

THE EASTERN JOURNAL

OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL - OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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PROGRAMME:

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Regional Procurement Committee Empowers Small Businesses Amidst COVID-19

Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project members pack wood ready for distribution

We Have Moved



The Omaheke Regional Council head office has moved to its new premises.

New Address

Omaheke Regional Office Park | Portion 39 |
Gobabis Townlands No. 114
Adjacent to the Regional Directorate of Forestry

Our telephone numbers and postal address remain the same.

HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS

Our Mandate

"To govern and manage the region through planning in all matters pertaining to social, economic and physical development for the inhabitants."

(Derived from the Namibian Constitution and the Regional Councils Act of 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992) as amended.)

Our Mission

To plan, coordinate and implement development as well as delivering accessible and quality services to the inhabitants of the region.

Our Vision

To be a leading Regional Council in unity, effectiveness and efficiency.

OUR VALUES

Unity	We are cognisant of the diversity in the region and we cherish unity within the diversity of cultures
Accountability	We are answerable for our actions
Equity	We are fair in distribution of our resources
Transparency	We are open in all our dealings and at all times
Innovation	We find new ideas of doing things effectively and efficiently



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The Eastern Journal

The Eastern Journal is an initiative of the Public Relations section of the Omaheke Regional Council established as a means of communicating Regional Council activities, events, services, programmes and policies in depth as well as regional developments.

The Eastern Journal is published on a quarterly basis and distributed to both its internal and external stakeholders. It is aimed at supporting the Regional Council in achieving its organisational vision, mission and objectives and encouraging the public to make use of its programmes and services, to participate in its activities and events, and to support its policies and procedures through regular dissemination of information that is of public interest.

FOREWORD BY THE ACTING CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER



Karukirue Tjijenda

Omaheke region has great economic potential that still needs to be fully unlocked and exploited in a sustainable manner for the benefit of the local population. Due to various constraints, most of the natural resources in the region are under-utilized, therefore, making value addition a challenge, but also an opportunity.

Nonetheless, I am proud to mention that the Omaheke Regional Council has entered into agreements with Social Security Commission to implement two community initiatives, Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project and Gebedplaas San Self-help Project. Both these projects capitalise on economic opportunities in the region in order to create employment for the local communities, as narrated in depth in the feature article of this edition of The Eastern Journal.

The implementation of these two projects by the Regional Council is in line with our mandate, part of which is to plan and develop the region in a suitable manner for the benefit of the inhabitants according to our Strategic Plan. The Directorate of Planning and Development Services is the main custodian of this mandate and one of its functions is to provide strategic direction on socioeconomic matters in the region.

This edition, further, provides a summary of investment opportunities in the region, which form part of the greater national strategy to identify and remove the existing barriers to development and to create an environment conducive to the unlocking of development opportunities in the region.

This is, in essence, a summary of our Regional Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy, which is accessible on our website.

Omaheke residents are encouraged to explore and venture into these potentials and approach our offices for assistance. Preference will be accorded to existing projects in advancing interventions proposed in the LED Strategy.

Furthermore, following the confirmation of two cases of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Namibia on 14 March 2020, stakeholders in the Omaheke region convened on 16 March 2020, to discuss strategies on preparedness and response measures to curb the spread of the disease in the region.

A Regional Multi-sectoral COVID-19 Coordinating Committee was then established in order to develop the regional preparedness and response plan drafted by the Regional Directorate of Health and Social Services and report back to the Regional Disaster Risk Management Committee.

The regional preparedness and response plan covers risk communication and community engagement, surveillance, infection prevention and control, case management, logistics, port of entry, and psychosocial support.

Coordination is required at country-to-country level with neighbouring countries, in particular Botswana that shares a border directly with Omaheke region, as currently Botswana deports/sends back all Namibian truck drivers who test positive to COVID-19 at Mamuno Border Post in Botswana, without any written proof of their results.

Read about what the region had been up to in controlling the spread of this disease and more information on regional developments in this edition.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

EDITOR: TAUNO IILEKA



The Omaheke Regional Council presents its fifth issue of The Eastern Journal. In the previous issue I mentioned how the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had been taking its toll on our livelihoods and our activities as a regional government. I also mentioned that we had to put a few of our activities on hold while directing our focus and resources to the prevention of the spread of this deadly global pandemic.

There have been new developments on COVID-19 since then. At the time of finalising this issue of The Eastern Journal, the Omaheke region had confirmed 36 cases of COVID-19, one of which was our own staff member who had come into contact with a relative who later tested positive in Windhoek.

Fortunately, 64 per cent of the confirmed cases had recovered by the end of August and more recoveries are being recorded regularly. This is an indication that some of the activities aimed at controlling this pandemic have borne some fruits, as you will learn in this edition.

During these devastating times, we all need some comfort in order to persevere. Gobabis-based motivational speaker and life coach, Elvire Theron, is, therefore, perfect for our interview section for this quarter. Theron is not only a renowned community leader, but also a spiritual leader. Do make sure to read her interview for some inspiration!

Two community initiatives in the Omaheke region are busy fighting unemployment and poverty among their communities. These two initiatives, Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project and Gebedplaas San Self-help Project, received funding from the Social Security Commission – Development Fund, through the Regional Council, to produce various products and provide services (i.e. firewood and charcoal as well as dairy and welding, respectively) in order to earn an income and improve their livelihoods.

These projects contribute to the achievement of the Regional Council's strategic objective of ensuring socioeconomic development and the

execution of its mandate. In line with economic development is our Regional Local Economic Development Strategy which maps the way to unlocking development opportunities in the region for the livelihood of its inhabitants. We hope the summary provided in this edition will give our potential investors an insight into investment opportunities in the region.

Our Deputy Director of Administration, Seth Imasiku, in this edition writes about how the Regional Council has empowered our local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) amidst the adverse effects of COVID-19. Having 79 per cent of the value of goods and services procured through the Regional Council's Procurement Committee awarded to SMEs is a notable feat indeed!

As usual, please connect with us on social media @OmahekeRC and provide us with comments, suggestions and complaints through the feedback boxes at your disposal at our head office, constituency or settlement offices in the region.



PROGRAMME:

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



The Omaheke Regional Council has developed a Regional and Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy and its implementation plan for the region to set out clear goals and to foster future economic growth of the region. The regional strategy and its implementation plan aims to attract investors in the areas of logistics, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism.

Below is a summary of some of the investment opportunities in the region. A detailed LED strategic plan with specific economic projects, expected outputs, implementation activities and financial projects is available on the Omaheke Regional Council website: <http://www.omahekercc.gov.na/regional-strategic-documents>

ECONOMIC PRIORITIES	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a logistics hub with a storage facility in Gobabis, Gobabis constituency Construction of a bitumen road from Trans-Kalahari Highway to Rietfontein-Tallismanus in Otjombinde constituency Construction of a bitumen road from Gobabis-Otjinene Road to Epukiro Post 3 in Epukiro constituency
Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of fertilizers from salt and animal dung for crop production at Omitara in Okorukambe Constituency Construction of a salt manufacturing plant in Aminuis settlement, Aminuis constituency

Agriculture

- Brick production in all constituencies Omaheke region
- Aloe processing plant in the Kalahari Desert area, Kalahari constituency
- Devil's claw processing plant in the Kalahari Desert area, Kalahari constituency
- Stone-crushing plant in the Kalahari Desert area in Kalahari Constituency, Aminuis settlement in Aminuis constituency and Witvlei in Okorukambe constituency
- Leather/animal skin processing plant at Otjinene in Otjinene constituency and Witvlei in Okorukambe constituency
- Construction of a modern abattoir at Tsjaka/Ben Hur, Kalahari constituency.
- Fresh produce markets in all the constituencies of Omaheke region
- Karakul wool processing at Aminuis settlement, Aminuis constituency

Tourism

- Dairy processing plant in all the constituencies of Omaheke region
- Establishment of a lodge and tourism facility in Aminuis settlement, Aminuis constituency
- Establishment of an arts and crafts center in Tsjaka/Ben Hur, Kalahari constituency
- A recreational center in Gobabis, Gobabis constituency
- Establishment of a lodge/campsites in the Eiseb area, Otjombinde constituency
- Establishment of Omaheke-based travel & tours in Gobabis, Gobabis constituency.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES IN OMAHEKE TO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

With a population of just over 70 000 people, the Omaheke region has the smallest population in Namibia. Over 31 per cent of the population live in poverty, among the four highest in the country. This is generally attributed to the high illiteracy and unemployment rates and the predominant rural-based population. Most of the region's inhabitants, about 70 per cent, live in areas with an unemployment rate of 39 per cent of the total labour force.

While some of the economic resources in the Omaheke region have been developed to a certain extent, most resources have been underutilized due to financial, technological, marketing and transport constraints.

In order to capitalize on economic opportunities and ensure socioeconomic development in the region, the Omaheke Regional Council has entered into two agreements with Social Security Commission (SSC) on 23 November 2018 to implement two community projects, namely Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project in Kalahari Constituency and Gebedplaas San Self-help Project in Otjombinde Constituency.

Both projects applied for funding from the SSC-Development Fund (SSC-DF) through the Regional Council, which culminated into these two-year agreements. Through these agreements, SSC-DF has allocated an amount of N\$975,000 to Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project and N\$1,750,000 to Gebedplaas San Self-help Project. The Regional Council, as the development agency for these two projects, is responsible for the full implementation of the projects, with a combined fund of N\$2,725,000.

SSC will disburse the allocated funds into these project account in phases until November 2020, after which the projects are expected to become self-sufficient.

This agreements, further, sets out conditions and milestones the beneficiaries ought to achieve by the end of each quarter by beneficiaries.

VERGENOEG FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL PROJECT

Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project is located some 115 kilometers southeast of Gobabis. As the name suggests, the projects produces firewood and charcoal from two types of wood known as Swarthaak/Hartbos (Acacia Mellifera) and



Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project members pack wood ready for distribution

Kameeldoring (Acacia Erioloba) with a market stretching as far as neighbouring South Africa.

Fifteen project members benefit directly from this project, which is also known as Ada //Gubasen Firewood and Charcoal Project, a Khoekhoegowab phrase meaning 'let us help ourselves', through employment and earning a monthly income from the project.

The project has, so far, constructed a storage facility and office on site and undertook training for project members on efficient production of firewood and charcoal in order to maximize production outputs. Currently, the project produces at least 30 tons of wood. The project is able to maintain production, in spite of the global Coronavirus pandemic while putting safety measures in place.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS



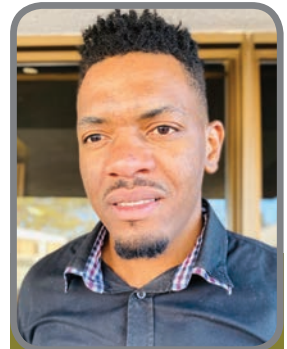
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Deputy Director:
Development Planning



Ms. Hileni Stefanus
Chief Development
Planner



Mr. Jona Kagola
Development
Planner



Mr. Saari Simon
Economic
Planner

The Regional Council has created a marketing strategy, which is expected to establish a stable market and increase both wood production and sales. The Regional Council has further developed a sustainability plan, indicating the marketing, pricing and investment strategy which is currently under implementation.

Project Mentor, Conrad Eiseb, says the project has really assisted the beneficiaries as they are able to support their families. "The beneficiaries are able to put food on the table and buy clothes. We really appreciate it," Eiseb said.

Ada //Gubasen Firewood and Charcoal Project experienced its own fair share of challenges during the first year of implementation, which, needless-to-mention, delayed its progress. These include delays in the procurement of vital tools and equipment owing to teething problems in the procurement process of the Regional Council. Nonetheless, all tools and equipment, including a pickup and a trailer, that are needed for wood production have since been procured.

Furthermore, project members have been under-producing, leading to very low wood production. However, Economic Planner in the Regional Council, Saari Simon, conducts regular monitoring visits to Ada //Gubasen. One such visit has resulted in working modalities to improve the production targets from the current 30 tons per month to 115 tons per quarter.

GEBEDPLAAS SAN SELF-HELP PROJECT

Gebedplaas San Self Help Project is an initiative of the community of Gebedplaas in Otjombinde Constituency. Most people residing in this area are from the San community, therefore, the project members are predominately San. All the projects members are unemployed and from poor economic backgrounds without any source of income. The harsh living conditions this community experiences prompted the idea of starting the project.

This eight-member project aims to produce dairy products and provide welding services at Gebedplaas in order to create employment for the San community in Otjombinde Constituency. Once operational, this project will employ additional 4 people, predominantly from the San community.

So far, the project has secured land from the then Ministry of Land Reform which has been fenced off, including an animal

kraal. However, this land allocation process took longer than expected which, subsequently, delayed the overall progress of the project. Therefore, production and operations at Gebedplaas have not yet commenced yet.

However, the Regional Council has completed the designs for the dairy plant and welding workshop and construction is expected to begin in due course and end in October this year, upon which production will commence.

An identified certified mentor is expected to train project members in welding as soon as the project becomes operational. Project members will also visit similar projects to benchmark best practices in dairy production. The project plans to procure ten dairy cows once the workshop has been constructed.

Project Manager, Kaveri Kavari, says the Gebedplaas San Self-help Project is a major turnaround project for the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. "These are people who had never been employed and relied on handouts. Now they will be earning a proper salary and improve their lives big time," Kavari said.

As is the case with Ada //Gubasen Firewood and Charcoal Project, the Gebedplaas project faced some challenges during its first year due to the slow procurement process at the Regional Council, which delayed the procurement of vital tools and equipment needed for production. However, a pickup vehicle to be used for operations has been procured and handed over to the project on 13 December last year.



Social Security Commission's Chief Executive Officer, Milka Mungunda hands over a vehicle

Ada //Gubasen

Firewood and Charcoal Project

Farm Vergenoeg, Omaheke Region

We supply farm-produced
firewood* and charcoal

*Two types of wood:
Acacia Mellifera (Swarthaak/Hartbos)
and Acacia Erioloba (Kameeldoring)

Visit us at Farm Vergenoeg or contact us

N\$60
50kg Wood

N\$30
25kg Wood

Contact: +264 81 146 6633 | +264 81 412 5226 | ssimon@omahekerc.gov.na

Implemented by



Omaheke
Regional Council

Funded by



Social Security Commission
Development Fund



INTERVIEW



By Valencia Tibinyane

ELVIRE THERON

GOBABIS-BASED MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER
AUTHOR AND LIFE COACH



In the midst of the storm that came with 2020, The Eastern Journal's Valencia Tibinyane (VT) sat down with a phenomenal woman in this crazy, exciting and remarkable year!

Born and bred in the capital of Omaheke, Gobabis, in the multicultural Nossobville suburb, she attended Nossobville Primary School and Wennie Du Plessis Secondary School where she excelled and represented her home country on the National Hockey Team. There are just so many dimensions to her. We will not drag this intro out any longer; our guest for this issue is Elvire Theron (ET).

VT: So Elvire, you wear so many hats: mother, wife, pastor, motivational speaker, author, life coach. Does it ever get

difficult deciding which one to wear and when?

ET: Obviously different situations call for different hats, but it flows naturally. Just enjoy being you!

VT: Tell me, in about two sentences, who Elvire is, from someone else's perspective.

ET: This is a difficult one to answer. Elvire is a go-getter who makes things happen. She loves adventure and travelling so much. 'People' is her most valuable asset. She just enjoys life!

VT: Growing up, what do you remember being your favourite cartoon character? I think we carry elements of who we spent the most time watching while growing up.

ET: That is way back! I cannot remember having a favourite cartoon character that I imitated [laughs out loud]. We watched Tom and Jerry; I remember the Smurfs from back then and of course, Superman.

VT: What is your fondest memory of being 5 years old?

ET: Playing with my doll called Bessie and singing with my father songs on the guitar.

VT: What sport did you play that people would find hard to believe you played?

ET: Hockey, athletics (long distance running – 800m/1500m/3000m), netball and tennis. I played soccer in the streets. That is where the hockey skills come from.

VT: Describe being a mom, if you think of the personalities of your children, in three words?

ET: A mother should be loving and kind; always ready to have a word of blessing in her pocket for her kids; adventurous and pro-active; a big dreamer so you can enhance, inspire and spark the dreams of your children, but most of all have patience.

VT: Let us take a look at profession. How different is what you doing now from what you have dreamt of doing since childhood?

ET: I always wanted to be psychologist or social worker. I am into the ministry, life coaching and education now. There is a strong link between what I wanted to be and what I am doing now. I am studying psychology now, so it is never too late; I am still pursuing my childhood dream!

VT: If you could wake up tomorrow as a 20-year-old, with the experience of (how old are we again?) [laughs], would you do anything different? If not, why not? If yes, what would you change?

ET: No, I have been enjoying my life so much! I am having a very exciting, adventurous, yet fulfilling journey. The only thing I would add to it is travelling the world. There is so much more.

VT: What has been your greatest professional achievement?

ET: A Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Diploma in Adult Education and Community Development and a Diploma in Life Coaching.

VT: You have impacted people around your childhood house and the world with your calling and anointing. When did you receive the Lord as your personal Lord and Saviour? How was that experience?

ET: Sjoie! What a transformational event in my life. I will never forget that day. It was Sunday, 21 September 1997. I am walking with the Lord for 23 years now and the journey is getting sweeter and more exciting every day. My life changed for the good and it is the best decision that I ever made in my life. I have found so much fulfilment and joy in the Lord. He is my Best Friend for sure!

VT: What is the bravest thing, in your understanding, that you have done for the Kingdom of God?

ET: Walking in the streets of Thailand telling the Unreached People groups about Jesus. Reaching out to the world just to share the gospel, it transforms a life and a whole family. It brings wonders and gives you purpose.

VT: You are a certified author, walk us through the drafting of both your books. Was it what you expected it to be in the end? What is the important thing to remember on a journey like that? Are there any more books left to be written?

ET: Teen Waves and God's Grace is really my personal story. As a teenager I was facing depression, but the grace of God got a hold of me and saved at the age of 17. He saved me from sickness and death itself. He turned my life around! The book is written in a diary style and very practical with space to journal as you read the book. I believe you should tell your story, because someone's life can be touched through what you have been through.

Let's Grow is a personal development book which makes it

easy to grow if you are willing. It deals with vision, mission, purpose, destiny, goals, etc. It is a manual that keeps you true to yourself. Everybody has a blue print for his or her life. You are not a copy, but an original and extraordinary. It is crucial that you can say one day "I have fought the good fight, I have run the race and I have kept the faith." Don't run any other race than what God has set out for you. 2 Tim. 4v7-8.

Yes, there are more books to come and new songs.

VT: What has ministry taught you?

ET: Be selfless. Love people. Dream Big. Inherit the land.

VT: Share with us your most impactful Bible verse, spiritual experience, song and a quote by a man of God.



ET: I have so many, but let me try:

Bible verse: Isaiah 60, "Arise and Shine for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

Spiritual experience: Walking daily with the Holy Spirit. It has been by far the most exciting journey.

Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness. That is my anthem! When all is said and done in situations, God always blows my mind with His faithfulness, but I have so many favourite songs.

Quote: "The richest place on this planet is the cemetery, because there are songs that were never sung, books that were never written, dreams that were never fulfilled. Die empty and don't contribute to the wealth of the graveyard." Dr. Myles Munroe

OMAHEKE REGIONAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

Stakeholders in the Omaheke region, led by the Regional Directorate of Health and Social Services, have put measures in place aimed at preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 in the region, and to provide optimized care and minimize the impact on health systems and economic activities.

These measures were strengthened when the region confirmed its two first cases on 07 August 2020, making it the last region in the country to record positive cases of COVID-19. Both these first cases were people who had come into contact with confirmed cases in Windhoek and were identified through contact tracing.

By the end of August 2020, the region recorded 36 confirmed cases spread across the region in areas such Gobabis, Aminuis, Omitara, Otjimanangombe and Tallismanus.

Moreover, Botswana all Namibian truck drivers who test positive to COVID-19 at Mamuno Border Post in Botswana. Although they are counted among the Botswana cases, they are accommodated in the Gobabis isolation facility and re-tested. Those who test positive remain in isolation while those with two consecutive negative tests are released. There is, however, an increase in the number of COVID-19 positive truck driver but limited space in isolation facility.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A regional COVID-19 rapid response team with designated officials handles communication from the regional level to the national level and carries out community health education. The team works together with various stakeholders, namely the Office of the Governor, Omaheke Regional Council, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, local authorities, private medical practitioners, community leaders, faith based organisations, development partners and non-governmental organisations.

SURVEILLANCE

Gobabis District Hospital and Trans-Kalahari Border Post are used as screening points and all other health facilities in the region are implementing triage of patients – a processing of determining the order of treatment of patients. Active case search is being carried out to detect cases and inmates in the Gobabis Correctional Facility and holding cells were screened.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has recruited 17 medical graduates as volunteers on contract for a period of three (3) months to assist with surveillance activities.

The Regional Directorate of Health and Social Services has established a 24/7 COVID-19 cell phone number for the region which the public can call to report suspected cases.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Environmental Health Practitioners have been disinfecting the quarantine facilities, patients waiting areas, ambulances or vehicles and trucks. Initially, Ben-Hur Rural Development Centre was used as a quarantine facility, but experienced water

problems. Currently, two private establishments, namely Kalahari Convention Centre and Omara Guesthouse are being used as quarantine and isolation facilities for mild and asymptomatic cases.

There is, however, a need for additional mandatory quarantine facilities, as not all establishments in the region are willing to avail their places as quarantine facilities at reasonable rates.

CASE MANAGEMENT

The region has identified a renovated TB ward as an improvised isolation facility for COVID-19 suspected cases. The Ministry of Health and Social Services, further, constructed of a new eight-bed prefabricated isolation facility in Gobabis, where severe and critical patients will be treated as there is an intensive care unit.

The region has a limited number of Medical Doctors managing the COVID-19 cases and other cases in the region. However, the process has started to recruit two more Doctors and to get two Cuban Doctors to complement the current number of Doctors.

LOGISTICS

The Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP) was in the process of establishing the testing capacity in the region by the end of August. Gobabis Government Garage has assigned four pick-ups and a bus for COVID-19 activities, while the Omaheke Regional Council has assigned a house to accommodate staff members attending to positive cases.

However, more vehicles are needed as there is a limited number of vehicles in running condition, even though provision was made to service and repair of some vehicles. Accommodation for the staff members attending to COVID-19 suspected cases in Gobabis and Trans-Kalahari Border Post is also a challenge.

PORT OF ENTRY

Road Construction Company provided four containers/housing structures at Trans-Kalahari Border Post. The Ministry of Youth, National Service and Sport equipped one of these structure with beds. Three Environmental Health Practitioners and two (2) Environmental Health Assistants were recruited to provide port health. The Omaheke Region has no truck port, but as an initiative by the Office of the Governor, the region has established a temporary truck port at Legare Sports Stadium in Gobabis.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

A Chief Social Worker and other Social Workers provide psychosocial counselling and support to quarantined people and staff members involved.

COVID-19 DATA: OMAHEKE REGION (as at 31 August 2020)

Confirmed Cases (cumulative):	36
Active Cases (in isolation):	12
Recovered:	23
Quarantined (cumulative):	634
Quarantined (Current):	140
Deaths:	1



Omaheke Governor, Hon. Nganate and Omaheke Regional Council Chairperson Hon. Kariseb, hands over cement donation to the Nossobville community



Omaheke Governor, Hon. Pijoo Nganate, speaking during a cement donation handover to the Nossobville Housing and Development Committee



Regional leadership photographed during the 2020 Omaheke State of the Region Address



CENORED hands over donations for Omaheke residents vulnerable to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic



Nossobville community during a cement donation handover to the Nossobville Housing and Development Committee



Omaheke Regional Council's Economic Planner has a discussion with members of Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project



Members of Vergenoeg Firewood and Charcoal Project busy on site



Expectant mothers at Lady Pohamba Maternity Waiting Home in Gobabis receive food donations from Omaheke Regional Council and Catholic AIDS Action



CEO of Gobabis Municipality, Ignatius Thudinyane, speaking during a cement donation handover to the Nossobville Housing and Development Committee



Expectant mothers at Lady Pohamba Maternity Waiting Home in Gobabis receive food donations from Omaheke Regional Council and Catholic AIDS Action



Omaheke Regional Council's Accountants, Ueja Murangi and Edla Mbatara, donned their corporate wear



Omaheke Regional Council's Accountants, Ueja Murangi and Edla Mbatara, donned their corporate wear



Hon. Kariseb (centre), Chairperson of National Council's Standing Committee on Habitat Hon. Sipapela (left) and Hon. Nganate during an RDRMC meeting



A special Regional Disaster Risk Management Committee (RDRMC) meeting on water provision in the Omaheke region in session



Omaheke Acting CRO, Karukirue Tjijenda, delivers a presentation during a special RDRMC meeting on water provision in the Omaheke region



Omaheke Regional Council Engineer, Rudi du Plessis, delivers a presentation during a special RDRMC meeting on water provision in the Omaheke region

PROCUREMENT UPDATE

By: Seth Imasiku

“OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL EMPOWERS SMALL BUSINESSES AMIDST COVID-19”



The Omaheke Regional Council has awarded 79 per cent of all its procurement contracts to small and medium enterprises during the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

During this period, the Regional Council awarded contracts for the procurement of goods and services to 38 suppliers and service providers at a total value of N\$4,689,463.72. The contracts were awarded through the Regional Council's Procurement Committee for goods and services required by the Regional Council and all delegated functions.

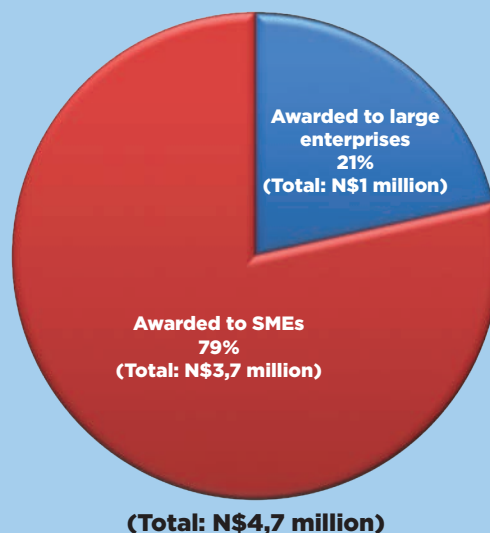
Of this total value, an amount of N\$3,682,008.18 was awarded to 11 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from the Omaheke region. This is a significant amount of funds that has secured jobs and sustained SMEs in spite of the prevailing COVID-19 challenges such as job losses and job insecurity, thereby strengthening the local economy and improving livelihoods at the grassroots.

It is, however, important to note that this amount only represents the procurement of goods and services that were processed through the Procurement Committee. There are other small value goods and services below the N\$15,000.00 threshold which would make the total value of goods and services even higher. These small value goods and services are mostly awarded to local SMEs.

This is a quarterly report on the value of goods and services rendered through the Regional Council's Procurement Committee which will give a quick overview of regional economic activities.

Visit our website for regular updates:
www.omahekerc.gov.na

Value of goods and services procured through the Procurement Committee



REGIONAL COUNCIL PROCUREMENT PORTAL

The Omaheke Regional Council has an active website where information is posted on current events in the region and on procurement opportunities for anyone interested to trade with the Regional Council including its delegated functions, namely Education Arts and Culture; Gender Equality and Child Welfare; Lands; Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination; Maintenance; Information and Communication Technology as well as Ben Hur Rural Development Centre.

These entities require goods and services rendered to them from time to time and local suppliers must take advantage of these developments. Suppliers are, therefore, encouraged to make it a habit to visit our website from time to time for latest information:
www.omahekerc.gov.na

FEEDBACK

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Kalahari



Hon. Ignatius Kariseb
Regional Councillor for Kalahari Constituency

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Kalahari Constituency is an electoral constituency in Omaheke Region. It has 7,611 inhabitants according to the 2011 Population and Housing Census report. The constituency office was inaugurated in 2009 and is located in Tsjaka/Ben-Hur which is 50 kilometers away from Gobabis.

The Regional Councillor for Kalahari Constituency is Honourable Ignatius Kariseb of the Swapo Party. Hon. Kariseb is also the Chairperson of the Omaheke Regional Council.

The Kalahari Constituency borders Gobabis (the regional capital) to the west, Okorukambe to the north, Aminuis to the south and the neighbouring country of Botswana to the east. The constituency has one proclaimed settlement which is Buitepos and two growth points; Tsjaka/Ben-Hur and Drimiopsis.

Kalahari Homeless Shelter

About 11 per cent of households in Kalahari Constituency in Omaheke Region live in improvised housing or shacks. This, according to the 2011 Population and Housing Census, is a total of 190 households, the second highest percentage in the entire region, following Okorukambe (19 per cent) and Gobabis (37 per cent).

An assessment conducted by the Constituency Office further discovered that about 300 households in the entire Constituency are in need of decent housing. Blouberg, a small community close to the Trans-Kalahari border settlement of Buitepos, is the most affected by poor housing the Constituency. Other communities in need are Tsjaka, Vergenoeg and Drimiopsis.

The need for decent housing in the Kalahari Constituency has, therefore, necessitated the Kalahari Homeless Shelter (previously known as the Kalahari Homeless Indaba), an initiative of the Regional Councillor of that Constituency.

Tsjaka/Ben-Hur

Tsjaka/Ben-Hur has a population of 1,100 inhabitants and is 50 kilometers from Gobabis, mostly on tarred road. Tsjaka/Ben-Hur has one school. Possible areas of investments are tourism, skills development, livestock farming and horticulture. Most residents of Tsjaka/Ben-Hur are employed in commercial farms surrounding the area. Other sources of employment and income include Ben-Hur Rural Development Centre, communal farming and small business activities. Besides the Kalahari Constituency Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) also has an office here.

Drimiopsis

Drimiopsis is a growth point located on the C22 road, 40 kilometers from Gobabis, branching from the Trans-Kalahari Highway joining the Trans-Caprivi Highway at Grootfontein. It has a population of 1,600 inhabitants.

There is one primary school and one high school in Drimiopsis. Businesses that exist here are a bakery, retail shop and a vegetable garden at the resettlement camp. Property development is a possible area of investment here. There is a boarding school in Drimiopsis where most of the residents of Drimiopsis are employed. MAWLR has also established a garden which creates seasonal employment to the residents of Drimiopsis farm. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and the MAWLR have offices here.

Economic Development and Investment

Trans-Kalahari Highway

Since the Trans-Kalahari Highway connects Namibia to Botswana and the Port of Walvis Bay as well as Trans-Caprivi via Buitepos Settlement, there is potential for the Kalahari Constituency to benefit in terms of logistics development that includes the construction of a truck port and storage facilities to support local and international trading. The landlocked countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Democratic Republic of Congo will be able to access their goods and services from facilities established in the Omaheke region along the Trans-Kalahari Highway. The

weighbridge on the Trans-Kalahari Highway not only serves as a measure to control overloading but also provides the opportunity for any interested investors in the construction of a truck port.

Railway

High level discussions are underway to extend the railway line from Gobabis up to Gaborone which will improve regional trade relations between Namibia and other SADC countries. This will allow Namibia and SADC countries to engage in bulk business dealings, increase their economies in all perspectives ranging from employment, economic growth and balance of payment.

Tourism and accommodation

Given the fact that Buitepos is the border post, there is potential for tourists entering the country through Botswana. Therefore, there is a need to develop tourism enterprises and services.

Bush encroachment

Bush encroachment is a challenge that affects grazing, as well as free mobility of people and animals and availability of underground water in the Kalahari Constituency. This challenge can be turned into various opportunities such as producing wood and charcoal for energy. Projects such as this potentially reduce bush encroachment while simultaneously creating employment, and, furthermore, can serve as a source of energy.

Marketing opportunities

In terms of cattle farming, there is the economic possibility of improving on the current livestock auction pens that market cattle in the constituency to potential buyers. These auction pens market cattle in terms of weight, quality and health of the cattle. There are currently three auction pens, namely Tsjaka/Ben-Hur, Karoo Ochse in Gobabis and Windhoek Livestock Auction.

Development Opportunities

Ben-Hur Rural Development Centre

This development centre is already in operation and is situated at Tsjaka/Ben-Hur. It specializes in accommodation, catering services, conferencing, woodwork and carpentry.

Community projects

The following projects in the constituency need to be strengthened and supported in order to create employment opportunities for the inhabitants and render required services:

- Boitshoko Bread Making Project (Tsjaka/Ben-Hur);
- Selma Leather Project (Drimiopsis);
- Dantangos Chicken Project (Tsjaka/Ben-Hur);
- Stumbelbloc Brickmaking Project (Nossobville);
- Community Goats Project (Netso & Vergenoeg);
- Kandovazu Bread and Shopping Center (Drimiopsis);
- Welding and Tyre repairs (Vaasdraai).

Sandveld Research Station

The research station is situated 92 km from Gobabis. The Agricultural research station researches adaptability of different livestock breeds and other as per request.

Pius Joseph Kaundu Training Center

The Pius Joseph Kaundu Training Centre is located at Houmoed. It is a police college responsible for conducting basic police training and its current intake capacity is at 500 students.

Vasdraai Agricultural Training Centre

Vasdraai Agricultural Training Centre is vocational training centre located at a resettlement farm (Vasdraai), 60 kilometres from Gobabis. The Centre was developed by Komeho Namibia Development Agency with funding by the Japanese Government through its grant assistance to the Grassroots Human Security Projects Programme.

The Centre offers a National Vocational Certificate in Horticulture & Crop Husbandry Level 2.

SETTLEMENT: BUITEPOS



Buitepos Settlement in the Kalahari Constituency of the Omaheke Region is the exit point for Trans-Kalahari Highway into Botswana. It is located 110 kilometres on tarred road from the regional capital, Gobabis, and has a population of 900 residents. The Omaheke Regional Council has built water reticulation systems and additional funds are availed to construct sewerage reticulation. By constructing services, most investors are likely to migrate to Buitepos with the hope of expanding business.

Ministries such as Finance; Agriculture, Water and Land Reform; Health and Social Services; and Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security have established offices and accommodation facilities in Buitepos from where they render their services. The settlement has a police station, one filling station and a business named East Gate. Possible areas of investments include property rental and tourism services.

Most people at Buitepos are employed by Government ministries, a lodge and a filling station which employs some of the residents at Buitepos.

CONTACT DETAILS

Gobabis Constituency Office

Tel: +264 62 568 586
Fax: +264 62 568 587
Cell: +264 81 146 4711 (Councillor)

HEALTH COLUMN: MAINTAINING GOOD FEET HYGIENE

■ By: Seth Imasiku

A healthy workforce is often a productive workforce. Feet hygiene, which was supposed to be the topic of the last health column, is one aspect often not taken seriously by many but can be a very unpleasant health situation. Have you ever felt embarrassed after removing your shoes and the smell from your shoes is unpleasantly awful? This condition is common and the primary cause of smelly feet is perspiration between the toes caused by acid byproducts of bacteria and fungal growth (usually athlete's foot fungus, *tinea pedis*).

It is important to check your feet daily for signs of wounds or sores that might have become infected. People with diabetes or other conditions that limit blood flow can have smelly feet condition. I once had a fungal infection that could not heal for almost a year. Fungal infection can be very difficult to get rid because, in some cases, I did not disinfect my shoes, so the fungal infection would reoccur.

My condition was completely resolved by using an ointment applied between the toes, disinfecting my shoes and wearing a new set of socks daily that absorb sweat. The good news is that smelly feet are usually easy to treat by keeping your feet clean and dry, and changing your shoes and socks regularly.

SO HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS TO PREVENT SMELLY FEET AND FEET INFECTIONS:

TO TREAT SWEATY OR SMELLY FEET YOURSELF:

1. Try to wash your feet with an

antibacterial soap once a day (a pharmacist can advise you about different products).

2. Dry your feet well after they have been wet, especially between your toes.
3. Try not to wear the same pair of shoes two days in a row so they have at least 24 hours to dry out.
4. Change your socks (ideally wool or cotton, not nylon) at least once a day.
5. Keep your toenails short and clean, and remove any hard skin with a foot file (it can become soggy when damp, which provides an ideal home for bacteria)

IF YOU OFTEN GET SWEATY FEET, YOU MIG WANT TO TRY:

- Using a spray deodorant or antiperspirant on your feet – a normal underarm deodorant or antiperspirant works just as well as a specialist foot product and will cost you less.
- Putting medicated insoles, which have a deodorizing effect, in your shoes.
- Using a foot powder to absorb sweat (a pharmacist can advise you about foot powders).
- Trying socks for sweaty feet – some sports socks are designed to keep feet dry, and you can get special antibacterial socks.
- Wearing leather or canvas shoes, as they let your feet breathe, unlike plastic ones.
- Always wearing socks with closed-toe shoes.

WHEN TO SEE A DOCTOR

Smelly feet are a harmless problem

that generally clears up. Sometimes, however, it can be a sign of a medical condition. See a doctor if simple measures to reduce your foot odor do not help, or if you are worried that your level of sweating is abnormally high. Your doctor can offer you a strong prescription antiperspirant or refer you for a treatment called iontophoresis, which delivers a mild electric current through water to your feet to combat excessive sweating. I hope that this health tip will be of help to someone out there.

Wishing you healthy feet that are free from bacterial and fungal infection.

References:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/how-to-avoid-smelly-feet/>
<https://www.ipfh.org/foot-conditions/foot-conditions-a-z/foot-odor/causes-of-foot-odor>



FACT SHEET

GENERAL

Area:	84 612 km ² (10.3 % of Namibia's land surface)
Location:	Eastern part of Namibia bordering Botswana (to the East), Otjozondjupa Region (to the north), Khomas Region (to the West) and Hardap Region (to the South)

CAPITAL:

Regional Governor:	Hon. Pijoo Nganate
Regional Council Chairperson:	Hon. Ignatius Kariseb, Kalahari Constituency
Constituencies:	Seven (Aminuis, Gobabis, Epukiro, Kalahari, Okorukambe, Otjinene, Otjombinde)

TOWNS:

Villages (proclaimed):	Three (Leonardville, Otjinene, Witvlei)
Settlements (declared):	Seven (Aminuis, Buitepos, Corridor 13, Epukiro, Omitara, Tallismanus, Summerdown)

DEMOGRAPHY

Size:	71 233 (3.4 % of Namibia's population), 70 % rural, 30 % urban
Density:	0.8 per km ²
Growth Rate:	0.5 %
Major Languages:	Otjiherero (42 %), Nama/Damara (28 %), Afrikaans (10 %), San (5 %)
People with Disabilities:	2 700 (about 4 % of the region's population)
Orphans and Vulnerable Children:	6 000 (about 8 % of the region's population)
Unemployment Rate:	40 %

EDUCATION

Schools:	44 (37 public, 7 private)
Pupils:	18 365
Literacy Rate:	73 %

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Weather:	Hot summers and cool to warm winters.
Average Rainfall:	99 – 402 mm per annum (south), 179 – 587 mm per annum (central)
Average Temperatures:	2.5 (winter) – 40 °C (summer)
Vegetation:	Arid to semi-arid with Vast open savannas

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Roads:	4 915 km (470 km tarred, 4 445 gravel)
Rail Network:	220 km (From Windhoek to Gobabis)

HEALTH

Hospitals:	One (public)
Health Centres:	Two (one public, one private)
Clinics/Medical Consultants:	19 (13 public, 6 private)
HIV Prevalence Rate:	8.4 %

ECONOMY

Main Sectors:	Transport, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, industrial development, mining, natural resources
Main Source of Income:	Farming (22 %)

CONTACT DETAILS

HEAD OFFICE, GOBABIS

Switchboard: +264-62 566 500
Facsimile: +264-62 562 432
E-mail Address: info@omahekerc.gov.na
Web Address: www.omahekerc.gov.na
Social Media: @omahekerc (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

POSTAL ADDRESS:

The Chief Regional Officer
Omaheke Regional Council
Private Bag 2277
Gobabis
Namibia

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

Omaheke Regional Office Park, Portion 39, Gobabis Townlands, No. 114, GOBABIS
(Adjacent to the Regional Directorate of Forestry)

COORDINATES:

-22.446537, 18.994257

CONSTITUENCY OFFICES

Constituency	Tel. No.	Fax No.	Coordinates
Aminuis	+264 63 273 344	+264 63 273 143	-23.702866, 19.352752
Epukiro	+264 62 567 224	+264 62 567 225	-21.597692, 19.414628
Gobabis	+264 62 564 780	+264 62 563 447	-22.447816, 18.991117
Kalahari	+264 62 568 586	+264 62 568 587	-22.761246, 19.205022
Okorukambe	+264 62 568 200/1	+264 62 568 893	-21.708936, 19.047769
Otjinene	+264 62 567 838/703	+264 62 567 839	-21.137021, 18.784161
Otjombinde	+264 62 560 566	+264 62 560 565	-21.841776, 20.749889

SETTLEMENT OFFICES

Settlement	Telephone	Fax	Coordinates
Aminuis/Corridor 13	+264 63 273 274	+264 63 273 231	-23.650479, 19.368915
Epukiro Post 3	+264 62 568 656	+264 62 568 560	-21.595108, 19.418271
Omitara/Buitepos	+264 62 566 535	+264 62 562 432	-22.288275, 17.978516
Talismanus	+264 62 560 518	+264 62 560 611	-21.842433, 20.749807