



NDJUPA



OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025



**//KHAMUSEB DELIVERS
INAUGURAL SORA
AS OTJOZONDJUPA GOVERNOR**



**REGIONAL COUNCILS
ACCOUNT FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**ICT BOOTCAMP EMBRACES
TECHNOLOGY FOR INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION**



OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL

VISION

“A REGION THAT ENABLES ITS
INHABITANTS TO WORK TOWARDS
PROSPERITY AND IMPROVED QUALITY
OF LIFE”

MISSION

“TO SPEARHEAD INTEGRATED
PLANNING AND OVERSEE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC
AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO UPLIFT
THE LIVING STANDARD OF INHABITANTS
OF THE REGION”.

CORE VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM

INTEGRITY

COURTESY

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

Editor's notes



Welcome to the second edition of Ondjupa, your Regional Newsletter for the 2025/2026 year. Can you believe how quickly 2025 is flying by? It feels as though the months are rushing past us, and here we are already in the second quarter.

In this edition, we bring you a round-up of key highlights and inspiring stories from July to September. We begin with the inaugural State of the Region Address by our newly appointed Governor, a milestone that sets the tone for the future of Otjozondjupa.

We also feature an ICT Boot Camp that explored how technology can drive inclusive education, healthcare, and youth empowerment. These, along with several other stories, capture the vibrancy of our region and the remarkable efforts of its people.

As always, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to you, our readers. Your continued interest and support inspire us to keep improving this platform as a source of timely, relevant, and engaging information. Ondjupa is your newsletter, and we are committed to ensuring it reflects the progress, challenges, and opportunities that matter most to you.

We invite you to share your thoughts, comments, and suggestions with our editorial team on how we can make Ondjupa even better. You can reach us via email at pr@otjozondjuparc.gov.na

INSIDE THIS EDITION

//KHAMUSEB DELIVERS INAUGURAL SORA
AS OTJOZONDJUPA GOVERNOR

REGIONAL COUNCILS ACCOUNT FOR
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

OTJIWARONGO CELEBRATES
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

FINANCE MINISTER CONSULTS ON MID-
TERM BUDGET REVIEW

GOOD TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
BOOSTS REGIONAL ECONOMY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ALLOCATES
TRANSPORT TO JULIANNE

AFRICAN PEER REVIEW VISITS
OTJOZONDJUPA

ICT BOOTCAMP EMBRACES TECHNOLOGY
FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

BALLOTI OFFICIALLY OPENS OVTC'S
INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WEEK

NSA LAUNCHES REGIONAL 2023 CENSUS
RESULTS

TEAM NDJUPA RISES TO THE OCCASION
AT REGIONAL COUNCILS' WELLNESS
WEEK

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//KHAMUSEB DELIVERS INAUGURAL SORA AS OTJOZONDJUPA GOVERNOR

BY: CORNELIA SHIKONGO

Otjozondjupa Governor John Julius //Khamuseb delivered his first State of the Region Address (SORA) since his appointment by President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in March this year. He succeeded James Uerikua, who was elected to the National Assembly.

The address, delivered in terms of Article 110(a) sub-articles 5 and 6 of the Namibian Constitution, was presented at a special meeting of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council. It outlined the region's developmental achievements, challenges, and key priorities moving forward.

Governor //Khamuseb said his plans are aligned with Vision 2030, the National Development Plans, and the 2025–2030 SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan. He pledged to work closely with the Regional Council to ensure sustainable livelihoods through improved housing, poverty alleviation, and access to land for residential, commercial, and agricultural purposes.

“As the breadbasket of Namibia, Otjozondjupa must play a central role in addressing the President's call to reduce food imports,” he declared. Highlighting the region's fertile soil and abundant water resources, he pointed to major reservoirs such as the Von Bach, Swakoppoort, and Cross Barmen dams in Okahandja, as well as water sources in Otavi and Grootfontein. He called for investment in horticulture, orchard farming, poultry, and egg production, with at least one hectare of land allocated to individual farmers in key towns. On education, //Khamuseb expressed his intention to phase out the combined school system by separating primary and secondary learners. He also emphasized the need to upgrade sewerage systems in towns and to prioritize youth and women empowerment.

The Governor revealed that the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) plans to establish an Agricultural College in the region. He also outlined a housing concept inspired by old Katutura four-bedroom houses, proposing expanded layouts with modern sanitation facilities on reasonably sized erven. To support this initiative, unemployed youth would be trained in bricklaying and plastering at vocational training centres (VTCs) and community skills development centres (COSDECs), with funding sourced from institutions such as GIPF, the Development Bank of Namibia, and the Youth Credit Scheme.

//Khamuseb further proposed positioning Otjozondjupa as a hub for copper manufacturing, citing Namibia's regional standing alongside Zambia and the DRC as copper producers.

On skills development, he called for Okakarara VTC to broaden its curriculum in partnership with the Namibian Training Authority, NIMT, and other institutions to include mining-related fields such as boiler making, fitting and turning, diesel and plant mechanics, and occupational health and safety. “By introducing specialized training in mining disciplines, our youth can become technically competent, industry-ready, and competitive,” he said.

The Governor also encouraged VTCs, municipalities, and the Regional Council to strengthen partnerships by offering practical job attachments to students, ensuring that training directly benefits local communities.

Governor //Khamuseb concluded by reaffirming his commitment to transformative regional development, stating that his administration's mandate is to create opportunities and ensure dignity for all residents of Otjozondjupa.

REGIONAL COUNCILS ACCOUNT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



BY: CORNELIA SHIKONGO

In line with its mandate to coordinate rural development, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) this week convened its Annual Rural Development Progress Review and Planning Workshop in Otjiwarongo. The event, which runs from 22 to 26 September 2025, brought together regional councils and other key role players to reflect on progress, share best practices, and map out practical solutions for challenges facing rural communities.

Opening the workshop on behalf of the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Deputy Minister Eveline Nawases-Taayeale reaffirmed government's commitment to steering Namibia's national development agenda. She noted that growing urban challenges, fueled by rising rural-to-urban migration and youth unemployment, require urgent and innovative interventions.

"Despite persistent challenges, including budgetary constraints, Namibia's rural development agenda has shown remarkable resilience, forging ahead with tangible progress," Taayeale said.

She highlighted the Ministry's expanded support for small and medium enterprises and youth-led initiatives, noting that more than 300 rural projects have been funded through regional councils.

These projects focus on strengthening food security and improving basic infrastructure such as water supply, electricity, and rural access roads.

While progress has been made, Taayeale also underscored areas for improvement. She expressed concern over delays in project implementation, citing internal differences within some regional councils. According to her, the division of financial resources into smaller, fragmented allocations often weakens impact and undermines community development goals.

"We recognize that funds allocated to rural development programmes are not sufficient to meet all community needs, but it is our collective responsibility to ensure that resources are used effectively and with accountability," she stressed.

The Deputy Minister further emphasized the importance of rigorous project appraisals through Constituency Development Committees, Regional Development Committees, and Regional Councils to ensure compliance with national guidelines.

The workshop concluded on Friday, 26 September, with a roadmap of actionable strategies aimed at transforming rural communities into centers of growth, dignity, and opportunity.



OTJIWARONGO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

BY: NANCY MUNIARO

The Museum of Namibia Fashion celebrated its International Museum Day in Otjiwarongo Otjozondjupa region. The aim is to inspire young Namibians to innovate, attract on cultural roots and develop products that can be worn and that have a unique Namibian identity.

The Museums Association of Namibia (MAN), together with its stakeholders, believes that one of the significant motives why they should preserve artifacts is because of their importance and design can inspire young Namibians working in the creative industries. The idea is that the museum will provide an opportunity for visitors to view historical items of clothing and accessories, as well as contemporary designs inspired by Namibia's rich history and cultural diversity.

It is against this background that the MAN engaged with its stakeholders to discuss the concept of establishing a Museum of Namibian Fashion, as museums are the custodians of our cultural heritage and, above all, it reflects promoting heritage as an economic asset and treasuring our products. The Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture, Deputy Director for National Heritage and Culture Mr. Boyson Ngondo, highlighted the importance of International Museum Day,



alluding that the world comes together to recognize the enormous worth that museums contribute to our societies.

"Here in Namibia, where our landscapes tell stories as old as time and our people reflect the richness of many cultures, this day holds deep meaning. Today, we celebrate not only museums, but also our identity, our history, and our shared commitment to learning and progress," said Ngondo

He explained that the museum are not only celebrates the diverse fashion and cultural heritage of all Namibian regions but also serves as a platform for communities to display their unique cultural and natural resources.

Furthermore, the Museum of Namibian Fashion showcases past, present and future fashion artefacts from Namibia, activities that will benefit fashion designers and seamstresses in terms of training and income-generating opportunities. The Museum of Namibian Fashion showcases past, present and future fashion artefacts from Namibia, emphasized the museum's role in celebrating Namibian fashion, showcasing themes in its six galleries, from Beads & Shells to Textiles.



FINANCE MINISTER CONSULTS ON MID-TERM BUDGET REVIEW



BY: CORNELIA SHIKONGO

In its quest to enhance transparency in the national budgeting process, the Ministry of Finance embarked on a national stakeholder's consultation process to gather inputs for the formulation of the budget. The finance minister Erica Shafudah and her team visited the Otjozondjupa Regional Council in August. In his welcoming remarks to the Minister and her team, the Otjozondjupa Governor John Juluis //Khamuseb informed the minister what it is he wishes that during budget allocation for Otjozondjupa, that sewer reticulation and land servicing be prioritized.

He said prioritizing land, especially food production, will not just eradicate poverty and create food self-reliance but would also contribute to job creation in the region. //Khamuseb further emphasized that sewer and reticulation take up the biggest chunk of the budget however the local authorities are still unable to cope with the pressure of growing rural urban migration. Similarly, he called on local authorities to look at moving dumpsites farther outside town as they have now become scavenging grounds for food which is detrimental to the health of the people. "We need to create job opportunities especially for the youth. "We could start off by investing in vocational training, training in mining

technology and tourism. The region has also of mines and tourism opportunities. We could also look at building more lodges or memorial museum at sites such as Ohamakari which could boost tourism and aid in job creation." //Khamuseb called on government to align its budget planning with the needs of the people on the ground adding that many Namibians are still destitute thirty-five years after independence which should not be the case. Adding that, strategic plans should be aligned to the National Development Plan six (NDP 6) for proper reporting, monitoring and evaluation and service delivery.

On her part the Minister of Finance Erica Shafudah insufficient budget provision due to limited resources is a challenge for government and it is thus of vital importance that Regions as implementing agencies ensure that funds allocated to projects are spent prudently and that projects are completed on time and are of quality. This Shafudah said aid in government not repeatedly spending money on the same thing. She called on the Office of the Governor to provide a list of all government projects in the region that are abandoned and the reasons thereof.

The meeting was attended by Regional and Local Authority Councilors, Chief Executive Officer of Local Authorities and government officials in the region.

GOOD TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE BOOSTS REGIONAL ECONOMY

BY: NANCY MUNIARO

The Roads Authority, together with Bicon Pregon, held an engagement meeting with various stakeholders at the Otjozondjupa Regional Council Conference Hall in Otjiwarongo, regarding the identified revision of the Regional Roads Master plan.

The objective of the regional roads master plan is to identify and evaluate roads-related infrastructure to support social and economic development in the regions and nationally.

In the road master plan 23 roads are marked and identified while 13 will be upgraded to bitumen and seven will be considered for gravelling, the mapping and marked dots states that the sandy routes in the Tsumkwe Constituency, including Assvoelnes, Nhoma, Tsumkwe Chief Village, Sikereti, Khaudum, Gam, Otjiuamapeta and Otjinigandu, will be upgraded to gravel.

The main routes of the Okahandja-Otjiwarongo-Otavi and Otjiwarongo-Kalkfeld roads will be rehabilitated. Other routes identified in the Okakarara Constituency, the Ohorongombaranga road, have been named as a new route, while the Waterberg-Rietfontein route will be serviced with gravel and the Otavi-Outjo gravel road will be upgraded to tar road.

The Road Authority, in terms of the regional road master plan document, has prioritized the Tsumkwe-Grootfontein road, from its current gravel to high-low volume standard all the way to Gam, a road upgraded from gravel to bitumen. The road from Okahandja to Okanjetu is another economic road the region is regarding upgrade, affirming that traffic heading to Grootfontein needs to be redirected to ensure that economic activities in the region are broadened, and new growth is identified and supported.

Roads Authority engineer Timo Hatuikulipi said this is in line with the revised master plan, which entails rectifying imbalances in the provision of social and economic road infrastructure. “The Roads Authority has made detailed designs and has already partitioned the road in terms of sections of how they will be rolling it out and environmental impact assessment is also done,” Hatuikulipi disclosed.

//Khamuseb said the review of the regional master plan will help support socio-economic growth and align with the national development plans.

"Good transport infrastructure is critical for the socio-economic development of the regions and communities; without proper transport infrastructure, the development of respective economic sectors, like health, agriculture, education, tourism, mining, and trade, would be constrained. To address the situation, the Namibian government initiated various road master plans.

It's my belief and conviction that the road to Tsumkwe will be considered as most critical, as one travels and returns from Tsumkwe for a complete two days," said //Khamuseb.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH ALLOCATES TRANSPORT TO FARM JULIANNE TO EASE TRAVELLING WOES

BY: NANCY MUNIARO

The community of farm Julianne situated in Grootfontein constituency in the Otjozondjupa region were over the moon after the Ministry of Health and Social Services allocated a vehicle to the farm and surrounding areas to assist the community in transporting sick patients to the nearest health centers and for outreach programmes.

This came after the members the community wrote a letter to the then Executive Director of Health, Ben Nangombe, requesting the ministry to assist them with a vehicle, that they use for health outreach services as well as to respond to emergency cases.

The farm is situated about 77 kilometers, north-east of Grootfontein and distance makes it difficult for the people residing at the farm and the surrounding areas to travel to Grootfontein for healthcare services.

Otjozondjupa health regional Director, Gebhardo Timotheus, during the handover of a Nissan bakkie said in a letter written by the health committee of the farm, headed by Willem Haramseb, says that four (4) death cases of children under the age of five were reported, in which two died at home while waiting to be transported to Grootfontein to the hospital, while the other one was a neonatal death.

The Director said for the past nine years, the community at farm Juliana and other surrounding

farms have been grabbing with a number of systematic barriers to access healthcare services, and one of those barriers is the lack of transport to conduct outreach services, timely response to emergencies.

The community indicated that by the time they wrote this letter, four death of children under five were reported in the community. Two died at home while waiting to be transported to Grootfontein to the hospital, and the other one was a neonatal death.

Our aim was to make sure that such vehicle should be utilized by both for them hospital, specifically to respond to emergencies at Juliana farm and the surrounding farms and conducting outreach services. We engage the executive management team at our head office on the matter.

A community health worker at the farm, Petrus Haramse told the MICT team that applauded the ministry for responding to their request. "We just want to say, with this vehicle that we have received, I believe that many of our community health problems will improve through transportation," said Haramse.

Meanwhile, an elder at the farm, Theophehus Uahongora, expressed appreciation to the government through the Ministry of Health and Social Services on behalf of the community.

"This will bring a positive health impact to the community, prevent loss of lives and improve health outcomes," he said.



AFRICAN PEER REVIEW VISITS OTJOZONDJUPA

BY: CORNELIA SHIKONGO

The African Peer Review Mechanism hosted a series of Regional Sensitization meetings across the country. In the Otjozondjupa Region, the first meeting kicked off in Grootfontein on the 7th of July with a second meeting held in Otjiwarongo on the 9th. They then conclude the Regional Sensitization in Okahandja on the 11th of July 2025. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) National Structures undertook the regional consultations to promote good governance and raise awareness among leaders and policymakers about the processes of the APRM.

The visit was aimed at providing an overview of APRM activities in the country and its mandate, while also highlighting key findings from the Targeted Review Report on Youth Unemployment and the Country Review Report of Namibia. The African Peer Review Mechanism is mandated to strengthen democracy among member states, reinforcing best practices and achievements, rectify deficiencies in governance and socioeconomic development processes. It further encourages transformational leadership on the African continent through a self-assessment process and constructive dialogue.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a voluntary, African-led instrument launched in 2003 by the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Its purpose is for African member states to self-monitor and review their governance performance, focusing on areas like political and economic governance, corporate governance, and state resilience. The goal is to promote good governance, economic development, and political stability across the continent through a process of mutual accountability and peer learning, with recommendations translated into tangible reforms.

Namibia is an active member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), having joined in January 2017 to improve governance and socio-economic development through peer review and self-assessment. Namibia's first APRM Country Review Report was launched in March 2024, and the country is actively working to integrate its recommendations into policy. The process involves a national dialogue with civil society, government, and the private sector, culminating in a report and a National Programme of Action to address governance strengths and weaknesses.

ICT BOOTCAMP EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

BY: NANCY MUNIARO

The Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture hosted a preparatory ICT boot camp for all three circuits in the Otjozondjupa region, where about 90 learners from schools across the region are taking part.

The learners are from all the three circuits in the region, Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo and Okahandja, accompanied by one teacher, taking part at Okahandja.

The week-long ICT Bootcamp aims to assess learners' readiness skills for the upcoming Regional ICT Education Summit and Exhibitions scheduled to be hosted in Otjiwarongo from 06-10 October 2025.

"Access to devices, reliable connectivity, the times and relevant digital content is still uneven across our communities. If we are truly achieve excellence in teaching and learning then every learner regardless of background must have the opportunity to benefit from the digital learning tools and resources," said Senior Education Officer, Lurencia Muzuma.

This is to improve access to universal, inclusive and digital learning and resources, ICT into classroom, equipping learners with digital literacy that prepares them for both the local and global economy.

As part of the boot camp, the learners have the opportunities to be taught basic coding, use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how to assemble robotics.

This event provide a platform for dialogue, for sharing innovations, and for forging partnerships that will make universal digital access a reality transforming the education system into one where no leaners are left behind where technology becomes a true enabler of opportunity.

Learners gave their overview regarding the preparatory ICT Boot-camp as to improve skills in digital literacy, to apply new knowledge and have passion for computers to upgrade and use our skills to help the country in developing in technology.



BALLOTI OFFICIALLY OPENED OVTC'S INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK



BY: NANCY MUNIARO

Okakarara Vocational Training Center in the Otjozondjupa region hosted an Innovation and Entrepreneurship week from the 21st to 25th July 2025 under the theme "Trash and Treasure", which aligned with regional and national development priorities, in the areas of youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, green innovation and economic diversity.

The event was officially opened by Dino Ballotti, Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture.

Ballotti applauded the OVTC for the initiative, stating that the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week offers students an opportunity to demonstrate their practical skills, of what students face upon accomplishment of their studies if they choose to become entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, he emphasized and affirmed that it was time for the Okakarara Vocational Training Center (OVTC) to finalize the hotel school. With Namibia's tourism industry steadily recovering, a hotel school will play a key role in producing a skilled and service-oriented workforce.

"And not in the coming year or two; I want it to be finalized this year, in January 2026. I commit to coming back if you accept me to come back and cut a ribbon. "If that is the case, we need to ensure that this hotel school is up and running by January 2026," said Ballotti. Ballotti, as a sports aficionado, also called for the fast-tracking of a grass soccer field in Okakarara,

as it will enable the Okakarara Young Warriors to play their premiership games and host other local sports games. In addition, Hon. John Julius //Khmuseb, the Governor of Otjozondjupa, remarked that with several mining operations at an advanced stage of exploration, there is a need for more qualified artisans.

If we do not act with urgency, the region may watch outsiders take the opportunities meant for our people. That is why I am calling on Okakarara VTC, in partnership with the Namibian Training Authority, to expand its curriculum to include mining-related trades in operational skills, such as mining equipment maintenance, occupational health and safety for mining, mineral processing, diesel, and plant mechanics mindset," said //Khmuseb.

The Namibian Training Authority's Board Member Cliff Oliver said the OVTC is on the edge of becoming a major player in Namibia's tourism training landscape, hosting conferences, providing practical learning, and contributing to the industry that is central to our economic growth and beyond infrastructure.

OVTC is innovating in attachment in its bridging programme is bringing out-of-school youth who would otherwise be left behind. Entrepreneurship is not a back-up plan but a national growth strategy, as the days of learning a trade to seek employment are over.



NSA LAUNCHES REGIONAL 2023 CENSUS RESULTS

BY: CORNELIA SHIKONGO

The Namibia Statistics Agency - NSA officially launched the Otjozondjupa Regional 2023 Population and Housing Census results as well as the Labour Force Census module results, the Regional Profile and other socio-economic indicators. The purpose of launching the Census results regionally is to report back to the regions, particularly in recognition of the support accorded to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) during the data collection process. The 2023 Census was Namibia's first digital census, conducted using real-time, computer-aided data collection with handheld devices. Below is a summary of the different data categories in the region:

Population Distribution

In Otjozondjupa Region, 63 percent of the population resides in urban areas. Otjiwarongo Constituency has the largest population, which is more than three times greater than that of Tsumkwe. Between the two census periods, Okahandja recorded the highest population growth of close to 90 percent, while Omatako experienced the lowest increase at only 3.8 percent. Among the towns, Otjiwarongo is the most populous, followed by Okahandja.

Demographic Characteristics

The region is dominated by children and youth, who make up two-thirds of the population in all areas. About 70.8 percent of the population is under the age of 35 years, while the age group 35–59 years constitutes 23 percent. Only 5.7 percent of the population is elderly, aged 60 years and above.

Marital Status

More than 70 percent of the population aged 15 years and above in Otjozondjupa has never been married. There are no significant differences between males and females in terms of marital status. The divorce rate in the region is very low at 0.9 percent, while 0.3 percent of married individuals are separated.

Civil Registration and Identification

The census revealed that 25.1 percent of children under the age of five had not been issued a birth certificate, with Okakarara recording the highest proportion. In terms of national identification, 83.5 percent of the population aged 16 years and above had been issued with the new Namibian Identification Card. However, the rural constituencies of Omatako, Okakarara, and Tsumkwe recorded lower proportions, all below 80 percent.

Disability

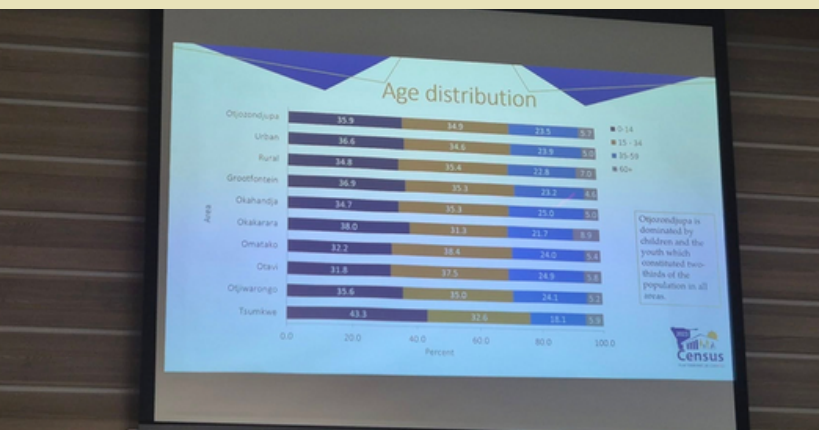
About 3.9 percent of people aged five years and older reported having a lot of difficulty or being unable to function in at least one domain. The proportions were higher in Tsumkwe and Okakarara, both exceeding 5 percent. Among those with difficulties, vision problems were the most common (44.6 percent), followed by walking and climbing stairs.

Ethnicity

More than 21 percent of the Otjozondjupa population belong to the Ovaherero ethnic group.

Early Childhood Development

Only 15.8 percent of children aged 0–5 years were attending early childhood development (ECD) programmes in 2023. The lowest attendance was recorded in rural areas and Tsumkwe, at 9 percent.



Continue on next page



NSA LAUNCHES REGIONAL 2023 CENSUS RESULTS

Literacy and Education

Above 83 percent of the population can read and write with understanding. However, 13.5 percent of individuals aged six years and older have never attended school. Overall, school enrolment in the region is above 80 percent, with rates exceeding 90 percent for children aged 7–15 years, for both boys and girls.

Among individuals aged 15 years and above who had left school, the largest proportion (46.5 percent) had completed primary education, while 22.7 percent had completed secondary education.

Information and Communication Technology

The most commonly used platforms for accessing information in Otjozondjupa are SMS and television.

Social Protection

Old age pension is the most widely received social grant in the region, followed by the state maintenance grant.

Employment

The majority of employed persons in Otjozondjupa (24.6 percent) are engaged in elementary occupations, followed by 17.4 percent in skilled agricultural work. The lowest share, 4.1 percent, is found among plant and machine operators and assemblers.

By industry, most individuals (27.5 percent) are employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. This is followed by 9.7 percent in manufacturing and 9.2 percent in wholesale and retail trade.

A total of 41,778 working-age individuals indicated that they are not interested in employment.

The main reasons given were household and family responsibilities (34.6 percent) and studying (33.1 percent). A smaller proportion (3.6 percent) reported disability or long-term illness as the reason.

Households

The average household size in Otjozondjupa is 3.6 persons. Tsumkwe recorded the highest average household size at 4.4, while Omatako had the lowest at 3.2. More households in the region are headed by males, except in urban areas where female-headed households are more common.

Sources of Income

Overall, 57.8 percent of households in Otjozondjupa depend on salaries and wages as their main source of income. In rural areas, about 12.4 percent of households rely on old age pensions for their livelihood.

Household Amenities

The census also highlighted challenges in access to basic amenities. About 8.1 percent of households had no access to safe drinking water, while 37.2 percent had no toilet facilities. Among urban households, 39.4 percent had no access to flush toilets. In addition, 42.2 percent of households reported not using electricity for lighting.

The 2023 Census results provide a clear picture of the Otjozondjupa Region's demographics, socio-economic conditions, and access to basic services. While the region has made progress in education, literacy, and identification coverage, challenges remain in civil registration, ECD participation, household amenities, and employment diversification.

TEAM NDJUPA RISES TO THE OCCSION AT REGIONAL COUNCILS WELLNESS WEEK

BY: CORNELIA SHIKONGO

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council, fondly known as Team Ndjupa, took part in the Annual Regional Councils Wellness Sports Week held in Mariental, Hardap Region, from 8-12 September 2025.

The annual event, jointly organized by the Regional Councils and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, brings together staff members from across the country for a week of physical activity, wellness, and community-building. Sports codes featured this year included soccer, netball, volleyball, tug-of-war, penalty shoot-outs, and Amagoes.

The objective of the Wellness Week is to promote healthier lifestyles, foster team spirit, and strengthen unity across regions through interactive sporting activities.

Speaking at the official opening, Hardap Governor Rian McNab highlighted that the Wellness Week was not only about competition but also about building resilience and unity.

“Sports push us to improve, test our limits, and shape discipline,” he said. “But there is another layer, one that often gets overlooked the social dimension. Our greatest moments in sports are rarely individual; they are about the high fives, the shared laughter, the friendly rivalries, and the collective joy of progress.”

He further emphasized that people thrive when they move together, adding: “Our unity in diversity is the strongest foundation for success.” Team Ndjupa delivered a mixed but spirited performance across the different sporting codes. Tug of War: The team started strong, defeating

hosts Hardap Region (2-0) and Omusati Regional Council to secure a quarter-final spot. However, they later bowed out after a heavy loss to Omaheke, who went on to claim the championship title.

Volleyball: Ndjupa’s volleyball team struggled to advance beyond the group stages, managing only one win against two defeats.

Soccer: The soccer squad advanced to the quarterfinals but were eliminated by Kunene Region, who made history by clinching gold for the first time since the inception of the Wellness Week.

Netball: In one of the biggest surprises of the tournament, the netball team rose from underdogs to secure third place overall, clinching bronze. The team thrilled spectators with commanding performances until they met defending champions Oshana, who narrowly edged them out before retaining their title. Ndjupa then sealed the bronze medal with a decisive win against Kavango West.

Amagoes: Once again, Team Ndjupa dominated the Amagoes competition, remaining undefeated for the third consecutive year and retaining their gold medal.

The 2025 Wellness Week was held under the theme “Harnessing the Synergy of Sports and Social Connections for Peak Performance.” Next year, the event will be hosted by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, with Oshana Regional Council set to step in as co-host should the Ministry be unable to do so.



WELLNESS WEEK THROUGH THE LENS



APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS/TRANFERS/RESIGNATIONS/ DEMISE



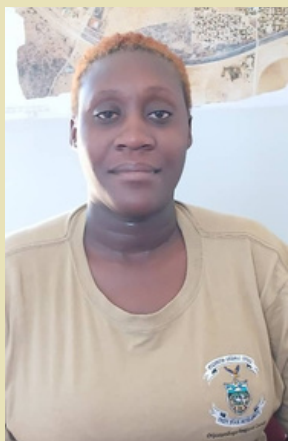
Mr. Bonifasius Ausiku
Deputy Director: Technical Services
Head Office
Appointment: 01 August 2025



Ms. Alma Samuel
Labourer
Otavi Constituency Office
Appointment: 01 August 2025



Mr. Dave Ihuhwa
Administrative Officer
Grootfontein Constituency Office
Promotion: 01 July 2025



Ms. Johanna Seibes
Labourer: Kombat Settlement Office
Appointment: 01 August 2025



Ms. Pascaline Mukenge
Labourer: Head Office
Appointment: 01 August 2025



Mr. Poniso Mutafela
Artisan Handyman: Okandjira Settlement
Appoinment: 01 July 2025



Mr. Johaness Wetha
Driver: Kalkfeld Settlement
Promotion: 01 September 2025



Ms. Saara Uutoni
Labourer: Head Office
Appointment: 01 September 2025



Elizabeth Shivute
Workhand: Kombat Settlement Office
Appointment: 01 September 2025

OTRC CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

AT OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CUSTOMERS IS THE PROVISION OF EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES.

WHEN YOU CONTACT US

If you phone us

We will:

Answer to your call within three (3) rings

Return your call within two (2) days if we can't provide an answer immediately.

If you write to us:

We will acknowledge receipt within two (2) working days, provide you with an explanation of how we are handling your case and inform you when to expect an answer.

If you visit us

We will attend to you within five (5) minutes if you have an appointment with us;

We will respond to your questions while you are with us, if we cannot, we will let you know why, and when you can expect an answer;

If you need referral, we will do it on your behalf by phone or by email and copy it to you and provide you with the name of the person to contact, address and contact details.

YOUR VIEWS COUNT

We continuously strive to improve our standards. To do this, we need to know what kind of service you want;

We promise to consider your views when setting our service standards;

Inform us if you are not satisfied and are unhappy with our service delivery; and;

Give us your comments so that we can improve our service.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

The quality of service we can provide to you depends on various issues including input and co-operation we receive. We therefore request you to:

Be honest, polite and patient;

Be timely in providing required and accurate information to the directorate;

Comply with existing Legislations, Regulations and Procedures; and

Treat our staff members with the necessary respect.

When you communicate with us, please provide the following information:

- Your full name
- Postal address/ email address/ telephone number/fax number
- Provide a clear description of your particular concern/s or need/s
- Keep a record of the issue at stake and the person in our Department/Directorate/Division/Subdivision whom you dealt with as well as the date and the time of the communication to improve our services.



DEALING WITH YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

If you have any comment, suggestion or request about the activities or services of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council you should contact:

**Otjozondjupa Regional Council
Otjozondjupa Regional Council Office Park
Henk Willems Street
P.O. Box 1682
Otjiwarongo
Namibia**

Phone: +264 67 303 702

Website: <https://otjozondjuparc.gov.na>

or

Public Relations Unit +264 67 303 702

E-mail: pr@otjozondjuparc.gov.na

Feel free to engage us through our social media platform:

<https://www.facebook.com/OtjozondjupaRC>

<https://x.com/OtjozondjupaRC>

<https://www.instagram.com/OtjozondjupaRC>