

Jan/Feb/Mar 2022



The Otjozondjupa Regional Council held a team building exercise during the month of February 2022

New MVA Satelite office inagurated in Otavi



FORWARD

Chief Regional Officer



The Otjozondjupa Regional Council has graced through the year 2022 with high aspirations, focusing on re-imaging and recovery from the aftermath of the effects of the COVID-19. The region has strived to keep afloat despite the challenging economic strains that has hit the Nation at large. As a structure of Government which is a non-profit oriented, mandated to provide services

to Settlement areas; growth and sustainability becomes a challenge.

However, with the help of Government funding, we can boast of several capital and rural services projects that we have managed to implement in various Settlements during the past two years. The Five (5) Local Authorities [Municipalities - Otjiwarongo (Capital), Okahandja and Grootfontein; Town Councils – Otavi and Okakarara] in the region, have been a great source of strength for the urban areas of the region. Our goal is to continue with the acceleration of economic and social growth in all aspects in order to ensure that the region remains relevantly conducive for both investment opportunities and social stability.

As a region we embrace integrated planning and implementation in order to ensure that the minimal resources of

stakeholders/institutions, are optimally utilized for the benefit of the region at large. The region recently produced a Regional Water Plan, while it is also currently working on a Regional Electricity Plan as well as establishment of a Regional Development & Implementation Forum. The region is also engaged with the formulation of a 30-50 year Regional Master/Structure Plan that will serve as a guide for all infrastructure development in the region.

Our appreciation go to the inhabitants of the region and we commend them for their patriotic support and especially for being an integral part of the Winning Team of Otjozondjupa Region.

Kudos!

Mrs. Agatha Mwetli

EDITOR'S CORNER



Mrs Cornelia Shikongo
Senior Public Relations Officer

Welcome to yet another edition of Ondjupa your newsletter by the Otjozondjupa Regional Council and the MICT Otjozondjupa Regional Office. This is the last edition for this fourth quarter of the 2021/2022.

In this edition we bring you reports on activities undertaken during the months of February and March 2022. Stories that are featured in this edition range from the progress that the region made with regards to rural sanitation, a Team Building Exercises hosted by OTRC, the opening of a new emergency service center at Otavi by the Motor Vehicle Accident fund. And since this is the third year that the covid-19 pandemic is still in our midst, we took a look at covid-19 vaccination status in the region and its psychosocial impact on health care professionals.

General vaccination of babies and children under the ages of five also took center stage in this edition as the Otjozondjupa Health Directorate embarked on a Maternal and Child Health week in the region.

I hope and trust that the information contained in this edition will make a good read for you our readers and will keep you informed, updated and abreast with what is hype in the Otjozondjupa region.

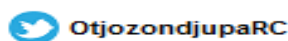
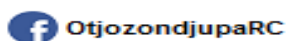
However as our readers you are more that welcome to share your comments and advice with the editorial team on how we can improve on the newsletter by sending us an email at pr@otjozondjuparc.gov.na, or you can also share your suggestions or comments on our service in general through our website www.otjozondjuparc.gov.na through our online suggestion box under the feedback button on the website.

Regards



Otjozondjupa Regional Council

Follow us on social media:



OTRC'S RURAL SANITATION ON TRACK

Inside this issue:

OTRC'S rural sanitation on track	3
Otjozondjupa Health Director Plea's for Covid-19 vaccines uptake in the region	4
Governor inaugurates Otavi MVA Fund Emergency Service Centre	4
Otjiwarongo Constituency donates school shoes to less fortunate learners	5
Maternal and Child Health Week launched in Otjozondjupa	6
Health Directorate continues to prioritize psychosocial support for health workers	6
OTRC holds team building exercise	8

Cornelia Shikongo

Rural Sanitation remains a critical component of Namibia's development programme. Otjozondjupa Regional Council through rural sanitation programme has so far constructed 396 toilets over the past four years, with 27 more toilets currently under construction. During the 2018/2019 financial year, Council received an allocation of 5 million and constructed 278 rural sanitation facilities in all settlement areas and at some Resettlement farms.

In the 2019/2020 financial year, council received an amount of 1.2 million and constructed 68 toilets in Okakarara, Okahandja, Omakato and Tsumkwe Constituencies. During the same financial year the former Governor for Otjozondjupa Hon. Otto Ipinge also constructed 50 water borne toilet in Kalkfeld settlement with funds from the Governor's Endowment fund through NAMSOV, to the value of 1 million Namibia dollars.

Furthermore, during the 2020/2021 financial year, Council received an amount of 673, 000.00 to construct 27 rural sanitation facilities as follows: Tsumkwe – 10, Grootfontein 10, Otavi 4 (at New Sommerau in Kombot) and 3 at Kalkfeld. This facilities were anticipated to be completed by middle of March 2022.

2021/2022 – Council received an allocated amount of 673, 000.00 but these funds have not

yet been transferred to Council. However the procurement process is currently underway and once completed the funds will be transferred and the project will then commence.

Challenges in term of Rural Sanitation Facilities

The region is faced with the challenge of water in most parts and thus resorts to VIP toilets instead of waterborne toilets. This results in challenges when the toilets are full and toilets becoming smelly over a period of time and as such the community members would stop using the toilets which then defeats the purpose of addressing open defecation and improve sanitation hygiene in rural areas. In order to address this challenge Council is in future looking at specifications of VIP toilets that would be able to be converted to flushing once water is available.

Vandalism is also another challenge that Council is faced with when it comes to these facilities, some have even turned the facilities into storage rooms.

This information was provided to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Housing's oversight visit to sanitation infrastructure capital projects during their visit to the Otjozondjupa Region.



Editorial Team

Editors

Mrs. Agatha Mwati
Chief Regional Officer
Mr. Christopher Muhapi
Senior Information Officer
Mrs. Cornelia Shikongo
Senior Public Relation Officer

Reporters

Mrs. Cornelia Shikongo
Ms. Nancy Muniaro
Mr. Michael Samuel

Design & Layout

Mr. Michael Samuel

Otjondjupa Health Director Plea's for Covid-19 vaccines uptake in the region

Michael Samuel



The Regional Health Director for Otjondjupa region, Gebhardo Timotheus expressed concern over the low Covid-19 vaccine uptake in the region due to hesitancy and misinformation amongst community members as well as social media and calls on those who received their doses to become testimonies and encourage others to take up the vaccines.

“Those of us who are vaccinated, it is our responsibility to make sure that we become testimonies that if you are vaccinated, you remain healthy as you were and nothing will change. Those

rumours of people getting sick, paralysed or dying due to vaccines are not true and therefore let's encourage ourselves to come forward and get our vaccines to we become protected'. Highlighted Timotheus.

The Health Director also indicated that the region has started vaccinating children from the age of 12 to 17 years although the pace is very slow because of the reluctance from communities to encourage children to go for vaccination but encouraged communities to be brave enough and do the right thing by getting vaccinated against Covid-19.

He encouraged communities to protect future generations by motivating and encouraging them through providing them with the correct and factual information about these vaccines so they are protected as well as protect their classmates and teachers by tak-

ing up these vaccines.

Timotheus also called on Teachers to play their role in disseminating the right vaccine information as learners have more trust in their Teachers and their message carries more weight even to the parents of these learners.

“Teachers, please give this information as learners have more trust in you and therefore the message from you is more valuable even to their parents. Encourage the children so these children can go to their parents and convince their parents to allow them to get vaccinated against Covid-19”. Added Timotheus.

The Otjondjupa Health Directorate has set a target of at least 35% vaccine coverage in all its four health districts as a result of the very low vaccine turnout in the region. The overall regional target is set at vaccinating 91 000.

Governor inaugurates Otavi MVA Fund Emergency Service Centre

Nancy Muniaro

Otjondjupa Governor, James Uerikua officially inaugurated the new Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund Emergency Service Centre in Otavi.

The service centre will be responsible for rendering emergency response service to all road accidents, customer service in assisting persons injured in motor vehicle crashes as well as receive and process claim forms of people who sustained injuries or perish on our national roads.

According to Uerikua, the opening of this satellite office will be of great as-

sistance in terms of supporting Government's efforts towards its decentralization policy of bringing equitable access of services to all Namibians.

He further emphasized on the loss of lives on national roads that cannot be apprehended and therefore called on all stakeholders to look into national road safety by supporting the MVA Fund which adopted its own chapter of the Decade of Action (DOA) for Road Safety 2021-2030 strategy of zero deaths on our roads.

“Otjondjupa region remain the busi-

est national road B1 connecting with the northern-eastern part of the country which creates passage and serves a lineage to different economic activities of various countries, this leads to an increase of road accidents that has recorded 282 road crashes, 675 injuries and 96 fatalities annually” said Uerikua.

“Looking at these numbers, road traffic deaths and injuries continue to be a concern as it affects all of society which can lead to a cycle of poverty exacerbated by income loss” added Uerikua.

Continues next page...

With the high rate of accidents on national roads, Uerikua recommended to institute a regional stakeholder meeting to address the way forward and also called on all role-players including law enforcement agencies, road safety agencies, business, communities, education fraternity, emergency medical response services and health practitioners to collectively reinforce their commitment to ensure safety on national roads.



OTJIWARONGO CONSTITUENCY DONATES SCHOOL SHOES TO LESS FORTUNATE LEARNERS

Cornelia Shikongo

The Regional Councilors for Otjiwarongo Constituency and Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council Honorable Marlayn Mbakera donated forty pairs of school shoes to less fortunate learners from various schools in the Orwetoveni suburb at Otjiwarongo.

Mbakera said she visited the different schools at the beginning of the year to give a word of encouragement for the new year and realized that some of the learners did not have schools.

The Otjiwarongo Constituency Office has come up with an initiative called "Friends of Otjiwarongo Constituency" which was launched in June 2020. Through this initiative, the 'friends of the Constituency office from across the country donate N\$50.00 on a monthly basis, which the office uses to assist less fortunate members of the constituency.

Through the same initiative the office also provided meals to old people and stationery to learners. The forty learners who benefited from the school

shoes are from Spesbona primary, Orwetoveni primary and Monica Geingos Junior Secondary school and they were identified by their schools as beneficiaries.

Handing over the school shoes to the learners Mbakera informed them that it is very important to attend school and finish. She advised the learners to give attention to their school work and pass, so that they are able to assist others in the future. She called on them to be disci-

plined and not involve themselves in unruly activities such as alcohol and drugs abuse.

Mbakera further implored on the learners to take their education seriously and to not despair because of their current situation as it is not a permanent one, provided that they study hard. The learners thanked the Councilor for the gesture of good will and promised to attend school and take their education seriously.



Maternal and Child Health Week launched in Otjozondjupa

Michael Samuel

The Otjozondjupa Directorate of Health launched an External Maternal and Child Health week during the month of January with the main aim of ensuring that all children who missed out on their normal routine vaccination or antigen are traced and vaccinated to make sure that they receive all the vaccinations and antigens they are supposed to have received from birth.



The week long activity was tailor made for children who missed out on their routine vaccination and antigen and it is important that children receive their required vaccinations and antigens from birth to boost their immune systems and helps protects them from infections and diseases.

Gebhardo Timotheus, the Regional Health Director for Otjozondjupa region

emphasised that the program was not only focused on vaccination alone but also provided other vital services such as examining children who were brought in for vaccination for other diseases that they might have to be treated for on the spot or refer those that have serious conditions to the nearby hospitals or health centres for further treatment.

“The exercise was very important and the ministry and its regional stakeholders have made sure that the message was conveyed through all available media sources to all communities, parents, guardians and family members to make sure that they brought their children to the communicated regional health centres and posts where these services were going to be rendered through that week.” Said Timotheus.

Timotheus further added that supervised teams were dispatched to all four health districts within the region and that the directorate received all the necessary vaccines and antigens to carry out that particular exercise although transport was a challenge for the Health Directorate.

“We have tried to use all possible means

we have at our disposal to make sure that we reached out to our communities in terms of transport and we also received support from other stakeholders like the World Health Organisation who provided us with financial support and many other stakeholders including the Otjozondjupa Regional Council and the Office of the Governor” added Timotheus.

The Regional Health Director stressed out that the exercise was not only a simple vaccination but parents, guardians and family members should take responsibility in making sure their children receive this important vaccines as it protects them from serious infections and diseases. The whole immunisation package vaccines and antigens for measles, hepatitis B and others were all administered during the exercise.



Health Directorate continues to prioritize psychosocial support for health workers

Nancy Muniaro

Otjozondjupa Regional Health Director, Gebhardo Timotheus recently highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic has severely affected the healthcare professionals as it created fear amongst these professionals at all levels. Front-line healthcare professionals had to deal with and overcome the fear of contracting the Covid-19 virus at their work place as well as transmitting it to their loved ones, living with them when they return home from work.

With the continuous presence of the Covid-19 pandemic, healthcare providers experienced an increased mental and physical burden that led to fear and stress, especially with the increase

in Covid-19 related deaths in the region.

“During the beginning of the pandemic, the biggest concern was PPE which created fear and stress among the healthcare professionals as they were afraid to be infected and total of infected healthcare professionals so far in the region stands at about three hundred fifty-three (353)” said Timotheus.

“The situation was serious as the healthcare professionals’ stress levels were overwhelmed, some lost their family members and relatives during the pandemic and the fact that they still have to report for their daily duties and still

help at the hospitals dealing with the positive tested patients” Added Timotheus.

Timotheus further explained that the health ministry through its directorate of social welfare has been supportive by assigning social workers to provide psychosocial support for facilitating and strengthening resilience within the healthcare professionals.

The regional directorate dispatched social workers to all health districts within the region and the regional office has not yet received any complaints or reports regarding the mental health issues from any district.

Achievements

- * By the 28th of March 2022, a total number of 33675 people received their 1st dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 34% of the target population while 30744 people are fully vaccinated representing 32% of the target population.
- * The region conducted Integrated Maternal and Child Health Care Week campaign 07-11 February focusing on routine immunization missed opportunities and COVID-19 vaccination with the support from WHO.(total of 1917 people were vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine during the campaign)
- * Community mobilization on COVID-19 vaccination is ongoing

Challenges

- * Vaccine hesitation amongst the youth

Regional Highlights

- The community transmission has reduced in all 4 districts (Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo, Okakarara & Okahandja).
- 62 Community Health Workers (CHW) were trained on Covid-19 vaccination and Non Communicable Diseases (NCD). The CHW will educate the community members about the relationship of COVID 19 and NCD
- 19 CHW were trained on COVID 19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test.

Districts	Otjiwarongo	Okahandja	Grootfontein	Okakarara	Region
Cumulative confirmed cases	4974	3023	2606	1440	12043
Active case	2	0	1	0	3
Hospitalized confirmed cases	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative # of health workers tested positive	133	69	110	44	356
New recoveries	0	0	0	0	0
Today's deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative deaths	141	69	119	65	394

Commercial farmer foresee bumper harvest due to good rains

Michael Samuel

Wim Lubbe, a white maize commercial farmer situated about 6km northwest of Grootfontein foresees a bumper harvest in June due to the good rainfall being recorded in the triangle area of Grootfontein, Otavi and Tsumeb.



“Many factors determine the success of white maize cultivation in Namibia, of which rain is surely the most important. Besides

the amount of rain, the duration of the rain is also very crucial. Maize needs a minimum of four months of rain after which it can finish its growing cycle with minimum water” Explain Lubbe.

With the late rain experienced last year, most farmers had to gamble by planting in dry conditions hoping that it will rain before the end of the year as time was running out and fortunately, it worked to their advantage.

“I usually harvest around 12 000 tons of maize but with the good rain we are currently receiving to date, I expect or foresee a good harvest this year. If the good rains continue, I could harvest around 15 000 to 17 000 tons in June” Added Lubbe.



Although the Grootfontein area is well known for its large supply of underground water for most commercial farmers, only a small portion of maize fields depends on underground water due to the cost of installing sprinkling machines and irrigation systems as well as the water usage limits set by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.

OTRC HOLDS TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

Cornelia Shikongo

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council held a team building exercise during the month of February 2022. The aim of the team building exercise was to bring all staff members together to recharge and rejuvenate for the New Year in order to kick start the New Year with vigor and enthusiasm in service delivery to the inhabitants of the region and Namibia at large.

The colorful event was characterized by a variety of sports games such as soccer, netball, volleyball, tug of war, athletics, bag and egg races and amagoes.

Addressing the staff members on the day of the team building exercise the Otjozondjupa Regional Council Chief Regional Officer Mrs Agatha MwetI said the day has very historic as it is the first in the history of OTRC.

She said the day was for staff members to get to know each other and be able to put names to faces. MwetI also called on staff members to rededicate their efforts in the provision of effective and efficient service to the inhabitants of Otjozondjupa Region and Namibia at large.

On her part the Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council Honourable Marlyan Mbakera commended Council for organizing the team building exercise adding that it is a good gesture and should become an annual activity.

She called on OTRC staff members to serve with humility and work as a team for the betterment of the region and Namibia in particular.







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