



THE EASTERN JOURNAL

OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL - OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

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Changes in Regional Leadership

Page 6

INSIDE



Page 8



Page 12



Page 15

Contents

Foreword by the Acting Chief Regional Officer	4
Editorial Note	5
FEATURE: Changes in Regional Leadership	6
INTERVIEW: Hon. Augustinus Tebele	8
PROGRAMME: Delegated Functions	10
PICTURE PERFECT	12
PROCUREMENT UPDATE: Procurement Opportunities Amidst COVID-19	14
Omaheke Regional Council Commemorates World AIDS Day	15
Health Column: COVID-19 and the “New Normal”	16
CONSTITUENCY: Gobabis	17
Quick Facts About Omaheke	19

Production Team

Compiled by

Public Relations Section
Omaheke Regional Council
Tel: +264 62 566 501
E-mail: pr@omahekerc.gov.na

Editor

Tauno Iileka

Contributor

Valencia Tibinyane
Seth Simasiku
Elfriede Itepu

Design and Printing

Hieroglyphics



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.

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



FOREWORD BY:

THE ACTING CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER - KARUKIRUE TJIJENDA



As one of Namibia's 14 regions, established by the Regional Councils Act, No. 22 of 1992, the Omaheke Regional Council has a mandate to govern and manage the region through planning in all matters pertaining to social, economic and physical development for the inhabitants.

The Omaheke region is governed by elected representatives from all the seven constituencies in the region who together make up the Regional Council. Over the past few months, we have experienced significant changes in the regional government, since the resignation of Hon. Phillipus Katamelo as a member of the Regional Council and the National Council on 17 October last year.

Hon. Katamelo resigned in order to contest during the National Assembly elections held in November last year, which then led to ensuing changes such as the election of Hon. Augustinus Tebele as the new Regional Councillor for Gobabis Constituency and Hon. Erwin Katjizeu, Regional Councillor for Otjinene Constituency, as a new member of the National Council.

More changes occurred when President Hage Geingob, on 7 April this year, announced the appointment of Hon. Pijoo Nganate as the Governor for the Omaheke region, replacing Hon. Festus Ueitele, who served as the Governor for seven years.

The Regional Governor is a representative of the President and Central Government in the region; the political head of the region. In that capacity, the Regional Governor acts as a link between the Central Government and the Regional Council, Local Authorities and Traditional Leaders.

Therefore, this issue of the Eastern Journal provides a special focus on these changes as it is necessary for the inhabitants of the region to know their leaders, both existing and new, as they will propel the Omaheke region to socioeconomic prosperity.

On behalf of the Omaheke Regional Council, I would like to appreciate Hon. Katamelo and Hon. Ueitele for their dedicated leadership and guidance over the years. We will always cherish their hard work, commitment, and invaluable contributions to the Omaheke region before and during their political terms.

We commend them for their determination to lead the Omaheke region to prosperity and we are confident that we can continue to count on their wisdom and expertise in matters of regional development and reconciliation, as sons of the soil.

In the same light, I would like to congratulate Hon. Tebele, Hon. Nganate and Hon. Katjizeu on their new roles. We have confidence in their leadership and guidance as a people's persons and humble sons of the soil. We count on their wisdom and expertise which they exuded in their previous roles in matters of regional development. We have no doubt that they will continue to lead the Omaheke region to prosperity. We wish them all the best in their new roles. With the establishment of Regional Councils is the decentralisation of functions to regional councils and local authorities as provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. The purpose of decentralisation is to give power and resources to the lower levels of Government namely regional and local governments to ensure democratic participation by the majority of the people at grass-root level and achieve sustainable development.

In order to make decentralisation a reality, national executive is expected to delegate some of its functions to sub-national levels to carry out, but still retains its responsibility and public accountability for such functions. In the final phase of decentralisation, the national executive then, either by legislation or through constitutional requirements, gives full responsibility and public accountability for certain functions to the sub national level.

To date, six government ministries have delegated some of their functions to the regional council, as a step towards the final phase of devolution. These functions are outlined in this issue as well as the regional heads entrusted with the execution of such functions.

More information on regional developments can be found on www.omahekerc.gov.na

Editorial Note



Tauno lileka - Editor

Welcome to our backdated fourth issue of The Eastern Journal. The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has been taking its toll not only on our livelihoods, but also on our activities as government, including the Omaheke Regional Council. We had to put quite a few of our activities on hold while directing our focus and resources in order to prevent the spread of this deadly global pandemic.

The Omaheke region, under the stewardship of the Regional Directorate of Health and Social Services, the leadership of the Omaheke Regional Council and the involvement of major stakeholders in the prevention of this pandemic has been busy since March with COVID-19 discussions and activities. Most of these activities have borne some fruits and we will tell you more about such activities in the April – June issue of The Eastern Journal, which we are already busy finalising.

Until then, you can get more insight into

the recent leadership changes in our region. Gobabis Constituency got new Councillor, Hon. Augustinus Tebele, in January this year. It is only befitting that this issue's interview segment features this new Councillor. Hon. Tebele is not new to the Regional Council, having spent the past three years and a few months as a staff member of the same institution. Besides this piece of information, we get to have a glimpse into his new life as a Councillor.

Speaking of this segment, our interview segment writer, Valencia Tibinyane, has recently gotten a transfer to our coastal counterpart, the Erongo Regional Council. However, due to her passion, she remains committed to the continuation of this segment. Therefore, we can expect to continue seeing more of her work. I just wish her the best at her new workplace and I hope she continues to make strides in her career.

I digress. Back to changes in leadership, while one of our former Regional Councillors, Hon. Phillipus Katamelo has resigned from the Upper House of Review (the National Council), he still remains a lawmaker, as a new member of the National Assembly. Regional Councillor for Otjinene Constituency has since succeeded him in Parliament.

We also cover changes in the political head of the region since we have a new Regional Governor, Hon. Pijoo Nganate. Although new to this particular role, he is certainly not new to this Office, as you will read in our cover feature.

It is important that we give you an insight into these leaders as these are the people who drive the entire region to its destination. When you know who they are, you know who to approach. I know most of them have an open door policy and are always willing to listen. Do caucus with them!

Once again, I would like to encourage you to 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. Pay a regular visit to our portal for prompt information and updates.



Hon. Tebele takes his oath as a member of the Omaheke Regional Council

Changes in Regional Leadership



New Governor: Hon. Pijoo Nganate

Regional Councillors

The Omaheke Regional Council, over the past few months has seen some changes in the political leadership of the region. Some of such changes were necessitated by the resignation of Hon. Phillipus Katamelo as a member of the Regional Council and the National Council on 17 October last year in order to contest during the National Assembly elections held in November last year. He was then sworn in as a member of the National Assembly on 17 April this year.

Prior to his resignation, Hon. Katamelo served a Regional Councillor for Gobabis Constituency for almost 9 years.

Hon. Augustinus Tebele succeeded Hon. Katamelo when he was elected as the new Regional Councillor for Gobabis Constituency during the by-elections held on 15 January this year and subsequently sworn in as a Council member a week later. At the same occasion, Hon. Tebele was also elected as a member of the Council's Management Committee, replacing Hon. Erwin Katjizeu,

Regional Councillor for Otjinene Constituency, who was elected to replace Hon.

Katamelo in the National Council. Before his new role as a Regional Councillor, Hon. Tebele was a staff member of the Omaheke Regional Council as a Control Administrative Officer at Kalahari Constituency Office for over three years. Hon. Katjizeu was sworn in as a member of the National Council on 8 June this year, joining Hon. Cornelius Kanguatjivi and Hon. Peter Kazongominja, representing the Omaheke region.

Members of the Regional Council hold office for a period of five years from the date of election. Three of these members are elected to represent the Regional Council at the National Council. The Regional Council is headed by the Chairperson who holds office for a period of two and a half years and works closely with the Regional Governor. Ideally, the Omaheke Regional Council holds meetings once every month to discuss matters relating to the development of the region.

The Regional Council has a Management Committee

consisting of the Chairperson of the Regional Council and two other members who are elected by the Regional Council from amongst its members. Management Committee members hold office for a period of two and a half years.

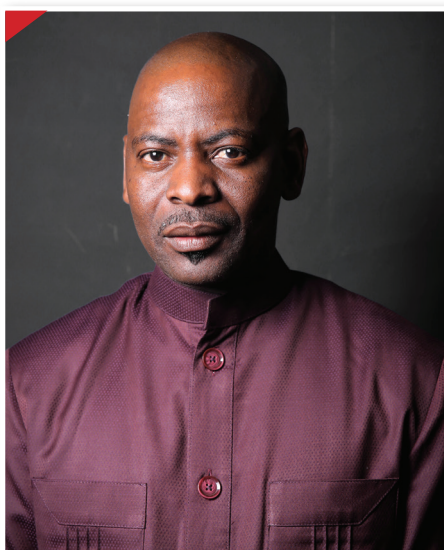
Regional Governor

Furthermore, President Hage Geingob, on 7 April announced the appointment of Hon. Pijoo Nganate as Governor for the Omaheke region, replacing Hon. Festus

Ueitele, who served as the Governor for seven years. Hon. Nganate, before this appointment, served as a Special Advisor to three former Governors – Hon. Laura McLeod-Katjirua, the Late Hon. Rapama Kamehozu and Hon. Ueitele, respectively. The Regional Governor is a representative of the President and Central Government in the region; the political head of the region. In that capacity, the Regional Governor acts as a link between the Central Government and the Regional Council, Local Authorities and Traditional Leaders.

THE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

- To coordinate the implementation of Government policies and programmes with different Offices, Ministries and Agencies; as well as with state-owned enterprises, Regional Council, Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities. This is imperative in enhancing the coordination of the implementation function of Government policies.
- To oversee the exercise of any executive function in the region, in consultation with the Minister of any Office/Ministry/Agency.
- To keep abreast of developments relating to the region and to bring any matter to the attention of the President or the relevant Minister if deemed advisable.
- To deliver a State of the Region Address once every year in accordance with Article 110A (5) and (6) of the Namibian Constitution.
- To settle or mediate any dispute or other matters that might arise in the region.
- To coordinate with the Chairperson of the Regional Council and Members of the Management Committee and other Councillors on such matters which are relevant to the functions of the Regional Council.



**New member of the National Assembly,
Hon. Phillipus Katamelo**



**New member of the National Council,
Hon. Erwin Katjizeu**



**New member of the Regional Council,
Hon. Augustinus Tebele**

INTERVIEW:

HON. AUGUSTINUS TEBELE

NEWLY-ELECTED REGIONAL COUNCILLOR FOR
GOBABIS CONSTITUENCY



By: Valencia Tibinyane



Newly-elected Regional Councillor for Gobabis Constituency, Honourable Augustinus Tebele was sworn in as a member of the Omaheke Regional Council on 24 January 2020.

Honourable Tebele replaced Honourable Phillipus Katamelo who resigned as a member of the Regional Council and the National Council on 17 October last year in order to contest during the National Assembly elections held on 27 November last year.

Honourable Tebele was also elected as a member of the Council's Management Committee, replacing Honourable Erwin Katjizeu, Regional Councillor for Otjinene Constituency, who was elected to represent the Omaheke region in the National Council.

Valencia Tibinyane (VT) sat down with Honourable Tebele (AT) for our 4th issue of The Eastern Journal.

VT: Honourable, what is one quote you live by?

AT: "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up."
By Nelson Mandela

VT: If you had to interview yourself what is the one question you would ask yourself?

AT: Why restructuring fails and what to do about it.

VT: Could you tell us one misconception people

might have about you in general and as a Councillor?

AT: I'm a politician.

VT: What are you most passionate about within your constituency?

AT: I am passionate about four issues:

- Leading constituents to positive youth development;
- Changing perspectives of how the constituents are perceived;
- Aligning factors that determine the constituents' behavior;
- Leading the constituents towards sustainable development and economic emancipation.

VT: What is one subject you really loved and one subject you really hated in school and why?

AT: I loved History very much and hated Afrikaans. In fact, Afrikaans was imposed on me.

VT: Councillor, you seem to prefer using your Setswana name, Kopang, why is that?

AT: It seems you do not yet know me well. I actually prefer to be called by a name given by my grandmother "Sekhurumelo" but it has too much letters, hence I use the one given by my grandfather "Kopang". The secret in these names reflect the role my grandmother played in my childhood life and after her passing while I was in primary school, my grandfather played a

role in my life from secondary school till tertiary level. This means that he advanced me into adulthood, hence I use the name he gave me, “Kopang”.

VT: How did you feel the instant you realized you were going to lead the biggest constituency in Omaheke region in terms of population, as a Councillor?

AT: I felt a bit of hopeless, dejected and concerned about the future of the people I would be leading.

VT: If you could encourage the 19-year-old you in 3 sentences what would you say?

AT: He needs to know why he needs to learn something. He need to learn experientially. He has to learn to solve problems and for immediate value.

VT: What is the funniest joke you’ve ever heard?

AT: I heard on social media that Gobabis Constituency Office personnel were apparently not following the COVID-19 regulations.

VT: Name one thing that has made you really happy in the last month?

AT: The teamwork at Gobabis Constituency Office.



Hon. Tebele sworn in as a member of the Omaheke Regional Council



PROGRAMME: DELEGATED FUNCTIONS



Mr. Pecka Semba

Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

- The Omaheke Regional Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture is headed by a Director, Pecka Semba, and reports to the office of the Chief Regional Officer.
- The Directorate implements the National Standards and Performance Indicators for Schools (NSPI) and specifications, standards and monitors hostels.
- The Directorate also implements the Namibia School Feeding Programme and provides support to community hostels.
- The Directorate further implements national policies and guidelines on education provision to educationally marginalized children through special needs education and inclusive education as well as providing guidance, counselling and support services, especially for educational, psychological and social assessment.
- The Directorate runs community and school libraries to ensure learners and inhabitants have access to all sorts of information in all formats, (including Braille and audio books for visually impaired).



Ms. Mclesia Mbaisa

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

- Resettlement Programme
- The Regional Division of Land Reform is headed by a Deputy Director, Mclesia Mbaisa, and reports to the Regional Council's Directorate of Planning and Development Services.
- The Division facilitates, coordinates and implements the resettlement process and activities.
- The Division further collects resettlement rental fees, provides post-settlement support, resolves disputes and implements group resettlement projects.

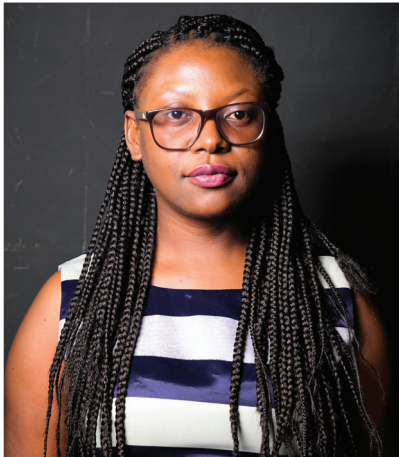


Mr. Paul Kamuingona

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

Rural Water Supply

- The Regional Subdivision of Rural Water Supply is headed by a Senior Artisan Foreman, Paul Kamuingona, and reports to the Regional Council's Division of Technical Services.
- The Subdivision manages water points in communal areas.
- The Subdivision also provides community training to Local Water Committees.
- The Subdivision is responsible for constructing dams, drilling and rehabilitating boreholes as well as the rehabilitation of small pipelines.



Ms. Esther Benjamin

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

- The Regional Section of ICT is headed by a Senior Information Officer, Esther Benjamin, and reports to the Regional Council's Division of Development Planning.
- The Section provides access to modern ICT through Multi-purpose Community Centers located at Farm Du Plessis (Okorukambe Constituency) and Tallismanus (Otjombinde Constituency).
- The Subdivision also films, edits, produces, and disseminates print and audiovisual materials as well as multi-media coverage of Government programmes, services and activities.
- A Public Address system (sound system) is available for hire from the Division of ICT at a fee of N\$300.00 per day.
- The Subdivision of ICT distributes and sells videos/DVDs and publications on government policies, activities, programmes and the country's developmental plans.
- There is an Internet Cafe for public access at the Regional Office of the Ministry of ICT in Gobabis.



Mr. Kristof Kandowa

Ministry of Works and Transport

- The Regional Subdivision of Maintenance is headed by a Control Works Inspector, Kristof Kandowa, and reports to the Regional Council's Division of Technical Services.
- The Subdivision renovates and maintains all Government properties and related infrastructure as well as providing office space to the Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies.
- The Subdivision further allocates official accommodation to the members of civil servants.



Ms. Claudia Kamukwenjandje

Division of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare

- The Regional Division of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is headed by an Acting Deputy Director, Claudia Kamukwenjandje, and reports to the Regional Council's Directorate of Planning and Development Services.
- The Division supports income generating activities, builds capacity of community members, and provides financial support for small-scale business initiatives especially those run and managed by women to promote economic empowerment for women.
- The Division further provides capacity building to rural and disadvantaged urban communities to develop entrepreneurial skills to augment their income and promote employment opportunities and/or self-employment.



The HIV and AIDS Coordination Section and the Directorate of Health and Social Services conducted an awareness session on Hepatitis E with police members



Staff members of the Regional Council's head office donned their Valentine's Day outfits



Staff members of the Gender Equality and Child Welfare Division donned their traditional attire in celebration of Namibia's 30th Independence Anniversary



Staff members of the Regional Council's head office donned their traditional attire in celebration of Namibia's 30th Independence Anniversary



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Staff members of the Regional Council's head office donned their traditional attire in celebration of Namibia's 30th Independence Anniversary



Regional Council staff member Irma Gilbert (left) hands over a farewell give to Valencia Tibinyane who got a transfer to Erongo Regional Council



Cllr Ignatius Kariseb of Gobabis Constituency assists pensioners to sanitise their hands in adherence to COVID-19 precaution measures during pension payout



Clr Augustinus Tebele of Gobabis Constituency assists pensioners to sanitise their hands in adherence to COVID-19 precaution measures during pension payout



The Gender Equality and Child Welfare Division handed over food to households with children living on the streets in an effort to keep the children at home



The Gender Equality and Child Welfare Division handed over food to households with children living on the streets in an effort to keep the children at home



Clr Erwin Katjizeu of Otjinene Constituency hands over food to households with children living on the streets in an effort to keep the children at home



Clr Erwin Katjizeu of Otjinene Constituency hands over food to households with children living on the streets in an effort to keep the children at home



Volunteers hand over COVID-19 relief food to households in Gobabis informal settlement



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Volunteers hand over COVID-19 relief food to households in Gobabis informal settlement



PROCUREMENT UPDATE:

PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19

By Seth Imasiku

The Public Procurement Act, 2015 has a deliberate focus on boosting regional economy activities through goods and services from local suppliers.

COVID-19 has come with some positive issues on local production of goods and services. Government has redirected funds to address basic issues such as access to basic sanitation and access to portable water through infrastructure development. All these developments require service providers to provide services for the region in terms of providing different types of works such as plumbing, renovation and infrastructure development.

The value of development projects in Omaheke region, which should also benefit the regional economy are estimated to cost over N\$234 million as indicated in the Development Programmes: Estimates of Expenditure for 2020/21 Financial year. Additionally, as part of mitigating the effects of COVID-19, Government has allocated about N\$20 million to attend to infrastructure development as part of improving Government Infrastructure in Education through renovations and small works. All these developments will have a spin-off effect on the local economy and creating or maintaining jobs.

The procurement staff in the region must ensure that, where local capacity exist, directives of local suppliers preferences must be maintained without compromising the quality and value for money.

The Omaheke Regional Council through in its

Procurement Plan will work hard to ensure that they contribute in boosting local economic activities through efficiency in procurement processes.

In the next issue we will give special attention to the total funds that have been utilized in Omaheke Region for the first four months of the 2020/21 Financial Year.

This will indicate the value of funds that has circulated in Omaheke Region through the procurement process. We look forward to economic activities picking up in spite of COVID-19.

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 the 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



OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY



The Omaheke Regional Council's HIV and AIDS Regional Coordination Section, together with the Wellness Focalperson and Peace Corps Volunteer, organised World AIDS Day commemoration for the staff of Omaheke Regional Council, including those from delegated functions, as part of the Workplace Wellness Programme. The purpose was to create awareness and reinforce HIV messaging to the staff members.

The event was commemorated in the Council Chamber on 6 December last year, with 44 staff members attending. Fifteen staff members participated in the Voluntary HIV Testing and Counselling which was conducted at the end of the event.

Additionally, the Regional AIDS Coordinating Committee, on 22 January this year, donated chicken mixed portions to Chaise Group, a non-

profit organisation for children living on the streets, as a token of appreciation. The group performed a song and drama during the World AIDS Day commemoration held at the Regional Council.



Donation to Chaise Group



Omaheke Regional Council
Private Bag 2277 | 99 Church Street | GOBABIS | Namibia







HEALTH COLUMN: COVID-19 AND THE “NEW NORMAL”



By Seth Imasiku

A healthy workforce is often a productive workforce. We all need to live healthy lifestyles and the health issue this time round will focus on COVID-19 - the “New Normal”.

As mentioned in the previous issue of the Eastern Journal, this issue was supposed to be about feet hygiene and avoiding smelly feet, but due to the “new normal”, we will try to emphasise what we already know about Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The year 2020 started off as a normal year until March when COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic that has come with its own new ways of life that we must adhere to.

Namibia has, as of 17 July 2020, recorded over 1 000 cumulative confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 with Erongo Region recording the highest numbers. Everyday new information about the disease dynamism is circulated officially and unofficially. With so much information sources from everywhere one has to take responsibility of what they received for them to carry

out in order to stay healthy. Here are some basics to adhere to:

Some basic steps one must try to take to ensure that they stay healthy or the ABCs of COVID-19 prevention?

1. Washing of hands correctly and regularly with soap and clean running water.
2. Sanitizing with a hand sanitizer that is at least 70% ethanol and at least 0.5% Chlorhexidine
3. Disinfecting as often as possible regularly touched surfaces.
4. Disinfecting clothes regularly by washing them every time one has been in a public area.
5. Always correctly wearing a face mask when in public areas and correctly washing or disposing masks after use.
6. Keeping a distance of at least one meter between yourself and others when in public areas.
7. Boosting one's immune system by eating a balance diet and taking in supplement to benefit on essential minerals and vitamins that one may not have taken in through ones' normal diet. Example of essential minerals such as Zinc, Calcium, Chromium and vitamins like four B Complex Vitamins, Vitamin D & C just to mention a few.
8. Exercising at least 30 minutes in a day for at least five days of the week if not every day.

Prevention is better than cure!

Finally, if you feel unwell seek medical help immediately, early detection = early recovery!

For health-related emergencies, please call the toll-free number 0800 100 100!

Next time we will look at feet hygiene, avoiding smelly feet. Happy healthy workplace.

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<https://greatist.com/health/ultimate-guide-vitamins-and-minerals#5>

FEEDBACK

Follow us @OmahekeRC on   

Leave a comment, suggestion or complaint in our feedback box and we will revert back to you

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE: GOBABIS



Hon. Augustinus Tebele
Regional Councillor for Gobabis Constituency

Gobabis Constituency is an electoral constituency in Omaheke Region. It has the largest population of 20,993 inhabitants in the region according to the 2011 Population and Housing Census report.

The Regional Councillor for Gobabis Constituency is Honourable Augustinus Tebele of the Swapo Party. Gobabis Constituency has one town, Gobabis Municipality, which is the regional capital of Omaheke. Gobabis Municipality serves as an important tourism gateway between the SADC countries. It links to one of the most important tourism routes, the Trans-Kalahari Highway, which connects Omaheke region with Okavango Delta and the rest of Namibia.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

With limited service provision from the business sector, Gobabis town holds very large potential in terms of economic development and business growth. It is the main and last/first stopping point on the eastern side of Namibia when travelling along one of the country longest routes, B6, also known as the Trans Kalahari Highway. When exiting the country, the B6 interlinks to Southern Africa's largest business capital, Johannesburg, via Botswana's capital Gaborone. It is the shortest and

cheapest route to take when connecting to these three great countries in the southern region of Africa. This makes Gobabis a very viable business point now and in the years to come.

Agriculture and Beef Production

In order to enhance the agriculture in the region the town of Gobabis has four marketing facilities for livestock, namely Karoo, Agra and WLA, Gobabis Abattoir and Meatco Feedlot.

Tourism and Accommodation

Gobabis accommodation can be found at SafariNow.com which has a selection of Lodge, Bed and Breakfast, Camping and Caravanning holiday accommodations in Gobabis and surrounds. The site features ten listings, an online map search and competitive prices. Gobabis Town has over seven guesthouses, B&B, self-catering flats and camping sites for ± 30 sites.

Housing

Even though there is lack of serviced land, the housing demand remains high and as such Gobabis requires investors to support the Gobabis Municipality with the construction of houses as well as servicing of land.

GOBABIS MUNICIPALITY



Gobabis is situated approximately 205 kilometres on the route from Namibia's capital city, Windhoek to Botswana, some 110 km from the Trans-Kalahari Border Post. It is the regional capital and commercial centre of Omaheke. The name is Khoi-Khoi for "the place of strife". Interestingly enough a slight misspelling, favoured by the locals of Gobabis, would change the meaning to "a drinking place of elephants", which is probably a reference to the nearby Swart Nossob River.

Gobabis Municipality is in the heart of the prosperous cattle farming area, and is the capital of eastern Namibia. It is also known as the "Little Texas" of Namibia. Gobabis is certainly proud of its cattle farming heritage, so much so that a statue of a large bull with the inscription "Welcome to Cattle Country" greets visitors to the town.

Gobabis Municipality is located within two hours' drive from Windhoek, which is reachable from Windhoek by air, rail, and road. Gobabis Municipality and townlands have been excluded from the Resettlement Reform Board area in order to facilitate the establishment and operation of the local authority area of the Municipality of Gobabis.

The Municipal Council consist of seven councillors, with the Mayor of the town being the ceremonial head, representing the inhabitants of Gobabis Municipality in the political and social environment. The Chief Executive Officer serves as the administrative head of the institution. The reigning Mayor is His Worship Liberius Kalili of the Swapo Party. Mr. Ignatius Thudinyane serves as the Chief Executive Officer.

Infrastructures and Public Services/Amenities

- Electricity supply by NamPower (national utility)
- Water supply by NamWater (national utility)
- Sanitation: waterborne system sewerage

Education Facilities

At community level, education is directly interlinked to socio-economic development. While Gobabis may not be at the highest levels when it comes to academic rating in the country, there are three high schools and one private high school, six primary schools and one private primary school in town.

With regard to technical, adult or tertiary education,

the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) both have student satellite centres.

Other institutions contributing to education of this community and providing their services are Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL), Gobabis Vocational Training Centre and the Omaheke Ounongo Technology Centre.

Health Facilities

- Two private facilities with five private doctors
- Four private pharmacies
- One state hospital
- One private health centre
- One state clinic

Financial Institutions

- Bank Windhoek
- First National Bank
- Standard Bank
- NamPost
- Old Mutual
- Metropolitan
- Orion Financial
- Letshego

Telecommunication Network

- MTC Namibia
- Telecom Namibia
- NamPost
- Omaheke Radio
- Internet Café

CONTACT DETAILS

Gobabis Constituency Office

Tel: +264 62 564 780

Fax: +264 62 563 447

Cell: +264 81 165 4482 (Councillor)

+264 81 160 4242 (Control Administrative Officer)

Gobabis Municipality

Chief Executive Officer

Tel: +264 62 577 300

Fax: +264 62 563 012

E-mail: info@gobabis.org

QUICK FACTS ABOUT OMAHEKE

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

HEALTH

Hospitals:	One (public)
Health Centres:	Two (one public, one private)
Clinics/Medical Consultants:	19 (13 public, 6 private)
HIV Prevalence Rate:	7.5 %

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:

99 Church Street, Government Building, GOBABIS

COORDINATES:

-22.448976, 18.978448

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
Tallismanus	+264 62 560 518	+264 62 560 611	-21.842433, 20.749807