



ONDJUPA

OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



January – March, 2024



Fare Thee Well
The People's President

MICT



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Editor's notes



Welcome to our last Edition of your Regional Newsletter for the financial year 2023/2024. The year has been an impactful one and has marked a lot of growth and progress, although it started off on a sad note. On the 4th of February 2024 a dark cloud had befallen Namibia as we lost our sitting President Hage Geingob, "the people's President".

Various activities were thus held in the Region to celebrate the life of the late President especially given the fact that he was born and raised in the Otjozondjupa Region. This included candle lighting vigils which were held in various towns and settlements in the region with messages of condolences pouring in from all corners of the region which was then followed by the Regional Memorial service which took place in Otjiwarongo.

This edition further took a look at the education sector where learners at Otjiwarongo schools received donations of stationery and others were schooled on cholera as a disease. We also took a look at the performance of the region in the national examinations. Furthermore, the Governor of the Region called on men to prioritize health care by going for regular medical checkup, while the Regional Council gave an update on its achievements for the 2023/2024 financial year especially with regards to rural development programs and the regional plans in terms of sanitation. These are but some of the stories that took center stage in this edition and we hope it makes a good and informative read to our readers.

However, as always we have high regard for you our readers we welcome you to share your comments and advice with the editorial team on how we can improve on the newsletter by sending us an email at pr@otjozondjuparc.gov.na, or you can also share your suggestions or comments on our service in general through our website <https://otjozondjuparc.gov.na> through our online suggestion box under the feedback button on the website. Also take note that we do provide PA system on hire and live streaming services on social media platforms. For information of these services do not hesitate to contact the Otjozondjupa Regional Council Audio-Visual Division on 067 304467 or alternatively email us at otjozondjupa@mict.gov.na

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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

Unifier Geingob memorialised by Otjozondjupa

As the sun set over Mokati Stadium, the community stood united in their commitment to carry forward President Geingob's vision of a prosperous and inclusive Namibia as his mantra "no one should feel left out".

Elago Shipanga

Otjozondjupa region came together in solemn remembrance at Mokati Stadium to honour the late President Dr. Hage Geingob in a heartfelt memorial service attended by residents and dignitaries alike.

The service held to pay respects and celebrate the legacy of the late leader, drew a large crowd of residents from Otjiwarongo and surrounding areas with some attendees traveling from as far as Tsumkwe, 600km away, to join in the commemoration.

Their presence underscored the widespread impact of President Geingob's leadership and the deep respect he commanded across the country.

Otjozondjupa Governor James Uerikua, in his address,

praised President Geingob's

commitment to the development and upliftment of the region. He highlighted the late president's dedication to serving the people of Namibia regardless of their tribe, religion or political inclination.

"We gather here today to honour a great leader a unifier, a visionary who dedicated his life to the service of our nation.



President Geingob's legacy will leadership during challenging forever be remembered, and times and his efforts to unite his contributions to the the country.

development of Otjozondjupa and Namibia at will continue to inspire us," remarked Governor Uerikua.

Former war veterans and elderly people who spoke at the service also shared their fond memories of President Geingob, recalling his

They described Geingob as a unifier, caring and compassionate leader who was dedicated to the betterment of nation and inclusivity.



Elderly heartfelt tribute

Nancy Muniaro

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council, together with its seven constituencies and various stakeholder's joint hands together to celebrated the l

legacy of His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob at Mokati Stadium on the 21st of February 2024 in Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region.

Regional memorial service was held for all Otjozondjupa communities to come and pay tribute to their beloved president among them were elders, speaking on behalf of the elders Meriam Geises reminisce the President as an exponent patriot who wrestle for the integrity of senior citizens and never shy away in expedite the vulnerable in society. She further stated that what the president left behind an inheritance for us the pensioners and the orphans.

Harambe will still continue in good spirit as his wishes to take care of the vulnerable and "his dream is to raise the old age grant, demonstrating a commitment to the well-being of the nation's senior citizens said Meriam" We senior citizens will forever cherished his memories and thanked the Geingob family for sharing him with the nation.



Leadership in attendance, James Uerikua-Otjozondjupa Governor, Chairperson of the Regional Council and Otjiwarongo Constituency Councillor Marlayn Mbakera and Otjiwarongo Mayor Gottlieb Shivute

The memorial service was marked by moments of reflection and gratitude for President Geingob's leadership. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to come together and honour the late president's memory. As the sun set over Mokati Stadium, the community stood united in their commitment to carry forward

President Geingob's vision of a prosperous and inclusive Namibia as his mantra "no one should feel left out". The service took place on the 21st February, preceding the heroes' funeral on the 23rd February at Heroes Acre in Windhoek. Prior to this, on the eighth February, the town of Otjiwarongo held a candlelight vigil in remembrance of the late president.



Otjozondjupa liberation struggle veterans remembers Geingob

Elago Shipanga

Liberation struggle stalwarts in Otjozondjupa region have joined the rest of the country in paying tribute to the late President Hage Geingob. Geingob who they hailed a unifier died on the 4th of February at a Windhoek hospital at the age of 82.

81-year-old former Robben Island prisoner Lazarus Guiteb remembered Geingob's youthful days when he was a member of the Goldstar Brothers Band that used to travel from Okahadja and come perform at concerts and play soccer in Otjiwarongo during the days when he was at Augustineum Teachers College in Okahandja.



**Former PLAN Combatants, Retired Colonel
Wa-Kahimise Rahamisa**

“Geingob was a cheerful young man whom I first met in 1960s, I met him in Otjiwarongo when he was a member of the Goldstar Brothers Band that used to travel from Okahandja. He slept at our house.

The octogenarian Guiteb further told that while in exile, he saw Geingob grow into several senior political positions of Swapo. He said the late President was a unifier and a true

“Geingob is a brilliant dancer with whom I always compeated with various rallies of the Swapo Party”



**Grootfontein Mayor, Talitha
Garises**

They used to come and perform in Otjiwarongo during the days when he was at Augustineum Teachers College.

In 1977, I was arrested and sentenced to eight years in prison to Robben Island, where I was kept until 1985. In 1986 in Luanda, Angola, I met Geingob again in the liberation struggle meetings, where I discovered that Geingob had become a big senior Swapo leader and a people's person” Guiteb recalled.

Namibian political hero who hated tribalism and regionalism. He wanted the nation to hold hands and pull together to build the Namibian house. Other former People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) combatants shared stories of how Geingob impacted their lives. They said the late statesman, who was their director in exile at the United Nations Institute of Namibia (UNIN) in Lusaka, Zambia, his tutelage at the institute positively changed their lives.





**Former Robben Island Prisoner
Lazarus Guiteb**

“He was my school principal at UNIN who I met twice in 1983 and 1986 as I was a well-known star performer,” said former Okahadja Chief Executive Officer, Martha Mutilifa.

Another UNIN graduate, Peter Kavaongelwa a UNIN graduate and a former PLAN fighter and a war veteran and who would later become a magistrate in an independent Namibia, said UNIN under Geingob played a major role in his life.

“In 1980 when I joined the liberation struggle, we were welcomed at Lusaka International Airport that year by Geingob, who was with the late Hidipo Hamutenya and the late Mose Tjitendero. He was our father at UNIN who also respected his senior political leaders,” said Kavaongelwa.

Grootfontein Mayor, Talitha Garises who met Geingob through her late husband Engelhardt Adolf Gariseb, said Geingob was a family friend to them. Whom despite his busy political schedule made time to call on them.

“Geingob was a friend to my late husband as both of them attended Augustineum Secondary School, played football together and even taught at one school in Tsumeb before he left for exile. Their friendship continued upon his return to Namibia in 1989, until Gariseb passed away on 24 December 2002, she stated.

The next day Geingob was at our house in Grootfontein mourning with us until the burial of my late husband.

May his soul rest in peace,” remorseful Garises.

War veteran and district coordinator of Former PLAN Combatants Association in the Okakarara area, Retired Colonel Wa-Kahimise Rahamisa said he crossed path with Geingob during the Tanganyika days when he used to work as a personal assistant in the office of late Peter Nanyemba in Tanzania.

“I mostly used to fax Swapo documents to the United States of America where Geingob was, in this way, I came to know about him,” said Rahamisa.

After independence Wa-Kshimise remembers Geingob as a brilliant dancer with whom he always competed at various rallies of the Swapo Party. Deputy former PLAN Combatants Association in Okakarara district, Aletta Mbirimujo on her part urged the Namibian people to embrace Geingob’s legacy as well as to see to it that his wishes are fulfilled as way to celebrate his life.

“The pensioners' cake was increased during his term from where it was to the current N\$1400. All pensioners in the country are enjoying the same old age pension regardless of their political affiliation. We give thanks for his administration and all they have achieved, we wish his successor to continue with Geingob's good work,” said a thankful Mbirimujo.

Regional Council demand for quality services



Elago Shipanga

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council convened its 2024 staff commencement meeting at the council chambers in Otjiwarongo. The meeting, which aimed to establish the framework for service delivery in the new year, brought together council staff alongside employees from ministries delegated to the regional council.

Addressing the assembled staff, Agatha Mweti, Chief Regional Officer of Otjozondjupa Regional Council, emphasised the pivotal role of teamwork in enhancing overall performance. "The year 2024 has been declared a year of expectation, with much anticipated from each of us in our unique roles within the organisation. Our success is intertwined, and individual performance will shape the overall performance of the organisation," echoed Mweti. Mweti revealed that the regional council has embraced operational efficiency as the central theme for the year.

This strategic focus aims to optimise the council's operations, ensuring the efficient use of resources to deliver services to communities and stakeholders. "While we may already be effective, our goal is to enhance efficiency by streamlining processes, eliminating delays, and minimising wastage. We strive to utilise our resources effectively to maintain a high-quality output," added Mweti. In her address to staff members, Marlayn Mbakera, Chairperson of the Regional Council, highlighted the council's mission. She underscored the successful implementation of numerous projects and programs in 2023 aimed at enhancing the quality of life for inhabitants.

Mbakera also announced a 30 percent rebate for special customers, urging staff to raise awareness within communities to ensure eligible individuals benefit from this initiative. "To assist

special customers, such as the elderly and those living with disabilities, the council has approved a 30 percent rebate on basic charges for qualifying account holders. I am committed to providing effective and efficient services, recognizing and appreciating the robust government system within our institution," pledged Mbakera.

Staff members were encouraged to plan their work methodically, exhibit commitment, and avoid absenteeism and poor time management.

They were further urged to embrace new challenges and opportunities to effectively serve the region's inhabitants. The Otjozondjupa Regional Council, encompassing seven constituencies and nine settlements, facilitated the participation of staff members from various offices across the region via video conferencing.



Regional council's annual plan 2023/2024 review

Cornelia Shikongo

Otjozondjupa Regional Council is hosting its Annual Plan Review workshop in Windhoek from the 25th - 28th March 2024. The aim of the Workshop is to introspect on projects and programs of Council that it set to carry out for the year 2023/2024. The workshop will also serve as a platform for the crafting of the new Annual Plan for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Annual planning is a very important component of any institution as it serves as a base on how the institution plans to deliver on its mandate and live out its vision and mission. It is of utmost importance for all to rally behind the implementation of the plan in order to improve the quality of life in the region as per the vision of the Council. Once the plan is complete it paves the way for all staff members to develop and sign performance agreements, therefore it is

the existence of an institution.

Addressing the staff at the workshop the Council Chairperson Marlayn Mbakera said since taking office in 2020, Council has set clear intentions to make service delivery a priority, which she added only happens with a committed team that is able to buy into the set intentions. She made use of the opportunity to thank those staff members who have

and continue to give their best and have the best interest of Council at heart through their service delivery initiatives. Furthermore, she called on the staff to be honest in their review approach and not be defensive as this will assist in knowing why certain targets could not be met and come up with plans on how to better achieve the missed targets in the new Plan.

NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CONSULTS OTJOZONDJUPA

Cornelia Shikongo

Stakeholders in the Otjozondjupa Region engaged on the conclusion of the National Development Plan - (NDP 5) and the formulation of NDP 6 at Otjiwarongo. The meeting highlighted challenges encountered in the implementation of NDP 5 and possible inclusions in NDP 6.

The engagement marked the last of Regional Consultation by the National Planning Commission - (NPC) with the exception of the Khomas region. Following the launch, NPC set conducted regional consultations across the 14 regions and 121 constituencies, with the aim

of fostering optimal public participation in the development process of NDP6. The NDP6 development process was done in two financial years, from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025, to ensure comprehensive citizen involvement. The public was strongly encouraged to attend these consultations, to gain insights into the NDP6 formulation process and its implications on their lives. This engagement served as a valuable source of local context information, shaping priorities, objectives, and mitigation measures in the final NDP6 document. The regional and constituencies consultations were done with representatives of Regional Councils (Governors, Constituencies Councillors), O/M/As regional representatives, Traditional Authorities, Town Councils, Village Councils, Business representative, Educational Inspectors, Academia, Youth, Children, Civil Society, NGOs, Church leaders, Inhabitants of specific Constituency/Region, media, and the public at large.



***Wilhencia Uiras, Executive Director
National Planning Commission***



***Councillors in attendance: Johannes Huafiku-Tsumkwe,
Israel Hukura-Omatako and George !Garab-Otavi***

The main purpose of these extensive consultations was to facilitate a two-way dialogue between NPC and stakeholders in shaping the development agenda for the concluding stage of Vision 2030. The key objectives included assessing the performance

of NDP5 and Vision 2030, garnering widespread stakeholder support for the NDP6, documenting region-specific challenges and opportunities across the country's 14 regions, and providing a platform for diverse stakeholder engagement. The NDP6 formulation process was initiated by a launch on June 26, 2023, in Windhoek, aiming to raise awareness among stakeholders and the public at large. During consultations in with stakeholders in Otjozondjupa, registered the following challenges during the implementation of NDP5.

Otjiwarongo municipality discuss a smart city plan



Elago Shipanga

The Otjiwarongo Municipality presented its “Smart City” Strategic Plan to the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, outlining a visionary roadmap for sustainable development and modernization.

The presentation to the regional council was to afford the regional leadership to peruse and make inputs to the plan before it is officially launched. The plan spanning from 2024-2029, is geared towards transforming Otjiwarongo into a smart, sustainable, and inclusive city.

The strategic plan is built on five key objectives, including creating a sustainable working environment and enhancing public safety, promoting the socio-economic advancement of the town, fostering business innovation and ensuring financial sustainability, as well as improving the operational efficiency of the workforce. Addressing the council, the town's Acting Chief Executive Officer Erickson Mwaanyekange, highlighted the urgent need to address

“Our town is battling with old, dilapidated and aging infrastructure as a result we are currently losing over 700,000 litres of water monthly due to aging through leakages. To combat this, we have embarked on a comprehensive infrastructure assessment and upgrade program” stressed Mwaanyekange.

In response to the presentation, the Chairperson of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council and Otjiwarongo Constituency Councilor,

The Smart City Strategic Plan represents a bold step towards positioning Otjiwarongo as a model smart city, embracing innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Marlayn Mbakera commended the municipality for its forward-thinking approach and urged them to prioritize the state of the town's roads. “I want to thank the municipality for a brilliant strategic plan. However, I want municipality to pay attention to our town roads, they are in

a terrible state lets attend to them and make sure we have quality roads. As you know Otjiwarongo is a big town and its centrally located, but we lack institutions of high learning, meaning our students must travel to other regions to access tertiary education. I thus urge the municipality to identify a portion of the town's land and invite tertiary institutions to set up their campuses” advised Mbakera.

In a bid to enhance connectivity and access to information, the strategic plan includes smart partnerships with internet service providers to provide free internet to residents. This initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and empower residents with access to information and resources.



» The plan also recognizes the challenges faced by the over 22,000 residents living in informal settlements, most of whom are not ratepayers due to unemployment and lack of ratable services in the area. The municipality is committed to improving their living conditions and ensuring they are included in the town's development agenda. To increase its revenue base,

the municipality plans to create a business arm to run non-essential services, such as the biomass factory. This Mwaanyekange says aims to mitigate the financial impact of challenges such as drought and the COVID-19 pandemic. He further informed the council that the municipality will strengthen its debt recovery, to recover outstanding debts amounting to 57 million Namibian dollars by the town's customers.



Nancy Muniaro

Office of the President together with the National Planning Commission consulting the Otjiwarongo Constituency residents on the National Development Plan (NDP6) at Swanevelder Hall Otjozondjupa Region.

Aim is to embark on the journey to formulate the National Development Plan 6 (NDP6), it is crucial to emphasize the importance of inclusive planning. "The essence of our collective efforts lies in recognizing that planning cannot be about us without us community "said Tobias Sisam.

Over the years, the government has made significant strides in addressing the needs of the people, and acknowledge that challenges persist, and there is always room for improvement.

As we addressing the formulation of NDP6, it is imperative to critically assess the impact of previous interventions, identify persistent challenges, and strategize on effective interventions. Government focus remains on the people, understanding their diverse needs, aspirations, and realities. Inclusivity in planning ensures that the voices of all stakeholders, including marginalized communities, are heard and integrated into the development age.

Otjozondjupa achieves its targeted development goals of 2023/24 FY



Ju/hoansi Arts & Welding project representatives receiving Materials from Okahandja Constituency Councillor Bethuel Tjaveondja

In terms of land delivery Council is struggling with a high demand for land in settlement areas such as Kalkfeld in the Otjiwarongo Constituency both for residential and business purposes. However, for this current financial year Council has made provision for about 239 plots at the settlement which have been planned and about 190 informal applications for land have been received from Kalkfeld residents which have also been demarcated to this effect.

Cornelia Shikongo

Otjozondjupa Regional Council spend an amount of six hundred and ninety one thousand four hundred and twenty four Namibia dollars on projects in the region under various Rural Development programmes for the 2023/2024 financial year. These projects are all aimed at uplifting the living standard of the rural residents of the region.

Under the Micro Finance programme which is aimed at promoting Small and Medium Enterprises productivity in order to be able to compete with other producers in the market, Council supported nine projects in the region.

Under the Food and Cash for Work programme which is aimed at creating short-term employment opportunities for the poor and also seeks to create and maintain fixed assets which the community

can use to further their socio-economic development, Council supported the Aunns Gardening project in Grootfontein Constituency with gardening equipment to the value of sixty six thousand eight hundred and seven eight.

Similar under the Support to Poor Rural Framers which aims to support the activities of marginalized communal farmers either technically, materially or financially in order to ensure social economic sustainability in the rural areas of Namibia, Council supported four beneficiaries in the Omatako Constituency with 20 goats each consisting of nineteen ewes and one ram to the value of one hundred and thirty four thousand five hundred Namibia dollars.

These applicants have already been issued with allocation letters and most of the have also signed lease agreements as land in the settlements can only be offered on a lease-hold basis. In terms of business ervens, Council has allocated about 11 business ervens to different business people who are interested in investing at in the settlement. This range from Feedlot, butchery, private school, culinary school, fuel stations etc.

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) for affordable housing delivery at Kalkfeld Settlement.

★ *Water is Life: Water reticulation works in Kalkfeld*

» Council is also entrusted with the provision of services for land such as water and sewer reticulation in the settlement as it is mandated to administer this settlement areas like municipal areas.

Council is thus currently running a bid for construction of water reticulation at Kalkfeld for the Dinosadal Residential area at which Council has allocated 61 plots in 2022 for formal residential plots. The other area to be serviced with water in the informal area where 239 plots have been allocated to residents already.

Although the area is being called informal, it is just to make provision for those residents who are unable to construct brick houses at eh area at the moment however, in the planning of this residential area, Council is trying by all means to ensure the area is ready to be formalized when funds permit and by providing water reticulation it is also just to allow residents who are able to afford the opportunity to connect to such services.

★ *Micro Finance programme projects supported by council in the region during 2023/24FY*



Constituency	Project Name	Value
Tsumkwe	New Horizon	N\$ 37, 000.00
Tsumkwe	Tyre Repair & Fitting	N\$ 36, 500.00
Okakarara	Glory Sewing	N\$ 39,00.00
Okakarara	Okondjatu Cooling	N\$ 24, 270.82
Okakarara	Ndjoura Diary Project	N\$ 82, 701.56
Otjiwarongo	Kalkfeld Youth Brick-Making Project	N\$ 31, 00.00
Tsumkwe	Tjongono Bakery	N\$ 20,700.00
Okahandja	Ju/hoansi Arts & Welding	N\$ 57, 957.00
Okakarara	Okatjoruu Stones	N\$ 37, 000.00



Otjozondjupa schooled on Cholera



Elago Shipanga

With the surge of cholera infections in some parts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Otjozondjupa Health Directorate has launched a week-long awareness campaign to educate communities about the disease.

The campaign, currently underway in all four Otjozondjupa health districts, targets schools, rural areas, and peri-urban areas identified as at-risk communities.

According to Olivia Mbabi, an Environmental Health Practitioner in the Otjiwarongo District, the awareness campaign is a proactive measure by the ministry to empower communities with knowledge about cholera and prepare them should the disease enter the country, given our shared borders with countries currently battling cholera.

"Our motto is that prevention is better than cure.

We have been busy with a campaign on cholera to ensure that the community is equipped with the right information and knowledge about proper sanitation. The campaign is also targeting schools because we recognize that children can be community champions who can transmit the message further and faster to their families and communities," Mbabi explained.

Cholera, an acute diarrheal infection characterized by watery diarrhea, nausea, and potentially fatal dehydration, thrives in unhygienic environments with poor sanitation. Mbabi highlighted that some communities lack safe drinking water and proper sanitation. Therefore, they encourage communities to avoid open defecation and teach them on methods to safely relieve themselves where there are no toilets. Cholera is preventable and treatable.

Correct handwashing measures, access to safe drinking water, and proper sanitation can keep communities safe from cholera. During a campaign stopover at Karundu Primary School in Otjiwarongo, learners were educated about the signs and symptoms of cholera and how to prevent it.

Kelly Mukenge, a grade seven learner, expressed gratitude for the health workers who shared valuable information to prevent cholera. "I have learned so much today, not just about the signs and symptoms of cholera but also how to treat yourself if you have the symptoms and are far away from the hospital. The dissemination workshop with stakeholders from all fourteen regions aimed to appraise them about the new national framework that will guide HIV and AIDS response in the country. The Social Contracting Policy for Health Services was also discussed and shared with the participants which included >>>

Otjozondjupa Governor calls on men to prioritize health



Elago Shipanga

Otjozondjupa Governor James Unomasa Uerikua is urging Namibian men to prioritize their health and go to health centres for regular health check-ups. Uerikua who have set the month of February as his health month made the call during a meeting to create awareness on the recently launched

» I thank the health officials for sharing that information with us," said Mukenge.

Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania, along with South Africa as the country's southern neighbour, are some of the countries in the region that have reported cases of cholera.

In early February this year, an Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of SADC on the cholera situation in the region endorsed increased investment in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, the supply of clean portable water, and efficient waste management as recommendations to prevent future outbreaks of cholera.

National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS response at Otjiwarongo.

Uerikua said Namibia has made great strides in the fight against HIV/AIDS. With the country having achieved the United Nations AIDS 95-95-95 fast track target. The 95-95-95 targets are ambitious goals set by the United Nations to combat HIV/AIDS and mean that 95% of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 95% of people who know their status on treatment and 95% of people on treatment the viral loads have been suppressed.

The country is now focusing on accelerating target intervention to fully realise the National Framework on HIV/AIDS target of 97/97/97.

For that to happen he said men should play their part and know their health status. "Namibia is at a tipping point as the country embarks on a path to accelerate HIV/AIDS response towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. It is indeed a big task and commitment. As men let's wake up and remove the stigma surrounding you know your health status. I have dedicated the month of

February as my health month. Every February each year I go for full body health check-up, from head to toe" implored Governor Uerikua. Uerikua said with the help of development partners together with collaborative efforts of health care workers, community leaders, civil society organisations and the unwavering support from the citizens has allowed the country to make great strides in the attainment and surpassing the 95-95-95 targets.

The dissemination workshop with stakeholders from all fourteen regions aimed to appraise them about the new national framework that will guide HIV and AIDS response in the country. The Social Contracting Policy for Health Services was also discussed and shared with the participants which included Regional AIDS Coordinating Committees (RACOC) and Regional Management Teams from all fourteen regions. The Social Contracting Policy for Health Services will allow the government to subcontract Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to provide services to communities on behalf of the government.

OTRC DETERMINED TO IMPROVE RURAL SANITATION



Cornelia Shikongo

Sanitation still remains a challenge for the region as there are still parts where open defecation is practiced. However in order to address this challenge Council through its Rural Development programmes continues to make considerable strides. In its efforts to address open defecation in the region through construction of rural ventilated Pit latrine toilet (VIP toilets).

During the last financial year council constructed seven VIP toilets at Rudenau in the Okahandja Constituency to the value of one hundred and twenty three thousand, nine hundred and seventeen Namibia dollars. Furthermore, Council is in the process of constructing two hundred and twenty five VIP toilets. One hundred and sixteen of these will be constructed in the Okakarara constituency while another one hundred

and nine will be constructed in the Tsumkwe Constituency. The process of constructing these toilets starts off with a triggering process which is aimed at changing the mind sets of the communities and encouraging them to do away with open defecation through the use of toilet facilities. The triggering is done through Community Led Total Sanitation - CLTS and the Water and Sanitation Hygiene - WASH approaches.

A total of eight villages have been triggered so far, three in Okakarara and five in the Tsumkwe Constituency respectively.

The CLTS is community-based sanitation approach, which is introduced to Namibia by UNICEF and fully supported by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR).

The Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach facilitates communities to conduct their own appraisal and analysis of open defecation, mobilizing people to identify and find solutions to their sanitation and hygiene needs.

It involves facilitating a process to inspire and empower rural communities to stop open defecation and to build and use pit latrine toilets.





Okakarara communities and NAMPOL join forces against stock theft

Nancy Muniaro

The Otjituuo Community Anti-Theft Unit (OCATU) in the Okakarara Constituency at Coblentz in Otjizondjupa regional, is a non-profit Association that helps the community members against reckless behaviors of animal theft crime committed by thieves against vulnerable individuals, and is vested within the binding powers of the Namibian Police Force through the Office of the National Community Affairs Coordinator at NAMPOL.

The association is presented with security protection cloths to use during their patrols items were donated by Ombua Ya Kandokoyo Fishing Company (PTY) Limited, the handover of this protection gear is tendered by Inspector General of the Namibian Police, Lt. General Joseph Sikongo, speaking at the

ceremony he emphasized that the protection gear should be utilized for its purpose and not to be abused as it sends a message to the offenders committing crime. He further outlined that the mandate of the Namibian Police Force cannot be executed in isolation but is done jointly with support of all government agencies as well as the general public and it is a duty of all Namibian citizens to play a role in the maintenance of peace and stability, by participating in special policing forums, aimed at the provision of safety and security in our respective communities," said Shikongo at the handing over ceremony. Further, more he shared the stock theft crime statistics committed in Okakarara constituency as from March

2022 to April 2023, a total of one hundred and seventy-eight (178) stock theft cases were reported, of which twenty-five (25) belonged to Coblentz residence, eight two (82) from Okakarara seventeen (17), Okamatapati thirty-two (32) and Otjituuo recorded a total number of twenty-two cases and statistics released early from April 2023 to January 2024 showed an efficient increase in stock theft which recorded ninety-four (94) from Okakarara that is having a high rate of stock theft followed by Okondjatu with sixteen (16) cases, Otjituuo fifteen (15), Okamatapati eleven (11) and Coblentz recorded the lowest stock theft cases with only six (6).

Let's not neglect the boy child; Uerikua

Petrus Muronga

The regional Governor of the Otjozondjupa region, James Uerikua, says as much as Government has come with ways and efforts to protect the rights of women and that of the girl child, the rights of the boy child should not be forgotten. The governor said this at a recent belated commemoration of International Women's Day at Kalkfeld in the Otjozondjupa region recently.



The day is commemorated globally focusing on women's rights and gender equality, celebrating their contributions towards a country's socio-economic development.

Uerikua told the people in attendance, mostly those who are farming with livestock to take care of women the same way they give attention to their female domestic animals. "The way you take care of your female animals, to those that are farmers, you times that by a hundred and you take care a human being in that form.

That includes our girl child. Our girl child is in a serious threat from people who are trying to thrive on them through exploitive means, advancing their own agendas of hate and violence against the girl child," He said.

Uerikua stressed that as much as society keeps on advocating for the rights of women, the rights of the girl and boy child must also be on the agenda.

"If we are advocating for women rights, the girl child's right must also be on the agenda. But as much as we are talking about the girl child agenda, let us also not forget about the boy child," said the Governor noting that the boy child must not be neglected as most the country's prisons are full of men.

"Those that you say are criminals, house breaking and whatever, 99 percent of them are men. So there is a need that while we are focusing on women rights advancement, let's also stop over and consider the boy child. Let us not neglect the boy child," said Uerikua.

In addition, the Governor also noted that as much as the boy child should not be neglected, women and girls remains Government's allies in development.

He said women and girls are the key stakeholders in a country's development agenda and there will never

be full development if thereother half of the country's demography do not participate in that agenda.

"It's a high time that we commit and recommit ourselves to support each other and pull in one direction towards full equality and women empowerment.

Let's re-direct our projects and programs towards empowering women. Let's relax conditions in such a way that when you are advertising positions, when you are making tenders available, they must centralise about preference being accorded to women," said Uerikua.

The Governor further encouraged the youth, mostly girls, to be obedient to their parents and mind what they are doing in front of the young ones that are still in school since they are easy to copy what their elder sisters are doing.

"We need to look into that from a societal point that we need to go back to our

2023 NSSC and AS results a cause of concern

» cultures and traditions of knowing what is wrong and what is not wrong,”he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister for Disability Affairs in the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty and Social Welfare, in the Office of the President, Alexia Manombe-Ncube, at the same occasion spoke about the need to invest in women, girls and the boy child.

“We need to invest in women and girls including the boy child for us as a nation to be able to accelerate progress in various areas of our society. Let us employ and implement the Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting initiative in our institutional policies, programmes and strategies,” said the deputy minister.

Manombe-Ncube emphasised that gender budgeting promotes better utilisation of the country’s financial resources by matching budgets to plans, priority programmes and projects while ensuring that the needs of women and men, girls and boys are given due attention.

“We need to invest in women and girls including the boy child”



Elago Shipanga

**Otjozondjupa Education Acting Director
Uri-vangera Tjivikua**

Acting education director of the Otjozondjupa region Uri-vangera Tjivikua said the national examination results of both advance subsidiary level and ordinary level of the region has dropped compared to last year’s performance.

Tjivikua, said the region’s performance has been on the downward trajectory in recent years. “The region regressed a bit for the last three years. We have been at number five in terms of the national rankings. However, last year, we were ranked number six in the National Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary level and number seventh in the National Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary level and number eighth in terms of the number of candidates who qualified to the Advanced Subsidiary level.

That signals a bit of backward movement, but I think we did not regress too far behind, we can still catch around to

position number five or even better than that” emphasized Tjivikua.

Despite the region’s poor performance, the acting director commended the Otjiwarongo Senior secondary school which ranked in the ninth position nationally in the ordinary level. He also showered praise to Grootfontein senior secondary school for its performance that earned it a third place in the Advance Subsidiary level nationally.

“Otjiwarongo senior secondary school was ninth in the national senior secondary certificate ordinary level. And at least we can tell that is the best performing school in the region at that level. Grootfontein secondary was number three in the advanced subsidiary level nationally. Those are the only two schools that we have identified as having performed very well.

OTJIWARONGO COUNCILLOR DONATES STATIONERY TO NEEDY LEARNERS



Otjiwarongo Councillor Marlayn Mbakera with some of the beneficiaries

“I can attest to some schools that have gone an extra mile in their preparation for the examination last year. Some home weekends they will keep learners and teachers behind to assist the learners. It is because of these extra miles that the teachers have gone that we got where we are. I want to encourage all the teachers, at our schools in the region this year to redouble their efforts” said Tjivikua.

The Otjozondjupa region is ranked in the seventh position nationally compared to last year's performance in which it was ranked the fifth performing region in the country. Early last year the education directorate in the region introduced Capacity Development Programs in response to teacher's needs and aimed to improving the results of learners in the region.

This year, only 569 learners have qualified for the National Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary Level in the region, signifying a 5.5 percentage.

Cornelia Shikongo

The Regional Councilor for Otjiwarongo Constituency and Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council Marlayn Mbakera donated stationeries to about forty needy learners from various school at Otjiwarongo. The Councilors office wrote letters to identify the learners in November last year following an overflow of requests from parents to her office.

The learners identified by the schools were then screened through house visits by the Councilors office in order to really ascertain their circumstances. They range from grades zero to ten. The stationeries which consisted of books, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, rulers and book covers were valued at about ten thousand Namibia dollars. The learners were also treated with sweets and juice for their lunch boxes.

Mbakera said most of the learners who received the stationeries are performing poorly due to various circumstances. For some of

the learners the situation at home is not conducive as they live in poverty and some live in the informal settlements on the outskirts of town and are thus forced to walk long distances to and from school a situation that leads some to arrive at school, a few hours after teaching and learning is already taking place.

However, the Otjiwarongo Constituency Councilor Marlayn Mbakera called on the learners not to give up hope as there is light at the end of the tunnel calling on them to also be disciplined as discipline and good performance go along. The Councillors also informed learners that her office has arranged for someone to be assisting learners with homework and projects especially for high school learners in order to help improve performance.

She said though this is a yearly activity under her office, Council does not have a budget for it and called on good Samaritans and the business community to assist in providing various school supplies to needy learners. This she said will go a long way in ensuring that learners are attending school with good mindsets and thereby improve on their learning and performance. Mbakera further encouraged parents to look after their children and keep them off the streets.

Chicken project sustain community

Nancy Muniaro

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council through the Rural Development Programme in the Otjozondjupa Region sponsored a group of fifteen (15) women to benefit from the Programme in the Kombat outskirts Otavi constituency, the purpose of the project is to increase chicken production create profit from both sale eggs and chicken to community members and nearby settlements.

Penahafo Albinus the spokesperson of the women's group and also a pensioner who reside in the outskirts of Kombat is glad that the Namibian government through the initiative of the Regional Council Office and the Rural Development Programme, assist women in changing their livelihood providing them with the project that provides for their families with efficient source of protein and the occasion to accelerate their exertion. This group of beneficiaries received twenty chickens (hen) that provides over 140 eggs or chicks per month the eggs and poultry are sold to earn extra income. Chickens needs to be well taken care off especially with their feedings as chickens need a well balance diet filled extra meals nutrition, "feedings should be fresh and clean without blight food that will cause the chickens to get sick said Albinus"



In addition, the project indicated an exceptional impact on the lives of children and families within the outskirts, and one of the challenges the group is facing is the high cost of chicken feed and how fast the chickens consumed the feedings which affect the production and the profit of the project as one has to travel far to buy the chicken feeding.

Appointments/Transfers/Promotions



Ms Maria Amwandi
Senior Administrative Officer
Head Office: 01 January 2024: Transfer



Mr Dickson Kahuva
Chief Administrative Officer: REMU
Head Office: 01 January 2024: Promotion



Mr George Diaz
Artisan: Kombat Settlement
01 January 2024: Appointment



Mr Marx Sheyavali
Driver: Kombat Settlement
01 February 2024: Appointment



Mr Victor Kandjii
Driver: Coblenz Settlement
01 February 2024: Appointment



Mr Petrus Muronga
Media Officer: Audio-visual Media
02 January 2024: Appointment

ONDJUPA THROUGH THE

