



Omaheke Regional Council

THE EASTERN JOURNAL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL | VOL. 3 ISSUE 2 | OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL ENGAGES COMMUNITY ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES





Omaheke Regional Council

Mandate

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

Vision

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

Mission

To plan, coordinate and implement developmental programmes and projects as well as accessible and quality services to the inhabitants of the region.

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 at all times.

Innovation

We find new ideas of doing things effectively and efficiently.

FOREWORD: BY THE CHIEF REGIONAL OFFICER



Pecka Semba, Chief Regional Officer

Regional Councils are responsible for development planning in regions for which they have been established, in terms of Section 28 of the Regional Councils Act, No. 22 of 2022. Since my appointment as Chief Regional Officer for the Omaheke Regional Council on 05 June 2022, together with a team from the Regional Council, I spent the last half of the year touching base with the constituencies to discuss and prioritise developmental issues with communities related to their respective constituencies.

We also met with local authorities to explain the Regional Council's role in the execution of

their mandates and service delivery and engaged settlement and constituency offices in order to strengthen their operations. This is an important exercise that would enable me to execute my new mandate effectively.

Through these engagements, we have learned that many of the issues raised, such as water shortages and other water issues, are common across the region and require us to draw up a blueprint on how we will address them and secure funding. Many other issues, such as crime and violence, and health issues, also require us to further consult the responsible stakeholders to attend to them.

Once we have addressed the concerns and suggestions from the engagements or at least established *modus operandi* on how to address the issues raised, we will revert to the community with feedback. In this issue of *The Eastern Journal*, we cover some of the issues discussed during the engagements, while the comprehensive report will be available in due course.

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Regional Councillors as well as the constituency and settlement offices who facilitated these engagements as well as the staff members who were part of the engagements. I would also like to appreciate all community members who made time to attend the engagements.

I trust you will find this issue of *The Eastern Journal* informative as we aim to keep you abreast of Council activities and programmes. ■

EDITORIAL NOTE

Tauno Iileka, Senior Public Relations Officer

The Eastern Journal returns after a brief hiatus necessitated by a series of events at the Regional Council. We have been occupied with community engagement meetings, an important exercise in building trust between the Regional Council and citizens as well as decision-making, which will enable us to serve you better. Our second issue of this volume, therefore, focuses on these engagements in order to share some of the common and peculiar issues discussed during the engagements.

These community engagements were a great opportunity for the Regional Council to explain its mandate to the community to allow a better understanding of what you can expect from Council and its limitations. Some of the important programmes that were presented during these engagements include rural development, a core function of the Regional Council. We have spent and continue to spend quite a substantial amount in funding rural development projects in the region with the aim of improving livelihoods of communities.

To give you a better understanding of the rural development programmes and how they have previously benefited some of the beneficiaries, we have included a feature on some of the success stories. We hope that these success stories will motivate other beneficiaries to run their projects more prudently and make a success of their projects.

In this issue, we are highlight the rural development programmes and what we aim to achieve through them. The Regional Council

appreciates the line ministry, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development for providing the resources to make the implementation of these programmes possible. During the current financial year, the Ministry has allocated over N\$1,6 million for the Regional Council to fund various rural projects, including provision of basic sanitation facilities and other initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of rural communities through income-generation and ensuring food security.

In subsequent issues, we will highlight other programmes and services that we provide in order to give you a holistic understanding of Council's mandate and encourage you to make use of its programmes and services. Until then, I trust you find this issue informative and worthwhile. ■



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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 organizational vision, mission and objectives by encouraging the public to make use of its programmes and services, to participate in its activities and events, and to support its policies through regular dissemination of information that is of public interest.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Gobabis community engagement meeting held on 05 September 2022.

OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL ENGAGES COMMUNITY ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The Omaheke Regional Council, during the last half of the year, embarked on a series of community engagement meetings around the region to discuss developmental matters. The engagements provided community members a platform to share the challenges facing them and provide suggestions and inputs into solving them.

They also provided the newly-appointed Chief Regional Officer, Pecka Semba, as the administrative head and chief executive officer of the Regional Council, an opportunity to understand such challenges in order for him to execute his mandate efficiently.

"Once concluded, the Regional Council will map a way forward to incorporate suggestions from community members into developmental plans and priorities of the region and share such inputs with responsible parties for their consideration and provide feedback," he added.

Common Issues

Semba indicated that some of the issues raised during the engagement, such as water shortages, are common across the region and require strategic planning and funding. The region, therefore, will need to develop a master plan in order to prioritise how they will be solved.

Increasing crime and violence, mainly caused by alcohol and drug abuse by the youth, were also commonly raised. Semba said this matter will be taken up with the Regional Commander of the Namibian Police, including the concern raised regarding a constant lack of transport for the police to attend to crime, espe- [Continues to page 7 >>](#)



Skoonheid community engagement meeting held on 07 September 2022.



Epukiro RC community engagement meeting held on 07 September 2022.

<< [Continues from page 6](#) cially in Farm du Plessis, Witvlei and Aminuis.

Also on youth matters, a suggestion was made for Farm du Plessis Youth Centre to be converted into a vocational training centre. Semba advised that the Regional Council will be able to better plan on how to utilize the youth centre once the Directorate of Youth is delegated to the Regional Council.

The youth of Witvlei suggested that they be provided computer literacy and first aid training. They also appealed for the community to be provided access to the youth centre in Witvlei, for the centre to be equipped with internet facilities and that the Regional Council to manage the centre.

Health and Education Matters

Other issues that require further engagement with stakeholders and feasibility studies include the establishment or upgrading of health facilities in either Farm du Plessis, Epukiro RC or Skoonheid, and in Epukiro Pos 3, Otjinene constituency and Tsjaka as well as provision of ambulance services.

A suggestion was also made that an oncology facility be established in the region to treat cancer patients locally instead of referring to Windhoek as cancer has become a common cause of death in the region.

A suggestion was made for the San language to be taught in school in the region. Semba explained that the Education Ministry has been trying to do that for years, but there is a lack of San

language teachers. Nonetheless, attempts will continue to be made.

Other suggestions made pertaining to education include the establishment of a school for children with learning difficulties, the school curriculum at Gqaina Primary School to be extended to grade 10 to prevent dropouts at primary school level, and the establishment of a primary school in Epukiro Pos 3 to prevent children from travelling long distances to go to the nearest school. Semba indicated that for school to be established, feasibility studies should be conducted.

Access to Land

The community also raised concern regarding a lack of land available to provide even to residents, particularly in Omitara and Buitepos. The Director of Planning and Development Services in the Regional Council, Karukirue Tjijenda said the land issue in these two settlements is high on the Council's agenda. Attempts have been made and continue to be made to acquire additional land from nearby farm owners in order to expand the settlement boundaries.

Meanwhile, Skoonheid, Farm du Plessis and Blouberg communities raised several disputes emanating from group resettlement projects. Semba said the Regional Council will discuss all resettlement and land dispute matters with the Regional Lands Division, especially where allotment is concerned, and provide feedback to the community.

Some community members further claim that they have made numerous futile applications to be resettled, but to no avail. [Continues to page 8 >>](#)



Omitara community engagement meeting held on 08 September 2022.

<< Continues from page 7 Semba advised that the resettlement programme is very competitive and that community members should remain resilient and continue applying.

Moreover, Semba indicated that modus operandi will be crafted to address a concern raised in Aminuis regarding unclear settlement boundaries in Aminuis which affects land allocation as the settlement office is objecting to land applications made at the traditional authority, claiming that such applications should be made to the settlement office.

Provision of State Services on Private Land – The Case of Epukiro RC

The Epukiro RC community raised a concern regarding a lack of government services in Epukiro RC, a dilemma seemingly caused by the fact that the area is on private land under the control of Itireleng Council. The community alleges that situation has previously led to the community losing out on funding for a community garden few years ago. Tjjenda, suggested that a governance agreement be entered into between the government and Itireleng Council to facilitate the provision of government services in Epukiro RC.

Food Security

The distribution of food relief by government, through different programmes, was another common issue raised. Chairperson of the Regional Council, Honourable Ignatius Kariseb, explained the different food relief programmes in the region, saying that they should not be confused. The drought relief programme benefits all vulnerable and affected people during a state of emergency due to drought.

The San feeding programme is only for the benefit of vulnerable San community members re-



Epukiro Pos 3 community engagement meeting held on 19 September 2022.

gardless of emergencies. The food-for-work programme benefits selected projects aimed at creating short-term employment opportunities for rural communities and in the process create, repair or maintain community infrastructure within the region. Finally, the food bank programme is a pilot programme in Gobabis aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger among the most vulnerable community members.

Community members, particularly in Epukiro RC, Epukiro Pos 3, Blouberg also appealed for gardens in the villages to be provided with water in order to promote food security among the communities.

Semba encouraged the constituency and settlement offices to constantly communicate with community members and vice-versa in order address administrative issues as they arise instead of waiting for issues to escalate.

These engagements also gave the Regional Council an opportunity to explain its mandate for community members to better understand development planning processes of government as well as Council programmes and projects.

The first phase of the engagements commenced in Gobabis on 05 September 2022, continued in Skoonheid, Epukiro RC, Farm du Plessis, Omitara, Witvlei, Epukiro Pos 3 and ended in Otjinene on 20 September 2022, while the second phase commenced in Blouberg on 21 November 2022 and continued in Buitepos, Tsjaka, Corridor 13, ending in Aminuis on 30 November 2022.

Semba was joined by Hon. Kariseb, Regional Councillors of the respective constituencies and senior staff members of the Regional Council and delegated functions. Over 700 community members attended the engagements. ■



Otjinene community engagement meeting held on 20 September 2022.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: SUCCESS STORIES

By Nahasoline Kaiko



Chicken Tyre Repair in Gobabis received tyre repair equipment from the Regional Council.

The Omaheke Regional Council has, over the years, funded many successful projects in its broad mandate to promote regional development, in particular rural development, and capacitate small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the region. Some of these projects which have persevered to be successful exist in various constituencies of the region.

Chicken Tyre Repair Project

One such story is the Chicken Tyre Repair Project in Gobabis, which has been in existence since 2016 and currently employs two people.

The project provides tyre repair services for the inhabitants of Omaheke region especially those travelling in and out of Gobabis, although a lack of electricity for the business, along with the cost of paying electricity to the house owner where he operations from presents a challenge. In spite of these obstacles, the project has continued to grow and managed to increase its client base.

Tsa Rona Trading

Another project that has grown into success is the Tsa Rona Trading project in Aminuis which started in 2010 supplying –bread. The project has 11 employees to date, having started with only three employees.

The project started operating with one electric oven which, at the time, was costly to run. However, with funding from the Omaheke Regional Council, the owner was able to acquire a diesel oven which proved more cost-effective.

The project also expanded to supply bread for a number of customers across Aminuis, including two shops, five government schools and one private school, as well as the entire Aminuis community. Additionally, the project was able to procure a bread slicer in 2017.

The Covid-19 pandemic brought challenges for the project, such as slow income due to the closure of schools which are one of their main customers. Beyond these, [Continues to page 10 >>](#)

<< Continues from page 9 the project has continued to impact positively on the Aminuis Community by creating jobs and supplying quality fresh bread. The owner was also able to open two other businesses through profits from the Tsa Rona Trading.

D H Costcutter cc

Still in the Aminuis community, D H Costcutter cc, is a project that started in 2016 with four employees and they provide catering and take away services to the surrounding community of Aminuis and a few government offices.

At times, delays in payment from some institutions hamper the flow of income. Covid-19 pandemic also impacted negatively on the operations of the project. Even though the project started out small, it has, overtime, grown to build an additional room for the business, increasing their capacity to do business.

Pingene Investment cc



Pingene Investment in Otjinene received industrial sewing machines from the Regional Council.

This project, which started in 2016 and run by women who provide tailoring and sewing services to the Otjinene community, has continued to grow and make an impact on the community and empower women in business.

The project started with just one manual sewing machine and no electricity, however, the owner saw beyond the challenge and managed to get access to electricity for the business and with funds from the Omaheke Regional Council, she then acquired two more industrial sewing machines, which greatly have increased productivity.



Pingene Investment provide tailoring and sewing services to the Otjinene community.

Salome Otjinene Dry Cleaners



Salome Otjinene Dry Cleaners in Otjinene received various laundry equipment from the Regional Council.

Salome Otjinene Dry Cleaners is another business run by women, which started in 2018 with two employees. They provide dry cleaning services to households and various people in and around the region.

The project started at her residence with just one washing machine, washing and ironing clothes for friends and neighbours.

However, the project has grown and changed since receiving additional items from the Omaheke Regional council, including irons, an ironing board, washing basins and a washing machine, which enabled them to cater to more customers and increase their income,. The project owner, Salome Kamunguma says since starting the project, her quality of life has improved. ■

BRIEF UPDATES:



Catherine Bullen Foundation on 26 October 2022 handed over to Otjimanangombe Clinic an ambulance equipped with modern technology. The ambulance will be used to transport and treat patients more promptly and effectively.



The Ministry of Youth, National Service and Sport with the assistance of UNICEF on 30 October 2022 donated sports equipment to Epukiro Constituency.



The President of Uranium One Company, Andrey Shutov, on 27 October 2022, donated a Toyota double-cab pick-up to Omaheke region to transport medical doctors when visiting clinics in constituencies.

It was handed over to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, who then handed it over to the Omaheke Regional Health Director. The handover was observed by the Regional Councillor for Epukiro Constituency, Hon. Packy Pakarae, on behalf of Omaheke Governor, Hon. Pijoo Nganate.



Epukiro Constituency Office on 02 November 2022 handed over water tanks, furniture and gaming items to 12 Early Childhood Development Centers within Epukiro Constituency.



Epukiro constituency on 16 December 2022 held a feedback session at Ohamutue village.

The session covered topics such as plots availability at Epukiro Pos 3, water supply, roads infrastructure, and planned feasibility studies for the construction of a clinic and a school at Ondjora.

Chief Tjijahura and Councillors of Ovaherero Traditional Authority as well as over 45 people from Otuindjo and adjacent Ozohambo attended the session.



Scan this QR code using your WhatsApp camera to join Epukiro Constituency WhatsApp group for regular updates from Epukiro.



PICTURE PERFECT



Omaheke Regional Council's Planning Director, Karukirue Tjijenda, welcomed his new Private Secretary, Rhona-Lee Visagie, on 01 November 2022.



Otjijere won against Eiseb during the Epukiro Constituency Festive Soccer Tournament held 25 December 2022 at Epukiro Pos 10.



The Ministry of Youth, National Service and Sport with the assistance of UNICEF on 30 October 2022 donated sports equipment to Epukiro Constituency.



Blouberg community engagement meeting held on 28 November 2022.



Tsjaka community engagement meeting held on 28 November 2022.



Tsjaka community engagement meeting held on 28 November 2022.



Aminuis community engagement meeting held on 30 November 2022.



Stakeholders during a Regional Development Coordinating Committee meeting on 12 October 2022.

PICTURE PERFECT



Stakeholders during a Regional Development Coordinating Committee meeting on 12 October 2022.



Stakeholders during a Regional Development Coordinating Committee meeting on 12 October 2022.



Stakeholders during the Regional AIDS Coordinating Committee meeting held on 08 December 2022.



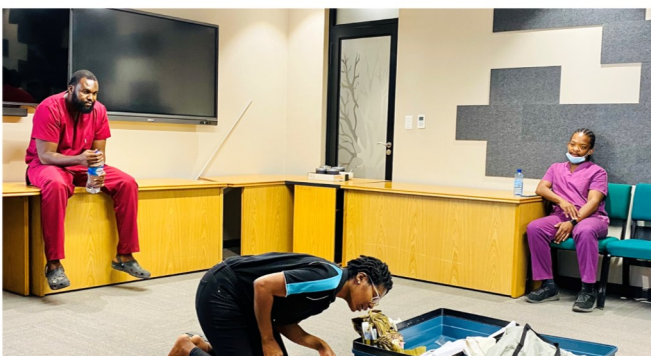
Stakeholders during the Regional AIDS Coordinating Committee meeting held on 08 December 2022.



Stakeholders during the Regional AIDS Coordinating Committee meeting held on 08 December 2022.



Omaheke Regional Council's Wellness Committee members attended a basic life support training on 14 October 2022.



Omaheke Regional Council's Wellness Committee members attended a basic life support training on 14 October 2022.



Dr. Mukuahima from Gobabis Hospital provides basic life support training for the Omaheke Regional Council's Wellness Committee on 14 October 2022.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT: RURAL SERVICES

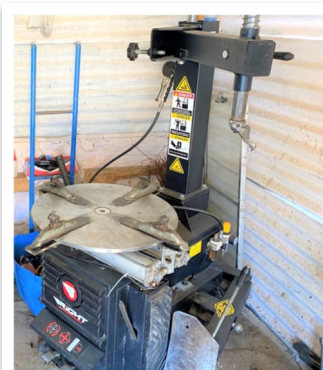


The Division of Rural Services within the Omaheke Regional Council provides support to a variety of projects in the region with the financial support and guidelines of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development as well as funding from the Regional Council's revenue. This is done through rural development programmes, namely:

Cash/Food-for-Work

The programme has been running since 1996 aimed at creating short term employment opportunities for able bodied rural communities and in the process create/fix and maintain community infrastructure within the region. Rural communities identify public projects they want to improve or establish and once approved, they will be supplied with materials and in return Council compensate their labour with either food rations or cash payments.

Micro-finance



This is a scheme aimed at giving free "grants" to viable new or existing micro/small/medium enterprises in the rural areas. People can apply and once successful, the Regional Council can fund the business in the form of grants.

Regional Specific Action Plan

The Region Specific Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan depicts the people's voice on how they perceive and conceptualize problems and what type of interventions they want to happen in their area.

Support Resources to Poor Farmers



This programme commenced in 2015 with the aim to reduce poverty by assisting rural farmers with farm implements to improve their farming activities or to stock up with livestock for those who did not own livestock to improve their livelihood.

Rural Employment Scheme



The Rural Employment Scheme aims to financially support any commercial/economic activity within the rural area of the region as long as it has a potential to grow and create employment and reduce poverty. [Continues to page 15 >>](#)

One Region One Initiative

The One Region One Initiative (OROI) is another initiative/intervention by the Regional Council to transform local environments to make them more attractive to local residents, tourists and investors. It is a new concept towards rural development aimed at natural products/resources. Products that are very unique to the region ought to be identified, add value, promote them and market them to other regions.

Rural Sanitation



The Rural Sanitation programme is aimed at improving rural sanitation facilities in the region in order to improve rural hygiene and in the process create temporary employment with a focus on the youth and create and/or transfer some skills to the youth.

Rural Electrification



This programme aims to expand electricity distribution in rural areas to improve the socio-economic conditions of Omaheke communities.

Community Development Programme

This programme provides financial support community projects aimed at improving livelihoods as well as subsidising infrastructural and socio-economic projects in various for the benefit of rural communities. ■

Contact our Division of Rural Services to learn how you can benefit from these programmes:

Tel: 062 566 541/526

E-mail: dkatamelo@omahekerc.gov.na or muhongora@omahekerc.gov.na



Omaheke
Regional Council

FOLLOW US



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NOTES

[illegible]

REGIONAL FACT SHEET

GEOGRAPHY

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 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) |

POLITICAL PROFILE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Regional Governor: | Hon. Pijoo Nganate |
| Regional Council Chairperson: | Hon. Ignatius Kariseb, Kalahari Constituency |
| Constituencies: | Seven (Aminuis, Gobabis, Epukiro, Kalahari, Okorukambe, Otjinene, Otjombinde) |
| Capital: | Gobabis |
| Towns: | One (Gobabis) |
| Villages (declared): | Three (Leonardville, Otjinene, Witvlei) |
| Settlements (declared): | Seven (Aminuis, Buitepos, Corridor 13, Epukiro, Omitara, Tallismanus, Summerdown) |

DEMOGRAPHY

| | |
|---|--|
| Population Size: | 71 233 (3.4 % of Namibia's population), 70 % rural, 30 % urban |
| Population Density: | 0.8 per km ² |
| Population 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 % |

HEALTH

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

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 Temperature: | 2.5 °C (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) |

ECONOMY

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

CONTACT DETAILS

OMAHEKE REGIONAL COUNCIL

HEAD OFFICE, GOBABIS

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Private Bag 2277
GOBABIS
Namibia

Physical Address:
Omaheke Regional Office Park, Portion 39, Gobabis Townlands No. 114
GOBABIS

Coordinates:
-22.446537, 18.994257



CONSTITUENCY OFFICES

| Constituency | Telephone 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

| Constituency | Telephone No. | Fax No. | Coordinates |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Aminuis/Corridor 13 | +264 63 273 274 | +264 63 273 231 | -23.650479, 19.368915 |
| Buitepos | +264 81 127 7715 | - | -22.281633, 19.997901 |
| Epukiro Post 3 | +264 62 568 656 | +264 62 568 560 | -21.595108, 19.418271 |
| Omitara | +264 62 560 262 | +264 62 560 262 | -22.288275, 17.978516 |
| Tallismanus | +264 62 560 518 | +264 62 560 611 | -21.842433, 20.749807 |



Omaheke
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