



ONDJUPA

OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



April - June 2025



//KHAMUSEB BACK AT OTJOZONDJUPA AS REGIONAL GOVERNOR

**HAUSIKU TO
CONCLUDE TERM AS
OTJOZONDJUPA
CHAIR**

**Otavi Bulk Water Project
Moves into Second Phase
with N\$7.5 million Boost**

**OTRC AND NIPAM
COLLABORATES ON
CAPACITY BUILDING**



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



Editorial

Welcome to the first quarter edition of the Ondjupa Newsletter for the 2025/2026 Financial Year—a publication that captures the progress, partnerships, and passion that continue to shape the Otjozondjupa Region.

We begin this edition on a note of continuity and renewed purpose with the return of Honourable John //Khamuseb as Regional Governor, who resumed duties on 5th April 2025. His return comes at a critical time when momentum across regional initiatives is accelerating, and his guidance is already proving instrumental in steering key projects forward.

One such project is the Otavi Bulk Water Project, which recently entered its second phase thanks to a combined investment of N\$7.5 million by B2Gold Namibia and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

Environmental stewardship also took center stage this quarter, as Otjozondjupa commemorated the International Day for Biodiversity. The event reminded us that protecting our ecosystems is not a distant goal it is a responsibility we must embrace now

Equally important is our commitment to building capacity within our public service. This quarter saw the Otjozondjupa Regional Council partner with NIPAM (Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management) in a focused effort to upskill council officials and improve institutional performance.

Finally, our region launched the #EndGBVNamibia campaign, a national initiative that reached communities across Otjozondjupa. Gender-based violence remains a deep scar on our social fabric, and we commend the voices young and old, male and female who stood together to call for justice, healing, and systemic change. As a region, we reaffirm our zero-tolerance stance on all forms of violence and inequality.

As this new financial year unfolds, Otjozondjupa is demonstrating that with strong leadership, shared vision, and community engagement, progress is not only possible—it is inevitable.

Don't forget 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 on our website <https://otjozondjuparc.gov.na> through our online suggestion box under the feedback button on the website.

Elago Shipanga
Senior Information Officer

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//KHAMUSEB NEW OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL GOVERNOR



By : Cornelia Shikongo

John //Khamuseb took over as Otjozondjupa Governor from James Uerikua. Uerikua was nominated as member of the national assembly during the 2024 November election after the victory of the Swapo Party during the National Assembly election.

Khamuseb was appointed governor for Otjozondjupa region by her excellency President Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah on the 28 March 2025. Khamuseb is however no stranger to Otjozondjupa as he formerly served as the Special Advisor for the former governor of Otjozondjupa Otto Ipinge. He was welcomed to the Region on the 4th of April 2025 by his predecessor James Uerikua during a handover ceremony at the Otjozondjupa Regional Council in Otjiwringo.

Khamuseb is an academician and educator par excellence, he worked as a teacher at various schools in the country and retired as a principal. He then served as special advisor to the late former governor of Kunene region Angelika Muharukua, he later became Special Advisor to former Otjozondjupa Governor Otto Ipinge from 2018 until March 2020.





HAUSIKU TO CONCLUDE TERM AS OTJOZONDJUPA CHAIR

By: Cornelia Shikongo

Otjozondjupa Regional Council elects Johannes Hausiku Regional Councillor for Tsumkwe Constituency as its Chairperson. His election nullifies the election process which took place on the 31st of March 2025 during which Bethuel Tjaveondja Regional Councillor for Okahandja Constituency was elected to serve as the Chairperson. That election was nullified due to a few technicalities. Similarly, Ramana Mutjavikua Regional Councilor for Okakarara Constituency was elected as a Member of the Council's Management Committee while Israel Hukura Regional Councilor for Omatako Constituency was nominated as a Member of the National Council. Bethuel Tjaveondja Regional Councillor for Okahandja and George Garab of Otavi Constituencies remain Members of the National Council.

Subsequently the Otjozondjupa Regional Council swore in the newly elected Regional Councillors for Otjiwarongo and Grootfontein Constituencies. The Councillors Paulus Nekundi of Otjiwarongo and Nelao Amagulu of Grootfontein Constituency were elected during the by-election on the 17 June 2025. The election was necessitated by the election of former Regional Councillor of Otjiwarongo and Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council Marlayn Mbakera and Grootfontein Constituencies Elder Filipe to the National Assembly in March 2025. Nelao Amagulu of Grootfontein was elected to the Management Committee of Council, while Paulus Nekundi of Otjiwarongo is an ordinary council member.





OTAVI BULK WATER PROJECT MOVES INTO SECOND PHASE WITH N\$7.5 MILLION BOOST

By: Elago Shipanga

The town of Otavi took a major step toward long-term water security with the commissioning of the Bulk Water Project at the town. The project, aimed at revitalizing and expanding the town's water infrastructure, was commissioned by Urban and Rural Development Minister, James Samkwasa.

The project is jointly funded by B2Gold Namibia and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development to the tune of N\$7.5 million.

Officiating the event, Urban and Rural Development Minister James Sankwasa, described the project as a model of effective public-private partnership and a critical investment in the well-being of the Otavi residents.

"Access to clean and safe water is not a luxury it is a basic human right. This project is not just about infrastructure it is about restoring dignity and creating a foundation for development.

I implore council can use this project to reduce water tariffs, for the community to derive maximum benefits," said Sankwasa. The project is responding to Otavi's pressing need for reliable water supply and improved water quality. Phase 1 focused on the revitalization of a key borehole that will now serve as part of a larger bulk water system.

Otavi Mayor Isaac !Hoeab, speaking at the event emphasized the project's long-term vision to meet the town's increasing demand for clean and sustainable water.

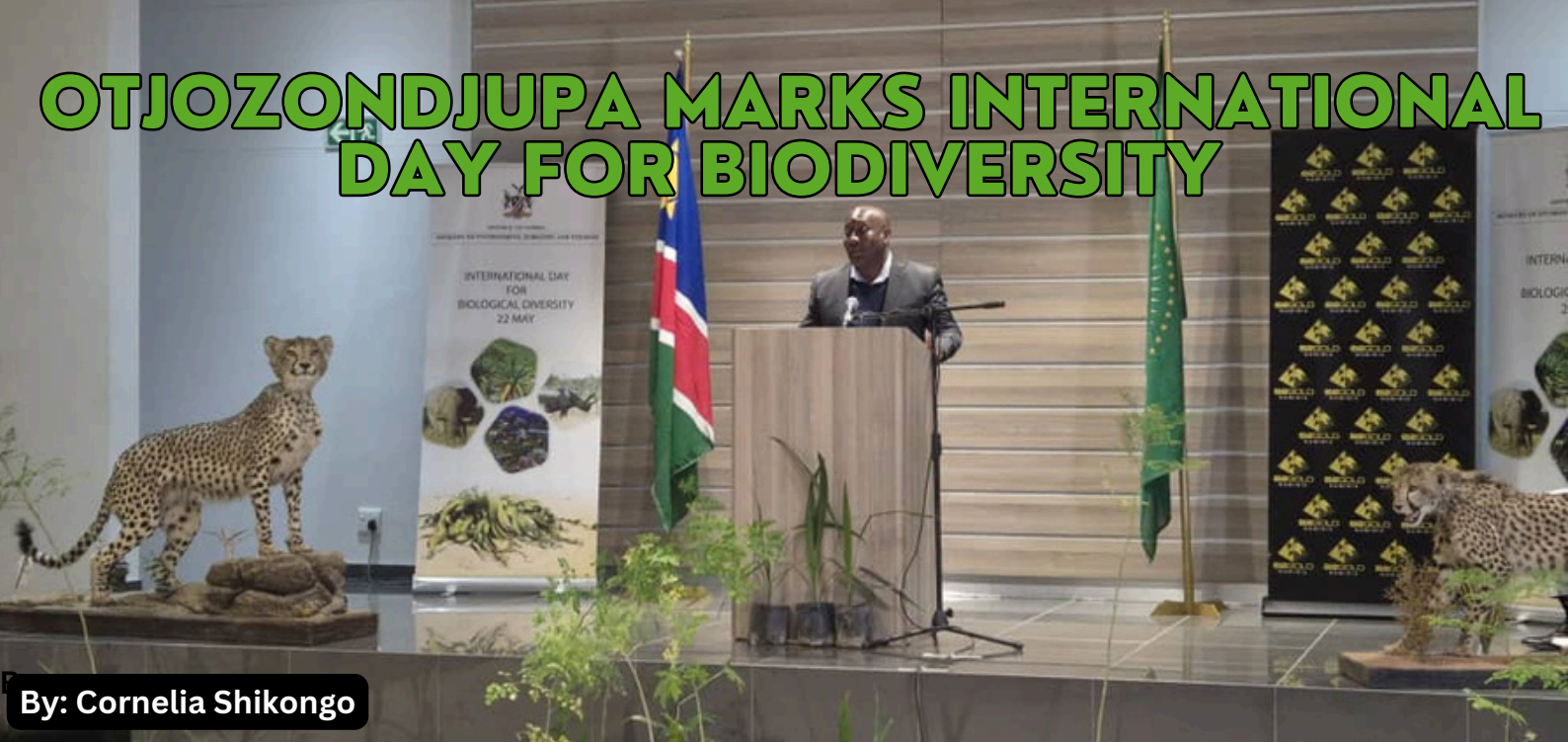
"Today, we celebrate the tangible fruits of collaboration, commitment and development vision projects that speak to the core of human dignity, access to clean water, decent housing, functional infrastructure and inclusive urban development" he said.

!Hoeab added that the town council pledges to ensure that this investment is protected, maintained, and used to uplift the lives of the town's inhabitant.



Minister James Sankwasa and Otavi Mayor Isaac !Hoeab inspect the new water infrastructure at the Town

OTJOZONDJUPA MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY



By: Cornelia Shikongo

Namibia reaffirmed its commitment to biodiversity conservation during the national commemoration of the International Day for Biological Diversity, held in Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region. The day commemorated annually on the 22 May was held under the theme: Harmony with nature and sustainable development.

The commemoration aims to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity, promote conservation efforts, and inspire future environmental stewards. Speaking at the commemoration of the day the Governor of Otjozondjupa Region John Julius //Khamuseb said biodiversity is vital for humans as it contributes to ecosystem stability and resilience.

Therefore, he said, it is vital to preserve the forest through alternatives to more productive use of existing agricultural land by diversifying opportunities for survival. //Khamuseb further added that for biodiversity to be successful, there is a greater need for co-existence with the environment through complex relationships with nature to understand climate change. On her part the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Indleni Daniel said there is a need to adopt sustainable practices to strengthen environmental survival through inclusive participation of all especially indigenous people and knowledge in order to live by the theme of living in harmony with nature which is essential for the better future for all. As part of Namibia's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, the Minister

announced that the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is being updated for the 2025–2031 period. The strategy will serve as a critical roadmap for halting biodiversity loss and promoting sustainable development across the country.

Daniel also highlighted several legislative instruments that underpin Namibia's conservation efforts, including the Environmental Management Act, Forest Act, Marine Resources Act, and the Nature Conservation Ordinance. She further revealed that a Wildlife Protected Areas Management Bill is being finalized and will undergo regular amendments to respond to evolving environmental challenges.

Identifying the main drivers of biodiversity loss, Daniel pointed to climate change, invasive species, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and land use changes such as urban development and agricultural expansion.

"There is a need to address these threats urgently," she said, citing specific concerns such as rising global temperatures, habitat degradation, marine ecosystem changes, and the encroachment of invasive plant species.

The Minister stressed that this is a global crisis that calls for collective action. She urged Namibians from all walks of life to adopt sustainable practices in their everyday use of natural resources.

The Ministry also distribute plant species to attendees, which will be monitored and cared for until the next year's celebration.



CHINESE EMBASSY STRENGTHEN TIES WITH NYS

By: Nancy Muniaro

Rietfontein, Otjozondjupa Region – The Chinese Ambassador to Namibia, His Excellency Zhao Weiping, paid a courtesy visit to the National Youth Service (NYS) Training Centre at Rietfontein Farm, located 40 kilometres south of Grootfontein.

The visit aimed to reaffirm the strong bilateral relationship between the governments of Namibia and China, with a particular focus on youth development and collaboration in national transformation efforts.

Dr. Musukubili expressed deep appreciation for China's continued support, thanking the ambassador for China's long-standing partnership with the NYS. He highlighted that such collaborations are vital in advancing the Service's mandate of transforming Namibian youth into productive and self-reliant citizens.

"As part of our renewed focus under the current administration, the Service is committed to establishing production units that will support government infrastructure projects, while also creating opportunities for internships and employment. This will contribute directly to economic growth," Dr. Musukubili said. "Support in these areas is crucial as we align our initiatives

with national development priorities and contribute meaningfully to Namibia's socio-economic transformation. "The ambassador's visit also reaffirmed China's ongoing commitment to supporting youth empowerment in Namibia. This includes the Chinese-funded construction of the Rietfontein Training Centre in 2019 – a symbol of the enduring friendship between the two nations.

"We are pleased to have played a role in Namibia's youth development through this facility, which reflects the strong and fruitful cooperation between our two countries," said Ambassador Zhao.

He praised the well-maintained state of the training centre and expressed optimism about its continued relevance under the new government's priorities of youth empowerment, economic development, and job creation.

"As one of Namibia's key development partners, we remain committed to supporting programmes that enhance youth skills and employment prospects," he said. Ambassador Zhao also revealed ongoing plans to introduce a Luban Workshop in Namibia – an initiative aimed at training skilled artisans and complementing national youth development strategies.



OTRC AND NIPAM COLLABORATES ON CAPACITY BUILDING

By: Cornelia Shilongo

Otjozondjupa Regional Council - (OTRC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding - (MOU) with the Namibia Institute for Public Administration - (NIPAM) at Otjiwarongo today. This MoU establishes cooperation between NIPAM and OTRC and forms a formal basis for cooperation in training, consultancy, research, marketing, and information dissemination collaboration. The MOU is valid for a period of three years.

The Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council, Johannes Hausiku said, through this MoU, Council looks forward to leveraging NIPAM's expertise in building the capacity of the staff and leadership through targeted training programmes. He added that Council also welcomes the support in research and consultancy that will help us improve planning, decision-making, and monitoring and evaluation processes within the Council. "This partnership will

not only strengthen our internal operations but will, ultimately, translate into more effective and efficient service delivery for the residents of Otjozondjupa Region, he added". The Executive Director of NIPAM Heroldt Murangi said the memorandum of understanding which came through a stakeholders with various government institutions came at an opportune time when the country is approaching the implementation of the six National Development Plan -(NDP6), hence the need to build capacity to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the plan. He said Namibian institutions need to change the way they conduct business as per their mandate as NIPAM which is to transform the public service into efficient service delivery and are therefore ready to work with Otjozondjupa Regional Council to operationalize the MOU.

OTJOZONDJUPA RECORDS OVER 1,200 MALARIA CASES SINCE NOVEMBER

By: Nancy Muniaro

The Otjozondjupa Region has recorded a total of 1,232 malaria cases and three fatalities since November last year, according to the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS). This alarming update was shared during a recent stakeholders' meeting in Otjiwarongo, where health officials emphasized the urgent need for enhanced malaria prevention and management strategies.

In response to the outbreak, the Ministry is implementing a multi-faceted approach to control the spread of the disease. These include the distribution and promotion of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs), vector control through indoor residual spraying (IRS), and community engagement initiatives.

"Community participation remains vital. We are working closely with clinics and local health facilities to raise awareness and educate the public about malaria prevention,"

said a health official. Additionally, door-to-door awareness campaigns have been launched to reach remote areas and encourage households to adopt preventive measures. The Ministry is also strengthening cross-border collaboration with neighbouring countries to manage malaria effectively in border regions, where transmission risks are often higher.

Furthermore, the MoHSS will continue to support health workers through regular mentorship and training, while scaling up surveillance efforts for early detection and treatment of malaria cases.

Community members are urged to actively engage in malaria education programmes and to collaborate with stakeholders in the fight against the disease. Public cooperation and adherence to preventive measures are essential in curbing the current outbreak and protecting the most vulnerable.

Community health education and larviciding efforts are underway to combat malaria spread.

Community Engagement Initiatives

Local health authorities are actively engaging communities to educate them about malaria prevention and treatment.

Awareness Campaigns

Ongoing campaigns are aimed at improving knowledge of malaria symptoms and encouraging prompt health-seeking behavior.



Larviciding Strategies

Efforts include targeted larviciding to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and reduce transmission rates.

Collaborative Efforts

Partnerships with NGOs and community leaders are crucial to effectively disseminate health information and resources.



By: Elago Shipanga

The #EndGBVNamibia Campaign has been activated in the Otjozondjupa Region, by the region's Governor John //Khamuseb. The campaign a joint coraboration between the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Social welfare is a national and was launched in Windhoek on the 4 of June 2025.

It aims to change behaviour on how society think, speak, and act when it comes to gender-based violence (GBV) and to actively promote a culture of respect and safety.

Activating the campaign Governor //Khamuseb the campaign is more than just creating awareness, it is also about starting honest and necessary conversations, in homes, among friends, in offices, schools, churches and communities to challenge harmful behaviours and beliefs about GBV and to work together towards stopping it. I kindly ask all of you to welcome and support this initiative.

Let us listen, learn, and engage. Let us spread these important messages and stand together to make our region GBV-free.

Ending GBV is not only the government's responsibility, it is a duty for all of us. We must not be silent. Violence should never be accepted or hidden in our homes. When we see it, we must speak out. Today it might happen to your neighbour; tomorrow, it could happen in your own home.

Let us report abuse before it becomes too late. Let us speak out and report any form of violence we see in our society to discourage perpetrators and show them that there is no space for violence in our communities" said Khamuseb.

Following the regional activation, regional government officials, including the police, the Ministry of Gender, the Ministry of Information, will take this campaign to all corners of region. They will visit communities, share information, and have conversations about GBV with community members.

"Let us listen, learn, and engage. Let us spread these important messages and stand together to make our region GBV-free"



KALKFELD HOSTS WORLD MUSIC DAY CELEBRATION

By: Nancy Muniaro

Kalkfeld, Otjozondjupa Region – The quiet rural settlement of Kalkfeld came alive as it played host to this year's World Music Day celebrations under the global theme: "Healing through Harmony." Though modest in size, Kalkfeld served as the perfect backdrop for this international occasion, drawing together local artists, music lovers, and community members in a vibrant celebration of sound and unity.

Situated in a predominantly agricultural area, Kalkfeld is known for its scenic surroundings and connection to nature—qualities that echoed the spirit of the event, which seeks to unite people across the world through the universal language of music.

Martin Bayer, Director of the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC), gave a brief history of the celebration, explaining that World Music Day—Fête de la Musique—originated in France in 1982. Since then, it has grown into a global event held every year on June 21, dedicated to the power of music as a shared form of human expression. "Music has no language; it speaks directly to the soul," Bayer said. "World Music Day celebrates this universal language that connects people across cultures and continents.

I hope today's celebration inspires young people to pick up an instrument, join a choir, or simply embrace music as part of their daily lives."

The festival featured a rich and diverse line-up of performances including brass bands, gospel choirs, hip-hop artists, and oviritje singers, each representing different styles and cultural backgrounds. The crowd danced, sang along, and celebrated the rhythms that resonated throughout the settlement.

Otjozondjupa Governor, Julius //Khamuseb, praised the event for fostering community spirit and emotional healing through music.

"Music is a language that needs no translation. It communicates joy, pain, hope, love, resistance, and belonging—often in ways that words cannot," said Governor //Khamuseb. "Events like this remind us of the power of art and culture in building unity and resilience in our communities."

The celebration in Kalkfeld not only showcased Namibia's musical talent but also reinforced the importance of cultural events in rural areas. As the sun set and the final notes echoed through the settlement, the spirit of harmony lingered—leaving behind a message of hope, healing, and togetherness.



TEAM NDJUPA'S GREAT SHOWING AT NEDBANK-NAMIBIAN NEWSPAPER CUP 2025

By: Cornelia Shikongo

With high hopes and unwavering regional pride, the Otjozondjupa Region officially sent off its youth team to represent the region in the 23rd Edition of the Namibian Newspaper Cup, which took place in April at Outjo, Kunene Region.

The spirited send-off was led by Honourable Abdal Mutjavikua, Regional Councillor for Okakarara Constituency, who stood in for the Chairperson of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council then, Honourable Bethuel Tjaveondja. In his address to the young athletes, Councillor Mutjavikua delivered an inspiring message that echoed the dreams and aspirations of an entire region.

"You are more than just players," he told the team. "You are ambassadors of Otjozondjupa. You represent the hopes of Grootfontein, the courage of Okakarara, the spirit of Otjiwarongo, the strength of Okahandja, the unity of Tsumkwe, and the determination of all our towns and villages."

He further emphasized that the region has full confidence in the team's preparation and potential. "When you step onto the field or court, remember you do so not just for medals, but for every child in Otjozondjupa who will be watching and dreaming to one day stand where you are."

"Mutjavikua reminded the team that while talent secured their place on the squad, it is heart, commitment, and teamwork that will lead them to victory. Whether you win or lose, know this — you already make us proud.

But I have a strong feeling, a very strong feeling, that Otjozondjupa is going to Outjo not just to participate, but to dominate!"

He concluded with powerful words of encouragement: "Play with honor. Respect your opponents. Uplift one another. And never forget where you come from — because when you rise, the whole region rises with you."

Adding to the words of motivation, the Regional Governor, Honourable John //Khamuseb, addressed the team and commended the players for earning the privilege to represent Otjozondjupa. He urged them to value teamwork above individuality and to maintain composure, discipline, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

"Stick together as a team," Governor //Khamuseb advised. "Victory or defeat — it will be together. Represent Otjozondjupa with pride and dignity."

The tournament, at its 23rd edition, brought together regions from across Namibia to showcase youth talent in football and netball. Otjozondjupa's soccer team has already made headlines, advancing to the quarterfinals after defeating neighbors Omaheke Region with a narrow but decisive 1-0 victory.

Sadly though it was the end of the road at the tournament for both the Ndjupa Soccer and netball team after their defeats by Kharas for soccer and Khomas for netball in thrilling knockout matches in the quarter finals.



28TH NAMPOL ANNUAL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN OTJIWARONGO

By: Nancy Muniaro

Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region – The 28th edition of the Namibian Police Force Annual Sports Championship was officially opened by the Inspector General of the Namibian Police Force, Lieutenant General Joseph Shimweelao Shikongo, at the Paresis Stadium in Otjiwarongo.

This highly anticipated sporting event brings together teams from all fourteen (14) regions to compete, connect, and cultivate camaraderie within the force. The championship serves as a platform to showcase athletic talent, promote physical fitness, and strengthen teamwork among NamPol members.

Athletes will compete in various disciplines including football, netball, volleyball, pool, darts, athletics, and chess. Notably, this year marks the introduction of rugby as a new addition to the championship lineup, highlighting the Force's continuous growth and diversification in sport.

In his keynote address, Lieutenant General Shikongo encouraged all participants to uphold the values of sportsmanship, peace, and discipline throughout the tournament. Citing American athlete Ronda Rousey, he stated:

"Everyone wants to win. But to truly succeed – whether in sport, at your job, or in life – you have to be willing to do the hard work, overcome challenges, and

make the sacrifices it takes to be the best at what you do."

He further urged athletes to embrace the spirit of fair competition, governed by rules, respect, and unity.

The Chairperson of the Namibian Police Force Sports Council, Commissioner F.J. Nangolo, praised the work of the Technical Preparatory Committee, noting their dedication and resourcefulness in organizing the event.

"Your commitment is truly inspiring. You embody the spirit of excellence that we strive for in the Namibian Police Force. It's not always about money, but about how we use the resources at our disposal to make a meaningful impact," said Nangolo.

Special recognition was also extended to the sponsors whose contributions helped make the championship possible. As a token of appreciation, the Inspector General has directed that all sponsors will receive certificates of appreciation for their role in supporting the event and promoting wellness in the force.

The NamPol Annual Sports Championship continues to play a vital role in building unity, enhancing physical readiness, and boosting morale among police officers nationwide.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS/TRANFERS



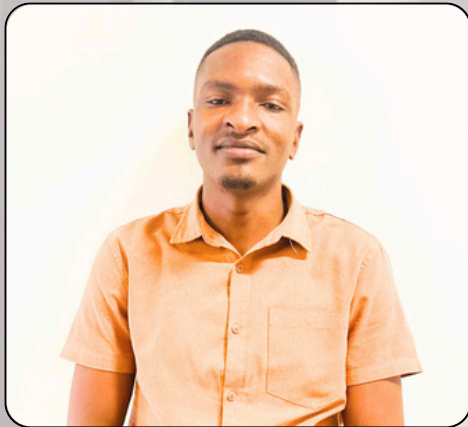
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