

A PUBLICATION OF THE OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL & MICT REGIONAL OFFICE

Ondjupa

Otjozondjupa Regional Council



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Otjozondjupa Regional Council

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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 Value

Professionalism

Integrity

Courtesy

Transparency

Accountability

FORWARD CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER

Albert Einstein once said, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." In service delivery maintaining a balance is critical. As per its mandate, the Otjozondjupa Regional Council is tasked with ensuring that service delivery is rendered through a holistic and balanced manner. This is due to the fact that as a governing institution, Council is responsible for wellbeing of the elements of the society that it serves, while ensuring continuity and sustainability.

The critical aspect of maintaining a balance in service delivery is to deliver services to the satisfaction of the public amidst scarce resources and tight budgets. Coupled to this is the challenge of ensuring that a conducive environment where both the society and development can thrive. Societal,

economic, and environmental factors are thus complimentary to each other.

As we enter the last sphere of the year 2022, we are proud of what we have managed to achieve and look forward to work to more exciting outputs as the year closes. This year has seen a lot of coordination and partnership with other stakeholders in the region in service delivery. This is evident from the features of this edition of Ondjupa where we bring to you happenings of the region by not only Council, but by other institutions. This shows that we can achieve more and balance better if we hold hands and strive together.

Till next time, have a nice read.

Agatha Mweti



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EDITOR'S CORNER

quiet busy this quarter with a serious of vaccination campaigns across the region. While in the Tsumkwe Constituency the Deputy Prime Minister officially the Tsumkwe Community based integrated Food System Project. We truly hope to keep you entertained and informed with this insightful edition of Ondjupa.

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.

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Cornelia Shikongo
Senior Public Relations Officer

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Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2023

The year 2022 is surely coming to an end, what a year it has been. Looking back so much has happened in the region and country at large. As a Council we look with pride as we have indeed done our best in living out the vision of Council: "A region that enables its inhabitants to work towards prosperity and improved quality of life".

As a Council are strategic objective for this year is to accelerate the delivery of serviced land and housing in settlements areas and to create conditions for economic development in urban and rural areas.

In terms of the first strategic objective Council has to date completed the preparation face of the provision of water as the Gam Settlement in the Tsumkwe Constituency in order to get the settlement ready for formal development. Similarly Council also constructed anaerobic ponds at Okondjatu Settlement in the Okakarara Constituency as a way of adherence to the liquid and solid waste discharge policy in settlement areas.

In terms of land delivery Council has approve the allocation of sixty one residential and nine business plot at Kalkfeld Settlement in the Otjiwarongo constituency. In its quest to meet government halfway in the provision of affordable housing in Settlement and Municipal areas, Council has completed houses under the Build Together programme and Okondja and Okatjoruu Settlements respectively.

With regards to creation of conditions for economic development in urban and rural areas, Council through the Rural Development programmes have funded a number of projects ranging from gardens, stone processing, poultry farming and many more all aimed at providing employment opportunities to urban and rural communities.

In order for Council to ensure that development is taking place, there is a need to enhance organizational performance, and as such Council has successfully completed the completion of face two the Otjozondjupa Regional Council Office Park.

The office parks offers a conducive working environment for staff members which is crucial in the execution of their duties. It further contributes towards the realization of the Decentralization Policy as delegated ministries are housed under the office park which creates a one spot Centre for government services. Council through own funding also renovated the old Otjozondjupa Regional Council Office at Okakarara and this building is currently housing the Okakarara Constituency Office.

This is because the current Constituency Office has developed a crack in the building foundation which has deem it unsafe to house staff members. Dear Resident of Otjozondjupa and Namibia at large, it remains are conviction at a Council to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to all Namibians in Otjozondjupa.



I would therefore like to take this opportunity to call upon all of you to have a joyful festive season free from destructive behavior. Let us have fun responsibly during this festive season. In conclusion I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2023.

*Hon. Marlyn Mbakera, Chairperson
Otjozondjupa Regional Council*

PRIME MINISTER VISITS OTJOZONDJUPA

Cornelia Shikongo

Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelw Amadhila recently visited the Otjozondjupa region. The purpose of the visit was to assess government projects and programmes and acquaint herself with challenges experienced by ordinary Namibians on a day to day basis as the Head of Government Administration. Kuugongelwa Amadhila visited Kalkfeld Settlement in Otjiwarongo Constituency where she visited a few projects under the Otjozondjupa Regional Council and the Otjiwarongo District Hospital among others.

Briefing the Prime Minister on the state of the Region and Kalkfeld Settlement in particular, the Regional Councilor for Otjiwarongo Constituency and Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council Marlyn Mbakera said the challenge in Kalkfeld is mostly unemployment which result in weak buying power or consumer spending at the settlement. As a result business does not flourish. This has resulted in a high debt on services provide by the Regional Council such as water and other municipal services. Housing is another challenge that the settlement faces, because despite Council allocating land for residential purposes, many at the settlement especially those employed, find it difficult to build houses due to a lack of access to finances by financial institutions as the area is not a village or town council.

On his part the Otjozondjupa Regional Governor James Uerikua informed the Prime Minister that the region host the largest number of marginalized san people and with the San Feeding programme not delivering food on a more frequent basis, most of these people are left to fend for themselves and are finding the going tough as the feeding programme is a means of survival for them. Uerikua that called on the Ministry of Gender Equality and Poverty Eradication to strengthen the element of social welfare and implementation of projects and



There is also an influx of Angolan nations into the region which is a great cause for concern. Moved from southern Angola due to a variety of reasons including poverty. These people live in deplorable conditions, and there is a need to come up with a programme to assist them as they also have children amongst them.

The Prime Minister on her part said, despite the financial challenges the country is faced with, there is a need to find ways to raise funds to implement various projects and programmes that will take the country out of the situation of a lack of funds. Unless something is done out of the box the situation will not change. Kuugongelwa Amadhila called on government to look into public private partnerships especially with housing and land servicing. "The government has a lot of ground to cover in order to reach people with critical services and up its game in terms of performance by getting the best out of the reduced resources by trying to achieve more with less" she

The Prime Minister also donated a washing machine and ironing boards to the Kalkfeld Women sewing project.



OTJOZONDJUPA LAUNCHES FESTIVE SEASON ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Cornelia Shikongo

Otjozondjupa Region today launched the Festive season Road Safety Campaign. The campaign which was organised by the Otjozondjupa Road Safety Forum is aimed at minimizing accidents especially on the B1 and other roads in the region.

The Otjozondjupa Regional Governor in a speech read on his behalf by Bethuel Tjaveondja Regional Councillor for Okahandja Constituency and Member of Parliament, Uerikua called on all road user to be vigilant and responsible. Road safety is the responsibility of every Namibian and every road user and needs concerted effort in order to bring about tangible gains.

He said it is incumbent upon all stakeholders in road safety to interrogate all aspects that affect road safety in the region and ensure that seamless integration of activities at both regional and national levels are coordinated in order to safeguard the promotion of road safety.

A recent conducted study by the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund to determine the causes of road accidents indicates that 72% of road accidents are caused by human related factors. It is therefore the duty of all road users, especially drivers, to desist from dangerous behaviour including speeding, risky



OKAHANDJA COUNCILLOR PUSHES FOR MORE BASIC SERVICES

Michael Samuel

Okahandja Constituency Councillor, Bethuel Tjaveondja has recently engaged the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security on a prospect of having a sub police station or satellite station at Osona Village because of the rapid speed Osona is growing and the distance from basic services such as Police stations and Clinics only offered in Okahandja.

"Since Osona is growing, we wouldn't want people to report cases such as housebreaking, theft or just certifying of copies to drive to Okahandja because the distance is quite long and costly for the locals" Explained Tjaveondja.

The Constituency Councillor noted that the same issue of shortage of basic services is also experienced at Five-Rand informal settlement, a location that has been there for the past 25 to 30 years where the masses of Okahandja live. Tjaveondja also indicated that there was a need for a police

station, a clinic and even a community library at Five-Rand because of the large population residing in the location.

"There is an existing Ervin next to Nau-aib clinic earmarked for a police station and I had discussions with the Police Regional Commander who is also in support of the idea of a satellite police station or sub station depending on the population and the complains from that specific area but it's just finances" added the Constituency Councillor.

Determined to bringing much needed basic services to Okahandja constituency, Tjaveondja recently handed over one thousand two hundred sanitary pads packets to schools in his constituency which were donated by M Suresh Company Private Limited, an Indian based company operating in Namibia as M Suresh Company Namibia Diamonds PTY Ltd in Okahandja. The Councillor has indicated that they have entered into an agreement of

funderstanding with M Suresh Company's Namibia Diamonds PTY Ltd to donate these sanitary pad packets on an annual basis.

"We went into another agreement with the same company and we are currently busy with a feasibility study to construct a garden on the open space just behind Okahandja hospital. Our understanding is that we have children who are suffering from malnutrition and then we have our people who are living with HIV and TB but the challenge but the challenge is that they have to live on medication on the daily basis and these medication requires one to eat healthy" Said the Councillor.

Tjaveondja indicated that the garden could be in operation as early as February 2023 and with the help of the hospital staff and the regional health directorate, who would then take over the responsibility and running of the hospital garden to their benefit.

Otjozondjupa Host International Human Rights Day

Nancy Muniaro

Over three hundred (300) government officials and residence of Otjozondjupa gathered to commemorate the International Human rights day and Women days on 09 December 2022 at Otjiwarongo.

International Human rights day is annually commemoration on 10 December to remember proclamation of the UN General Assembly Day in 1948, as well as in Namibia is that day when Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda together with other fearless women resisted forced removal from the old Location by the South African apartheid regime was murdered.

The even started off with a street march from Etambi to Mokati Stadium. Minister of

Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Doreen Sioka officiated the event during her speech she said activism against gender-based violence (GBV) in Namibia is everyone's responsibility.

Sioka stated that the commemoration of this year is being held under the theme 'Dignity, Freedom and Justice for all unite activism to end violence against women and girls' and "I am calling on all stakeholders to unite and put an end to violence against women and children who are the majority victims and survivors of GBV in this country," said Sioka.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Sen Pang convey a statement on his behalf said violence against women and girls is one of

the most widespread human rights violation, which still goes unreported in the world.

The day further mark the last of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, which this year is celebrated under the theme 'Orange the World: Generation



Tsumkwe community engaged on communicable diseases

Michael Samuel

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Otjozondjupa regional office recently conducted an information sharing session on communicable diseases and clinical services offered by the Ministry of Health and Social Services in Omatako and Mangetti Dune

healthcare procedures, schedules on outreach programs and the importance of routine immunization to the Tsumkwe community.

Being part and puzzle of the Sub-National Re-





Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services

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NATIONHOOD AND NATIONAL PRIDE PROGRAMME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services



GOTTLIEB SHIVUTE re-elected as Otjiwarongo Mayor



Michael Samuel

Otjiwarongo Municipality Council recently re-elected its current serving Mayor, Gottlieb Shivute of the SWAPO party to continue in his position at Mayor of Otjiwarongo for the year 2022/23 at the annual election and swearing-in ceremony of Political Office Bearers held in Otjiwarongo at the Municipal Council Chambers.

Shivute assured the residents of Otjiwarongo of his continuous commitment to solidifying the achievements made by the Council in addressing challenges encountered in improving the quality of life the inhabitants of his town.

"I know that my election to serve as Mayor and Chairperson of Council for the third consecutive year is not a personal feat, but a call to action to change the lives of our people for the better. I therefore commit that our achievements will be measured by the vigour we put in our resolve to improve the lives of the masses that sent us here" Said Shivute.

No other changes were made to the current political leadership positions at the Otjiwarongo Municipality as all Councillors retained their positions with Julienda Kampungu (SWAPO) continuing as Deputy Mayor, Godhard Hoko (SWAPO) retained the Chairperson of the Management Committee position, Sebetus Guiteb (LPM) and Hilda Jesaja (SWAPO) remains as Members of the Management Committee, Erenst Muraranganda (PDM) as an Additional Member of the Management Committee while Gideon Iyambo (IPC) continuous to serve as an Ordinary Council Member.

FROM VISION TO REALITY



Nancy Muniaro

National Housing Enterprise (NHE) officially put smiles on beneficiaries faces when they handed over keys to their new home owner's at Otjiwarongo Otjizondjupa Region on 06 October 2022.

This is officiated and handed over by the Minister of Urban Rural and Development (Murd) Hon. Erastus Uutoni together with NHE and Otjiwarongo Municipality with the motive to endeavor and to promote home-ownership provide housing solutions in order to alleviate the national housing needs.

Forty (40) plots at Freedom Park location were avail for development and constructions last year through the collaborative attempts between the Otjiwarongo Town Council and the National Housing Enterprise (NHE), through private partnership in Otjiwarongo.

The Minister of Urban Erastus Uutoni said that government recognizes everyone's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate

housing and the provision of basic infrastructure and services remains one of their top priorities to all levels of government

whether central, regional and local levels. "It is for this reason that we are leaving no stone unturned and continuously find ways to cater for all our people," Uutoni said.

Uutoni indicated that he is aware of the cost of houses falling out of reach for many people and that those in the category of middle to low-income are really struggling to access affordable housing, government through the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) is committed to provide communities with the provision of modern, affordable houses for the growth and development of families across different economic categories.

Through NHE in partnership with other institutions made it possible for those beneficiaries to be called homeowners and have a roof over their families' heads by improving the life quality for all Namibians and especially vulnerable members of the society.



Michael Samuel

The Grootfontein Municipality recently held its annual election and swearing-in ceremony of its Political Office Bearers as per sector (11) (2) of the Local Authority Act, Act 23 of 1992 as amended at the Municipal Council Chambers in Grootfontein were Talitha Garises of the SWAPO Party was re-elected as the Mayor of Grootfontein to serve a second term.

The re-elected Mayor assured the Grootfontein community of her continuous commitment to solidify Council goals while striving to improve the quality of life for the inhabitants of her town in her acceptance speech.

Garises further promised to abide by the rule of law, while continuing to serve the community with dignity, integrity, transparency, and honesty and called for unity within the Grootfontein Council as the success of the Council and the successful implementation of objective depends on fellow councillors and the members of the public.

Grootfontein Mayor retains status

"I would like to humbly request that we work in unity and strive to develop this beautiful town at all times. Furthermore, I urged you to be part and puzzle in ensuring that we develop and maintain peace in Grootfontein" requested Garises.

The Mayor urged her fellow Council members to commit themselves to serving the people of Grootfontein to the best of their abilities and also praised the hard work and dedication displayed by the Grootfontein Municipality staff and Council members.

"We have been elected by the masses, by our people to serve them. Let us please serve the people of Grootfontein in peace to bring development to our town. My fellow Councillors, Let us be present at all Council meetings, absenteeism was too much in the past year. Let us all be present to bring about collective development to the town of Grootfontein" Pled the Mayor.

During the ceremony, Lovisa Iyambo (SWAPO) was elected as the Deputy Mayor; Alfues Nghikevali (SWAPO) is to serve as the Chairperson of the Management Committee with Victor Shaandjuka (SWAPO) and Johanna Fillemon (IPC) to serve as Members of the Management Committee, while Elizabeth Kastoor (PDM) and Lodewikus Jacobs (IPC) are Ordinary Council Members.

YOUTH NETWORKING AND EXPLORING PROGRAM LAUNCHED



Nancy Muniaro

Deputy Minister of Sport, Youth and National Services Hon.Emma Kantema-Gaomas in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), officially launched the YouthConnekt Namibia initiative program in Otjozondjupa Region Otjiwarongo.

The programme is to co-design and accomplished suitable solutions for youth socio-economic development, to support intergovernmental knowledge exchange on policies and collaborations. Through this national initiatives, the network hub will accomplish its mandate by supporting global networking to create a continental atmosphere for African youth, sharing experience and knowledge on programme and policy design for youth initiatives and channeling resources at scale and data on youth empowerment initiatives. Twenty-eight (28) African countries including Namibia which joined in May 2022 formed part of YouthConnekt Africa.

"Our mandate as a ministry is focused towards the promotion of youth empowerment initiatives as expounded in our third national youth policy. It is, therefore, our duty to ensure that we join hands with development partners and other progressive organisations in the development of youth," said Kantema-Gaomas, adding to that she emphasized that there is an urgent need for youth participation at the top end of the country's economy, therefore government has put together variety policy of mediate designs to bring the youth into prevailing the economy in order to improve incorporated and togetherness.

YouthConnekt Namibia launch will help the youth in the African continent connect and share different business skills as well as sharing their countries cultures this initiative will keep the youth away from pure pleasure and crime, this is a good platform to build good relationship and to promote communication among the youth in the African continent. The fifth YouthConnekt Africa Summit will take place in Kigali, Rwanda in October this year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS ON MALARIA CRUCIAL

Michael Samuel

Although Otjozondjupa region is not regarded as a Malaria hot spot, Grootfontein and Okakarara district continues to dominate as the region's leading Malaria prone areas with more than 100 cases already recorded this year between January to November across the region.

Ndilimeke Mutikisha, the Chief Regional Environmental Health Practitioner within the

OTJIWARONGO CONSTITUENCY CAPACITATES THE YOUTH IN POULTRY FARMING

Cornelia Shikongo

Otjiwarongo Constituency hosted a two day intensive Poultry training for the youth under the age of forty in the constituency. The training is a brainchild of the Regional Councilor Marlayn Mbakera.

The training is a result of young people storming the Constituency office on a daily basis in search of job opportunities. Mbakera said through trainings such as this, she would like to empower and equip the youth with skills that will help them to create employment for themselves and others and become self-sustaining, adding that gone are the days of waiting for employment from others.

"You can make it, if you do not see success in you, who do you expect to see success in you"? Do not be scared to be different, this training is a birth of new business ventures for some of you, you have a dream, feed your dream, advised Mbakera.

This training will go a long way in bringing permanent solutions to problems facing the youth.



Otjozondjupa Health Directorate reported that the region recorded more Malaria cases this year compared to previous years but this does not necessarily mean that there is an outbreak of Malaria in the region because some of these cases are not local cases.

"By not local, I mean that some of these are cases that are imported by people who travelled and got infected in other countries or other part of the country but it was only picked up here because when they got sick, they sought for treatment within our region. So these are now the cases that we are referring to as not local cases" Explained Mutikisha.

Mutikisha highlighted that the regional health directive was currently busy administering two Malaria preventive interventions of indoor residual spraying and application of larvicide in water were mosquitoes breed and lay their eggs in targeted areas of Grootfontein and Okakarara districts.

"Those are important interventions; however they need community acceptance for them to be effective. Malaria cannot be controlled through force or by the Government alone, it needs community acceptance and engagement for the community to really take ownership of these interventions" added Mutikisha.

"They need to allow people to enter their houses to be sprayed and if this does not happen, there is no way people will enter their premises by force to sprayed inside

The total training cost was forty seven thousand Namibia dollars and AgriBank sponsored ten thousand Namibia dollars from that amount.

The training total cost for the training was supposed to be one thousand eight hundred dollars per participant, however the registration was only five hundred and the entire one thousand three hundred dollars was subsidized by the Constituency Office through their different partners with the aim of ploughing back into the community.

The training package includes: tutorials, handouts, font drinker feeding trays, ten kilograms feed and twenty five three weeks old layer chicks.

The Otjiwarongo Regional Councilor called on the participants to blossom from the lessons of the training and to not just take the chicks and disappear. She said her office will do a follow up on those trained to see the progress- they made so far and to assess the impact of the training.

At the end of the day, their houses are not sprayed and they are not protected against Malaria resulting in these interventions not fully effective" Highlighted Mutikisha.

Mutikisha does not blame community members for refusing her officials to perform their spraying duties because they might not really have a complete understanding as to why these exercises are so crucial to their benefits.

She further highlighted that some community members do understand the benefit of indoor residual spraying but do not comply simply because they do not like the smell or prefer mosquito nets over spraying.

The regional health directorate together with its stakeholders plan to undertake a more community based initiative of first engaging community members through community mobilisation to ensure they are briefed and made aware of the benefits of indoor residual spraying way before the spraying campaign kicks off normally between September and December each year.

Through the Regional Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar, the regional health directorate plans to target behavioural change amongst effected communities through intensively interacting with them and bringing them on board in terms of equipping them with the necessary information to keep them updated and well informed to a point of effortlessly accepting such prevention interventions.



Republic of Namibia

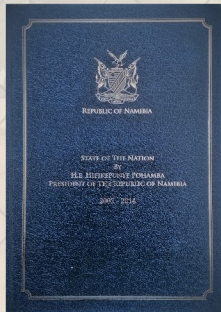
Public Notice

The following products are available for sale at the Ministry of Information & Communication Technology, Otjozondjupa Regional Office as well as at all MICT Regional Office countrywide. Please do visit our office in Otjiwarongo situated at 5th Police Street right opposite the Police Barracks entrance

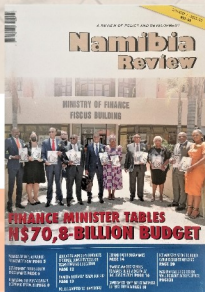


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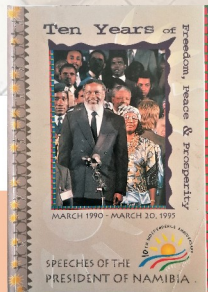
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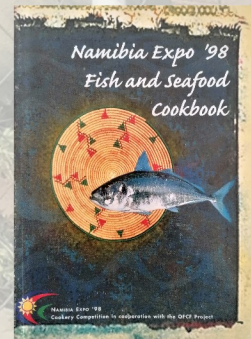
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For more information, please contact Ms. Rachel Kaanandunge

Tel: 067 304 467

OTJOZONDJUPA MEETS TO REVIEW NATIONAL ANTI - CORRUPTION STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Cornelia Shikongo



Otjozondjupa Regional Forum Meeting on the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan recently held its meeting at Otjiwarongo. The aim of the strategy is to bring all stakeholders together to contribute to the promotion of good governance at their respective institutions. This Strategy, with commitments from all sectors, will certainly strengthen Namibia's continued efforts in building a governance system free from corruption.

The strategy was developed as the Namibian government signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption – (UNCAC) in 2003 and ratified it in 2004. The UNCAC is one of the international instruments that facilitated the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action plan.

Globally, corruption is among the challenges which may cause economic decline, high unemployment, and political mistrust if not effectively dealt with. Namibia should therefore make deliberate efforts to curb corruption. The Strategy therefore is a tool to foster strong collaboration and serves as a platform for all stakeholders to contribute to the anti-corruption fight. The Strategy integrates Namibia's development programs as envisioned in Vision 2030.

Speaking at the meeting the Otjozondjupa Governor James Uerika said, the implementation of anti-corruption policies to ensure effective governance within all institutions is an important priority for economic recovery and inclusive growth.

In line with this principle, Namibia signed a number of regional and international legal instruments against corruption and money laundering.

These include the SADC Protocol against Corruption, African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime" he added. The above commitments mandate the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), as the coordinating institution of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and all sectors, to ensure that the country develops mechanisms that translate to broader participation by the citizenry.

In August 2016, Cabinet approved the country's first National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2019 (NACS), which ended in March 2020. Subsequently, Cabinet endorsed the commencement of a consultative process, by Decision No.3rd/01.03.21/012, for the development of the country's second National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025 (NACSAP) at a meeting on 09 March 2021. The NACSAP is a cross-cutting national anti-corruption policy encompassing all sectors of Namibian society.

385 GRADUATE FROM NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE

Michael Samuel

About 400 trainees recently graduated from the National Youth Service training program at Rietfontein that is aimed at serving as a meeting point for the Namibian youth from various social and cultural backgrounds from all 121 constituencies of Namibia with the purpose of coming together to learn, share experiences and encourage notions of equality.

The mandate of NYS is to turn youth into productive citizens through its many youth empowerment programs and activities aimed at encouraging patriotism, a sense of nationhood, and commitment to the country's development as well as equip trainees with the necessary technical and vocational skills required to respond to the demands in the labour market.

With the youth believed to be the driving force of society, the Minister of Sport, youth and National Service, Agnes Tjongarero has challenged the youth to serve their country with patriotism as a main prerequisite for collectively achieving the goals of the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, National Development Goals and Vision 2030.

"Through National Service Education, trained youth become more informed and understand their role and responsibility as active citizens. The training has equip the youth with thorough understanding of the Namibian democratic system and appreciation of the values that are meant to govern the Namibian society" Highlighted Tjongarero.

The Minister added that she was informed of the opportunities available for graduates in various projects of national importance upon completion of their programs. Under the Youth Voluntary Service Programme, NYS has long-term collaboration with the Namibian Port Authority to provide security and safeguarding of the national ports of entry at Walvis Bay and Lüderitz. NYS is also involved in the repairing of the Etosha National Park fence under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

"I am further informed that the recruits being passed out today will be deployed at various projects of national importance as part of the NYS mandate of instilling civic virtues among the Namibian youth, specifically promoting practices of volunteerism to contribute to the country's social economic development. The remaining recruits will be enrolled in various skills training programmes here at Rietfontein and others will be deployed in various NYS developmental projects" said the Minister.

The NYS has an infrastructure in Rietfontein with the capacity to accommodate 3000 youth but due to financial challenges, the centre is not fully utilized to its potential and Tjongarero has urged the management to explore various ways and interventions to ensure full utilization of the centre.

The minister also urged Government offices, ministries and agencies to provide support to the services of NYS trainees by availing voluntary service opportunities to the recruits for them to undertake and perform their voluntary civic duties.



FESTIVE SEASON'S SAFETY TIPS FOR ROAD USERS AND HOLIDAY MAKERS...

Michael Samuel

The Otjozondjupa Regional Police's Community Affairs Office would like to alert the Otjozondjupa community to be extra cautious this festive season as criminal activities and accidents normally pick up due to many folkling in and out of the region to celebrate Christmas and new year with family, leaving their homes and businesses unattended during this time of the year.

The Regional Community Affairs Office urges everyone to make life harder for criminals and unabiding road users by adhering to these simple tips that can help us avoid becoming victims of a crime and avoidable accidents when we are out and about or traveling this season.

By taking these simple precautions, you can reduce the risk of avoiding fatal accidents on our public roads and help reduce criminal activities in our great region.

To the Drivers:

- Prepare your journey in time so that you do not drive beyond the prescribed speed limit.
- Before you take up a long journey, make sure you rest or sleep for at least 8 hours.
- Make sure your motor vehicle's tires are in good condition before you take up any long journey
- After you have travelled for 2 hours or more, park at a lay-by and rest for a few minutes, stretch and proceed when it is safe to do so.
- Do not drink and drive nor overtake at a blind spot.
- Always keep the prescribed distance between your motor vehicle and the one you are following.
- Do not allow or give any person who does not have a valid driver's license to assist you when you are tired, rather park, rest and proceed when you are fresh.
- Love yourself and love the lives of the passengers you are carrying on your Motor vehicle

To the Passengers:

- Do not jump in a motor vehicle, which already exceeds the total number of passengers it is supposed to carry just because you are in a hurry.
- If you find yourself in a motor vehicle driving beyond the speed limit, tell the driver to reduce or report them at the next Police checkpoint.
- Beware that public transport drivers are after money during this busy time, so choose to love yourself and your dependents.

To the Business Community:

- Any suspicious person entering any business place, should be closely monitored even if this person seem to be doing own shopping, negligence to do so may lead to this person alerting other criminals to attack such premises
- Business communities are urged to install Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and or Alarm system in and around their premises.
- Security guards employed at such premises must do security surrounding checks regularly.
- Business communities are cautioned against keeping hard cash on their premises as well as not to count huge sum of cash in the presence of the members of the public.
- Business communities are also urged to alert Police Officers of any suspicious movements, as Police Officers will be visible in their areas/surroundings during the festive season.

To Farm Owners:

- Farmers farming close to public roads are urged to keep their livestock away from the roads to avoid unnecessary accidents caused by animals.
- Farmers are urged to profile their workers accordingly. E.g. know where your farm workers come from and who their real names and next of kins are....
- Farm workers are warned to refrain from coordinating with Criminals.
- Farmers are urged to do regular farm patrols and inspections in and around their farms to stop cattle rustlers from entering the premises.
- Farmers are urged to de-bush thick bushes alongside their farm fences because cattle thieves tends to stay in those thick bushes, slaughter cattle and make biltong to sell or consumer.
- Livestock should be counted on daily basis in order for farmers to detect should there be any theft involved.

To Lodge/Guesthouse Owners:

- Beware of scams, do not transfer any money to any person pretending to be on the way to your facility but got stuck on the way and need financial assistance that is to be settled together with the accommodation bill.
- Ensure security at your premises is up to standard for the safety of your visitors.

To the General Public:

- When leaving for Holidays, leave someone at home or ask your neighbours to keep an eye over your house or report at the Police Station about your absence, and this information will be recorded in the Holiday/Absent register and when the Police are conducting patrols, your house will be included.
- Do not leave firearms in the House but rather take all firearms to the nearest Police Station for safe keeping.
- The public is urged to work together with the Police more closely to curb criminal activities.
- When doing your shopping in town please, consider swiping to avoid carrying a lot of cash on you.
- If you are carrying cash, keep it safe in your pockets; avoid carry handbags as that attracts criminals' attention.
- Lastly, the Otjozondjupa Police assures all inhabitants of this region maximum security during this Festive Season.

ALLOW US TO WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR....



Otjzondjupa Regional Council

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



Hon. Marlyn Mbakera:
Otjiwarongo Constituency
& Chairperson of
Otjzondjupa Regional
Council



Hon. James Unomasa Uerikua:
Governor



Hon. Betuel Tjaveondja:
Okahandja Constituency
Member of Parliament



Hon. Elder Filipe:
Grootfontein Constituency
Member of Parliament



Hon. George Garab:
Otavi Constituency
Member of Parliament



Hon. Johannes Hausiku:
Tsumkwe Constituency
Member of Management
Committee



Hon. Israel Hukura:
Omatoko Constituency
Member of Management
Committee



Hon. Abdal Mutjavikua:
Okakarara Constituency
Ordinary Council Member