

Oct/Nov/Dec 2021



Otjozondjupa Governor has commended the development of the Blue Economy Policy, a policy aimed at creating an integrated approach, and outlining rules and regulations that will help Namibia to better manage and control the country's marine and aquatic system, such as the ocean, lakes and rivers; thereby maximizing economic activities.



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People received their 1st and 2nd Covid-19 doses during the Kick Covid19 out of Namibia Roadshow launched in Otjiwarongo on 08 November 2021 and continued to other towns, settlements and villages in the region until the 24 of November 2021



**"2021 was a year that was characterized by several challenges, amongst others; the climax of the COVID-19 pandemic – specifically the Delta Variant; the decline of the economy and subsequent loss of jobs due to the lock-downs and COVID-19 protocol restrictions." Hon Mbakera**



# **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



# FORWARD

## Chief Regional Officer

The “Ondjupa” newsletter serves as a mouth-piece and information dissemination medium of occurrences and happenings in the region of Otjozondjupa. Today the World evolves around information and we live in an era whereby information technology leads all that we do. It is with great delight and honour therefore that the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, once again brings you the Ondjupa newsletter. Our esteemed hope is that you use the information in this newsletter not only to learn and know about us and the region in general but also to advice and contribute to taking Otjozondjupa to greater heights.

The past year and especially the period under review for this newsletter was and is still characterized by the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and thus our inclusion of information on the regional vaccination campaign. Our region has not been spared in terms of the pandemic’s effect on the economic and psychosocial spheres. However, concerted

efforts from all stakeholders in the region, has seen as pulling through. We are still optimistic that the situation will favourably return to normal. Our appreciation therefore goes to all the region’s stakeholders for their unwavering support and contribution. If there is anything that COVID has taught has is to resilience and concerted plan. This should be our norm.

Our mandate as per the Regional Council’s Act 22 of 1992, is to facilitated service delivery to the public. This we do, in all our Seven (7) Constituencies, to ensure that the residents have access to basic services and developmental opportunities. As we strive to ‘Make A Difference’ in the way we operate, through processes and policy development, we also call upon each resident of this beautiful region to also do likewise – make a difference.

We proudly refer to Otjozondjupa region as a Winning Region. Therefore all resi-



dents and the populace of this region are part and parcel of the Winning Team. As winners, we continue to excel as we turn our weaknesses and threats into opportunities. Thank you to every resident and stakeholders at large, for your contribution. You make Otjozondjupa region tick.

Valuing your support and commitment!

**MRS. AGATHA MWETI**

## EDITOR’S CORNER



**Mrs Cornelia Shikongo**  
Senior Public Relations Officer

Welcome to the second edition of Ondjupa the Otjozondjupa Regional council Newsletter. Let me take this opportunity to wish you our readers a happy and

prosperous new year 2022. This is where we bring you information on activities and programme of government in the region with the view of keeping you informed.

In this edition we take a look at some of the activities undertaken during the months of October to Decemebr 2021, highlighting the covid-19 vaccination campaign drive in the region, the Prime Minister urging young people in the country to capitalize on government financed programmes, handing over of 59 plots to Kalkfeld residents, handing over of 40 NHE houses at Okakarara and the Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region Hon.

James Unomasa Uerikua commending the development of the Aquatic policy.

I hope this edition makes a good read for you, enjoy and be updated with what is hype and happening in the region.

Putting together a newsletter is however not an easy one man’s job, I would therefore like to thank my colleagues from the MICT Otjozondjupa Regional Office for the great collaboration in getting you readily informed through this newsletter. I certainly look forward to great editions of Ondjupa.

Thank you.



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# New year's remarks from Council Chairperson



We are at the dawn of a new year, marking the beginning of the year 2022. What a milestone of a lifetime! We thank the Almighty God for this opportunity.

Looking back at the previous year, one cannot recall 2021 without referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 was a year that was characterized by several challenges, amongst others; the climax of the COVID-19 pandemic – specifically the Delta Variant; the decline of the economy and subsequent loss of jobs due to the lock-downs and COVID-19 protocol restrictions.

The past year had brought along a lot of despair among the people and especially the residents of our region who were equally not spared by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we grace the dawn of a New Year, we remember those that could not make it to 2022. We must thank God and are glad that we have come out of a very dangerous situation, but which is still very volatile and risky, with the now Omicron variant.

A new year, a new calendar and a new time, has brought us and crossed us

over to 2022. A new year is a new beginning. It is like a new birth. As the new year begins, we feel and are highly motivated to make changes in our life, start on a new path, do new things, and say goodbye to old habits and even problems or difficulties. In a new year, we start making new plans and new resolutions, as it is the perfect time for planning. Time is the only thing that is constant in our lives. Time is the only thing that makes us all equal. Whether we are rich or poor, we all have 24 hours in a day and no more.

As we reflect on the year 2021, there is a strong temptation to focus on the losses and especially pain associated with Covid-19, other challenges – physical, emotional, relational, financial and missed opportunities. However, we have to be cautious and thus, focus our reflections of the past year on positive thinking in order to avoid a sense of hopelessness and even fear as we now move into 2022.

Cohesion, Stability, Peace, Unity and creation of a Conducive Environment are key pillars if we want to successfully go through 2022 and to revitalize the losses suffered in the economy and social structures. Abraham Lincoln once said and I quote “A house divided against itself cannot stand” unquote. Therefore as citizens, we all need to play our part to ensure that unity is upheld at all times. Without unity, we will not be able to function cohesively and will not be able to take this region to greater heights.

Unity of purpose will in turn foster peace which is needed to ensure a conducive environment. A conducive

environment is a must not only for Community well-being, but for economic growth through the attraction of investments at our various localities, as no investor would like to invest in an area where there is no peace and stability.

Promoting Unity, Peace and Stability starts with each of us. I would therefore urge every citizen of this Mighty Region of Otjozondjupa, to be at the forefront of upholding peace and unity. Let this region be an epitome of peace in all aspects and sectors. For those in service, let us serve with great honour and humility. It is only if we humble ourselves before others that we will be considerate and respectful of others. Mother Theresa once said, and I quote “Only humility will lead us to unity, and unity will lead to peace” unquote.

During this year, each of us, regardless of age, gender, ability, financial status etc. is called upon to make a difference in deeds, acts of kindness or service. Let 2022 be a year of making a difference in one way or another and let that be our mantra.

I wish the best for the Region of Otjozondjupa, its leaders and community at large, during 2022 and I wish every resident of this Mighty region a very productive, prosperous and successful 2022.

**Hon. Marlyn Mbakera**  
**Chairperson**  
**Otjozondjupa Regional Council**

# Mushelenga urges Namibians to be hopeful in fighting Covid-19

The Minister of Information and Communication Technology Peya Mushelenga has called on Namibians to remain hopeful and optimistic in the fight against Covid-19. ***“We must not lose hope and become discouraged. Covid-19 is there but if we are united, we shall surely overcome it”***, he said. The Minister said these at the launch of the Get Vaccinated, Kick Covid-19 out of Namibia Roadshow in Otjozondjupa Region.

Mushelenga explained that for Namibia to overcome the fight against Covid-19, people need to get vaccinated. ***“With vaccination, you boost up your immune system and will not get severely ill if you contract the virus. The virus will not keep you down; you will be able to resume your duties as soon as possible and your productivity will be high, unlike unvaccinated people”***, he noted.

The Minister further explained that Covid-19 can attack anyone, irrespective of colour, religion or political beliefs. According to him, getting vaccinated will also reduce the workload of the health

village, and house to house vaccination, because not everyone has an equal opportunity to approach vaccination centers”, he urged.

According to the Governor, the Region targets to vaccinate at least 97 000 inhabitants. ***“In order to emerge victorious and achieve our target, we need to coordinate and work together as a team, no one should operate in isolation”***, said Uerikua.

On his part, Otjozondjupa Health Director Gebhardo Timotheus said that the Health Ministry has been actively fighting the pandemic, and has so far achieved the following: managed to establish Covid-19 vaccination centers at all health facilities in the Region, they have also been doing community engagements and mobilizations, in order to increase public knowledge on the vaccines, and the Region has also been properly managing its vaccine stock.

However, the Health Director indicated a few challenges that they are experienc-



ing, which are: shortages of nurses to vaccinate, shortages of drivers, shortages of vehicles, and lack of equipment such as vital sign monitors, laptops and cell-phones.

The Get Vaccinated, Kick Covid-19 out of Namibia Roadshow is currently being rolled out to the rest of the Otjozondjupa Region until the 24th November 2021. The Roadshow aims to sensitize, influence, mobilize, encourage and motivate the residents of Otjozondjupa to get vaccinated, in order to kick the Covid-19 pandemic out of Namibia, and for the country to return back to normalcy.



professionals, giving them a chance to attend to patients with other diseases. Speaking at the same event was Otjozondjupa Governor James Uerikua, who called on the Ministry of Health to do mobile vaccinations. ***“The public wants the vaccination to get them at their houses, therefore, let the vaccination go to the people. Let’s do village to***

Republic of Namibia  
Ministry of Health and Social Services

**CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 12-17 YEARS**  
CAN NOW GET VACCINATED AND BE PROTECTED AGAINST SEVERE COVID-19 ILLNESS AND DEATH.

#GetVaccinated | #KickCovid19OutofNamibia | #VaxUpNamibia  
Toll-free Number: 0800 100 100  
NATIONHOOD AND NATIONAL PRIDE PROGRAMME  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

My NAMIBIA  
UNITED NATIONS  
NAMIBIA  
GET VACCINATED  
KICK COVID-19

# Prime Minister urges youths to capitalize on Gov. financing programs

Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has urged the Namibian youth to make use of the available financing programs put in place by Government, in order to improve and develop themselves through entrepreneurship. The Prime Minister said this at the National Youth Service's Fourth Technical Vocation and Education Training (TVET) graduation ceremony in Rietfontein, Otjozondjupa Region.

According to Kuugongelwa, the Government has established funding and mentoring schemes for the youth, aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship and business opportunities. "These funding programs will help increase the potential of SMEs and harness the innovation and entrepreneurship of the youth, thereby strengthening Namibia's economy", she said. She emphasized on the Government's continuous commitment of ensuring that youth unemployment remains at the center of the Government's policies and programs.

The Prime Minister believes that TVET is a critical provider of skills, knowledge and technology that is needed to drive productivity in a knowledge-based economy, as it equips young people with work-ready skills which are useful in addressing Namibia's challenges of youth unemployment.

"Young people need skills that meet the demands of the private sector, both to find jobs and create their own businesses. TVET should therefore not be seen as an option for those that do not qualify for university admissions, but should take a leading role in our post-matric education", Kuugongelwa alluded.

The Prime Minister called on local employers to provide the graduates with employment opportunities. "These graduates offer a wealth of knowledge and skills, as well as youth energy; that makes them great assets to the country that we cannot afford to leave unutilized", she concluded.

Speaking at the same event was the National Youth Service Commissioner Felix Musukubili, who thanked the institutions that provided the trainees with internship opportunities, which is a graduation requirement.

"You played an important role by acceding our trainees with attachment opportunities. Without them completing the internship, they could not graduate", he said.

The Commissioner revealed that the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Job Creation in particular has facilitated the placement of about 60 trainees, on a National Internship Program.

"This internship program has accorded our trainees the necessary work-integrated learning exposure required in the real world of work", noted Musukubili.

A total of 318 trainees graduated in different technical and vocational fields.

## OKAKARARA SECONDARY REVAMPED

The Okakarara Senior Secondary School in the Otjozondjupa Region is one of the many schools in the country that benefitted from the about 17 million dollar loan from the African Development Bank through renovation and refurbishment. The renovation of the school is part of the 1 billion dollar loan from the African Development Bank for infrastructure development in the country.

The education sector was one such sector identified as a beneficiary of the loan among many other sectors in the country through the Agency of the Education and Training Quality Improvement project which is being implemented by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. Although the Agency of the Education and Training Quality Improvement project was started in 2018, the renovations at Okakarara Secondary school started in 2020.

The newly refurbished school infrastructure

worth 17 291, 516.49 at Okakarara Secondary schools includes, seven classroom blocks, one science laboratory, one administration block, one multi-purpose hall, a backup generator, five water tankers and revamped kitchen.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony the Director of Planning and Development in the Ministry Mr Carvin Muchila said he was glad that the project had reached its practical completion stage as a conducive learning environment plays a huge role in the minds of the teacher and learners.

Muchila further called on the teachers, learners and the Okakarara Community at large to jealously guard the school against vandalism. He said they should consider themselves fortunate to have been selected among schools to benefit from the loan funds, adding that many learners are still taught in deplorable conditions because the challenges are too many for government to

tackle at one.

The Regional Councilor for Okakarara Constituency, the Chief Executive Officer and the Mayor of Okakarara Town who are former learners at the school called on teachers and learners to return the school to its former glory as a school of excellence by ensuring quality teaching and learning, and his should be reflected in the results of the school in order to lead to the slogan of the region for education which is "Always above the line".



## Otjondjupa Governor commends development of aquatic policy

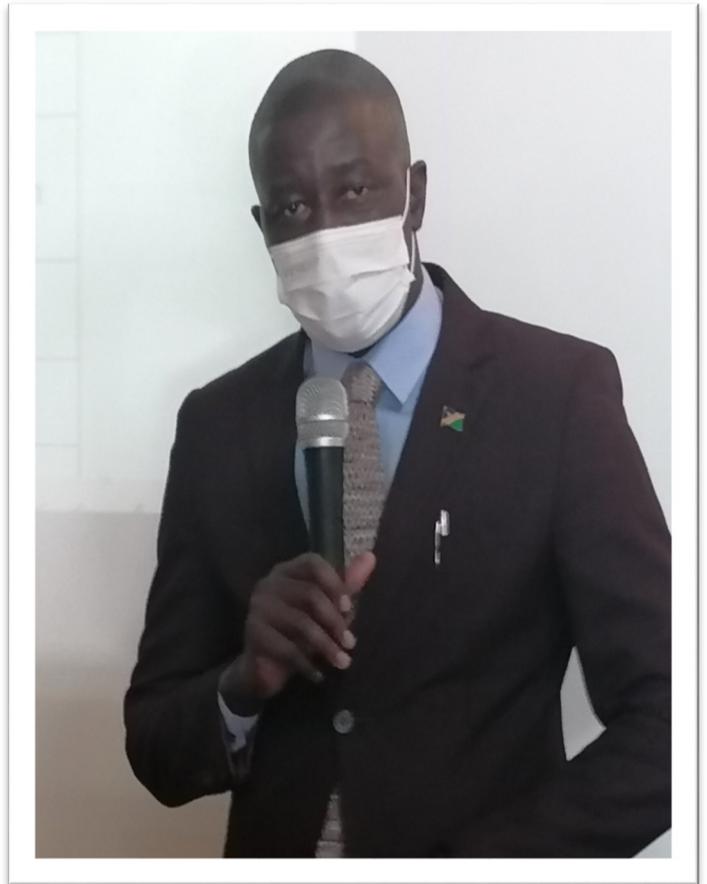
The Governor of Otjondjupa Region James Uerikua has commended the development of the Blue Economy Policy, which is a policy aimed at creating an integrated approach, and outlining rules and regulations that will help Namibia to better manage and control the country's marine and aquatic system, such as the ocean, lakes and rivers; thereby maximizing economic activities.

"I am pleased to learn that while we are already reaping benefits from our aquatic resources particularly from our ocean, we are further developing a blue economy policy that seeks to ensure that we achieve environmental sustainability, and social and economic inclusivity in the developmental approach to all our aquatic resources", cited Uerikua.

According to the Governor, aquatic resources are crucial drivers of Namibia's economy. *"The sea is a medium of transport, we have marine diamond mining, and marine tourism and fisheries. Fresh water systems also provide tourism opportunities, food, irrigation and drinking water, he said. "However, our dependency on agriculture is constantly under threat by Climate Change. We are experiencing frequent droughts whose devastating effects are low productivity. Therefore, the development of this policy could not have come at a better time"*, alluded Uerikua.

The Governor believes that it is imperative to ensure that efforts of various sectors of the Blue Economy are harmonized in order to prevent conflicting activities and to ensure maximum economic gains for the Namibian people and environmental protection for the ecosystems' health. He urged the committee members to ensure that they create a policy that is implementable; for it not to collect dust.

The Governor said these at a consultative workshop for the Blue Economy Policy in Otjiwarongo. The Blue Econo-



my Policy Committee has embarked on consultative workshops countrywide; soliciting ideas from relevant stakeholders.

Speaking at the same event was Muzire Murangi, a member of the Blue Economy Committee who explained that a Blue Economy Policy is a Government's governance framework that is being developed, to strengthen linkages and minimize conflicts between fisheries, transport, environment, mining, tourism and logistics in Namibia, in order to sustain, and integrate the development of our ocean economy, including lakes and rivers.

"I would therefore, like to extend a special invitation to all Namibians, either individually or organizations in our aquatic economy to participate in this process either through the planned countrywide workshops, or by making written submissions to the blue economy committee secretariat", Murangi urged.

The Blue Economy Committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

## KALKFELD RESIDENTS RECEIVE RESIDENTIAL PLOTS

Housing remains one of the challenges that the country is faced with, and in its quest to contribute to the social progression pillar of the Harambee Prosperity Plan, Otjozondjupa regional council allocated 59 residential plots to residents of the Kalkfeld Settlement in the Otjiwarongo Constituency. The plots are the first to be allocated to the settlement's residents since the Otjozondjupa Regional Council took over the administration of the settlement.

The Otjiwarongo Constituency Councilor and Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council Marlene Mbakera who handed over the plots said, housing is a human rights and as Otjozondjupa Regional Council we will forever endeavor to ensure the provision of land for housing purposes to all residents in settlements under our administra-

tion. The allocation process takes a bit of time, and I therefore call on you to remain patient with us as we ensure that you are all allocated land in a proper and efficient manner, Mbakera said.

A resident of Kalkfeld Mr van Ster, thanked the Otjozondjupa Regional Council for allocating the plots saying it is a step in the right direction which will lead the settlement to its rightful place of a village Council and ultimately to becoming a Town Council. He said the settlement is strategically situated and as such cannot rein a settlement forever.

Another resident Victoria Geises said they have waited for so many years to be allocated land at the Settlement and she was grateful that at last they can build houses and have a place they can call home.

Kalkfeld settlement was upgraded to Village status in 1991 and was downgraded to a settlement in 1996. During the period from 1991 to 1996 the settlement was administered as a Local Authority with its own council. This means that during that time, some of the residents of Kalkfeld bought properties in the form of land and housing from the then Council.

To date those residents still hold ownership to those properties as they hold title deeds to that effect and these residents will continue to receive services from Otjozondjupa Regional Council. However those that where recently allocated will only occupy the land on a leasehold basis, as land in the settlement areas is states land and cannot be sold.

## NHE hands over 40 houses to Okakarara beneficiaries

The National Housing Enterprises (NHE) recently handed over 40 houses to beneficiaries from Okakarara, through a public private partnership agreement with the main aim of improving their standard of living through providing affordable, quality and adequate housing to Okakarara residents.

The Government, in collaboration with the private sector through its parastatals has committed itself to addressing the housing backlog in the country through such collaborative initiatives across the country.

Housing backlog is currently a national concern and a problematic area for many if not all local authorities in the country in delivery affordable serviced land and housing to their residents with the ever increasing demand for housing.

With the persistent presence of Covid-19 and a struggling world economy due to the pandemic, Namibia is no different with

many households losing income due to retrenchments and businesses closing down due to financial struggles caused by Covid-19.



The pandemic has forced the Government to divert most of its funds that could have been used to service land and create housing opportunities since the announcement of the state of emergency last year to saving lives during this devastating times of

Covid-19.

Financial support to NHE by the Government over the past years has also dwindled due to the current economic recession which led to the reduction in the country's national budget and consequently resulting in NHE devising its strategies as alternatives to the housing shortfall and this has resulted in Public Private Partnership collaboration as a strategy to the housing dilemma in the country.



## OTRC DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT MULTI-HAZARD PLAN REVIEWED

The Otjozondjupa Regional Council and other stakeholders recently held a five day workshop at Okahandja to review its Disaster Risk Management Multi-Hazard Plan.

The objectives of the workshop were, to review the existing regional contingency plans, align regional plans to regional frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction, enhance capacities in preparedness for emergencies and establish an effective mechanism to prevent, mitigate and respond to hazard, build capacity in Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans process, understand the legal framework in place to address DRM in the region and to cater for the most vulnerable commu-

nities by creating awareness and training. The overall aim of having a regional multi-hazard plan is to shift from preparedness response to the state of readiness Prevention/ Mitigation, Response, Preparedness, Rehabilitation/Recovery.

Speaking at the Official opening ceremony of the workshop, Otjozondjupa Governor James Uerikua said “disaster response calls for strategic action that requires us to always be flexible adaptable and be on alert for any eventuality that might face our region”.

The plan is reviewed after every three years in order to ensure that when or be-

fore disasters or hazards strikes, the region is ready to respond. The review of the plan is also necessary to align the regional response plan to the regional disaster framework.



## Nujoma urges 7<sup>th</sup> EEC to ensure employment fairness

The Minister of Labour Utoni Nujoma has called on the Seventh Employment Equity Commission (EEC) to ensure that the provisions of the Affirmative Action in the workplace is effectively enforced; and that no Namibian is denied any employment opportunity for reasons unrelated to their ability to perform. He explained that the previous apartheid regime’s employment policies left a legacy of disparities in terms of the distribution of jobs, incomes and occupations, and as a result, it has created inequalities which reinforced race and male dominance.

“Racial prejudice and gender stereotyping continue to impede progress towards equity in Namibia. It is therefore your duty as members of the EEC to ensure that the provisions of the Affirmative Action laws are effectively enforced, that employers are watched with an eagle’s eye, and that they are guided with a firm hand, in order to bring about the long

overdue and necessary employment fairness”, expressed the Minister. He said these at the inauguration of the 7th Employment Equity Commission (EEC) in Otjiwarongo.

According to Nujoma, racial prejudice should not exist in an independent Namibia, neither should discrimination on grounds of sex or disability, or any other arbitrary ground be allowed; everyone should be given an equal opportunity to employment. “I therefore ask all the newly appointed EEC members to participate and contribute constructively, and to find ways to improve the service offerings of the EEC”, he urged.

Speaking at the same event was Otjozondjupa Governor James Uerikua, who cited that his Region is no exception to unfair labour practices in the workplace. “Employees in this region are exposed to occupational hazards and inhu-

mane treatment too, such as stripping of female employees in public”, the Governor stated.

He called on for equality and respect of human dignity in every workplace, in order for the country to move forward.

“I urge all relevant stakeholders to support the EEC in its mission to ensure equity in the workplace, because the benefits deriving from that are and will benefit all of us; employers, employees, and the economy of our beautiful country”, Uerikua alluded.

The function of the EEC is to ensure that the provisions of the Affirmative Action in the workplace is effectively enforced, while the Affirmative Action is aimed at guiding employers to eliminate employment barriers against persons in designated groups, with a view to ensuring that they are equitably represented at all levels of employment.

# OTJOZONDJUPA POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



Hon. James Unomasa Uerikua:  
Governor



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



Hon. Elder Filipe: Grootfontein  
Constituency



Hon. George Garab: Otavi  
Constituency



Hon. Israel Hukura:  
Omatako Constituency



Hon. Betuel Tjaveondja:  
Okahandja Constituency



Hon. Abdal Mutjavikua:  
Okakarara Constituency



Hon. Johannes Hausiku:  
Tsumkwe Constituency