



# ngwediva News

**Vision - To be a leading urban Centre in Namibia that is build on quality municipal services and promotes sustainable local economic development.**

*Volume 20*

**"Be informed about your town"**

*December 2021*



**His Worship, Taarah Shalyefu**  
Mayor of Ongwediva Town

## Mayoral Greetings

"Resilience in the face of the unexpected" would seem to be a befitting theme for the year 2021 given the experience it brought to us in different ways. Although there has been pain and turbulence in various corners of our town and elsewhere, the spirit of support for one another has prevailed among the residents of this beautiful town-Ongwediva.

The year is approaching towards the end and it is important that we reminisce all that resonates success while taking cognizance of disappointments encountered along the way. It is only fair that the focus be on moving forward to the New Year with determination and hold on to all that is good while letting go of all that is not pleasing humanity. My wish is for the year 2022 to bring success and desired results to all.

While the festive season bring joy where families and friends converge, it is vital to remember that we are living under a common threat of Covid-19 which spread fast on contact. Therefore, I am appealing to every resident to consider getting vaccinated while taking precaution as laid down by the government. Covid-19 protocols must be adhered to, so as to protect our loved ones, prevent the spread and eliminate the virus.

The year 2021 was promising as residents took responsibility to honor their municipal bills. It is only through such commitments that the Council can advance developmental agendas while providing effective services. Therefore, I urge all stakeholders with municipal accounts to continue paying for municipal services for continued development.

In our pledge to serve the community of Ongwediva, we are confident that through the existing cordial stakeholders' relation, the town with its unique character shall continue to serve as a hub of economic opportunities for all.

May this festive season bring joy and a sense of comfort to all our residents and visitors alike.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



## Re-elected to serve

On Tuesday, 23 November 2021, Ongwediva Town Council re-elected political office bearers for the next 12 months. The election took place at Ongwediva Trade Fair Center where all Councillors retained their portfolios. Councillor Taarah Shalyefu was re-elected to serve as the Mayor, deputized by Councillor Ulalia Katonyala. The Management Committee is chaired by Councillor Dr. Fabiam George while Councillor Naemi Amuthenu and Councillor Jona Helao are members of the Management Committee. Councillor Kaarena Shikongo and Councillor Ottilie Haitota are members of the Council.



## Public Meetings an eye opener

In pursuit of understanding the needs and aspiration of Ongwediva residents, the Council embarked on a series of public meetings across the town. Public meetings where residents had an opportunity to interact with the Councillors started in March 2021 and ended in November 2021. A notable marathon of engagements of 21 meetings gave an opportunity to residents to freely express their appreciation and concerns to Councillors. Some of the notable concerns and area of improvements are; stray animals in town, waste management, establishment of parks and safety. Council is expected to discuss all points noted from public meetings and implement the cause of action where necessary.



# Shack Dwellers Federation constructs 21 houses in Ongwediva

Six months after the ground-breaking ceremony of the construction of 21 housing units at Sky area, Ongwediva Shack Dwellers saving groups had the honor to invite Council to provide brief progress made thus far. The construction of housing units was preceded by the servicing of land with water. So far, all 21 houses are under construction with some at the verge of completion. This is the first phase of 98 plots allocated to the federation by Ongwediva Town Council in its quest to deliver land and housing to the low-income earners. Ongwediva Shack Dwellers Federation has 387 membership as at December 2021.



## Onawa and Okandjenedi locations serviced

In its quest to avail land to the community, Ongwediva Town Council has solicited the community support particularly from the residents affected by the decongestion program. The community members offered assistance in digging trenches for water pipes



The work commenced in August 2021 and was concluded in November 2021. Onawa is done while Okandjenedi is left with a distance to be excavated to the main water supply. The two areas together with Mandume location are earmarked for allocation to low-income earners and the residents who will be relocated as part of the decongestion program. Combined, these three locations accommodate 209 plots.



## Ready to protect and save lives

The 18 November 2021 marked the arrival of a brand-new fire engine and the official inauguration of sleeping quarters at the Ongwediva Fire Station. The new fire engine

was necessitated by growing investments characterized by state-of-the-art structures in town. The new fire engine comes with improved technology to enable effective and efficient performance when emergency strikes.

Since Ongwediva town requires swift emergency response by a well-trained team, Council has planned to introduce a 24 hours response from the fire station on a shift basis thereby improving a response time from 11 minute to at least 5 minutes. The existence of sleeping quarters will eliminate delays caused by collecting team members from their respective residential addresses.

The fire engine cost Council N\$5.7 million while sleeping quarters cost N\$ 1.8 million



## Capital projects underway

Project	Location	Progress	Commenced	Intended Completion	Amount N\$
Sewer reticulation	Sky Phase 1	35%	06 July 2021	23 April 2022	5.7 million
Sewer reticulation	Extension 15	35%	29 April 2021	22 April 2022	8.2 million
Upgrading of Church Street	Extension 6 & 7	40%	21 September 2021	21 May 2022	8.2 million
Storm water Channel	Reception 2 & 10	80%	07 July 2021	27 January 2022	2.4 million

## Ongwediva Town Council staff members recognized

Employees are indispensable to the existence and success of any organization. It is even more rewarding if individual staff members are motivated and recognized. On the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021, during the year-end function which incorporated a cultural theme, Ongwediva Town Council recognized its staff members for being loyal to the service for a period of five years and more. The longest serving employee has been around for 23 years.

In his message, the Chief Executive Officer of Ongwediva Town Council Mr. Damian Egumbo stated that individual staff member's contribution should be appreciated as that contributes to the overall performance of the Council and subsequent attainment of the common vision. He also encouraged staff members to end the year on a positive note, notwithstanding the wave of challenges mostly caused by the prevailing Covid-19. Sixty-three (63) employees received certificates of long service in various categories. Ongwediva Town Council has a staff complement of 76 employees.

Category	Number of Employees
5-9 years	24
10-14 years	17
15-19 years	12
20 and above	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

## Safety tips on the road:



1. Make sure the vehicle is fit for the trip
2. Avoid being fatigue on the road
3. Ensure there are no distractions while driving
4. Take along an emergency kit
5. Always obey the speed limit
6. Do not overtake on blind spots
7. Practice defensive driving
8. Keep enough distance between you and the car ahead of you
9. Plan your route and rest stop ahead of time
10. Do not use your phone while driving
11. Account for bad weather and decelerate if necessary



Ongwediva town and townlands cover an area of 8 917, 9341 Ha.

KEEP OUR ENVIRONMENT CLEAN



After Hours (Ongwediva Town Council)  
+264 811490075



Emergency Services  
0811 444 151  
065 238 766