construction of the office park is aimed at creating a one stop shop for all government services in order to ease the burden of travelling multiple journeys by the members of the public in order to access government services.

OTJOZONDJUPA POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



Hon. James Unomasa Uerikua:
Governor



Hon. Marlyn Mbakera:
Otjitarongo Constituency
& Chairperson of Otjozondjupa
Regional Council



Hon. Elder Filipe: Grootfontein
Constituency



Hon. George Garab: Otavi
Constituency



Hon. Israel Hukura:
Omatako Constituency



Hon. Betuel Tjaveondja:
Okahandja Constituency



Hon. Abdal Mutjavikua:
Okakarara Constituency



Hon. Johannes Hausiku:
Tsumkwe Constituency