



ngwediva News

Our Vision- Ongwediva, the Attractive, Quality, Town of Choice in Northern Namibia.

Volume 1

“Keep informed about your town”

December 2024

THE MAYOR FESTIVE SEASON MESSAGE



The year 2024 is coming to an end, I am proud to announce that as Council we have made visible and tangible progress in service delivery to our residents, visitors and investors alike. Our collective efforts with the community of Ongwediva town who are ultimately stakeholders in the development of Ongwediva have made our town an investor friendly destination for all.

On behalf of Ongwediva town, Ongwediva town Council and indeed, on my own behalf, I wish to extend my warm greetings to all Namibians and residents of Ongwediva town in particular. As we approach the Festive Season where all of us will gather with our loved ones, I would like to take this moment to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

I wish you a wonderful and enjoyable holiday break, in the company of your families and friends, but I know our caring Ongwediva community will also be aware of those that are less fortunate. And It is my wish that we shall all put effort to visit our neighbours who may not see anyone else during this festive holidays and continue to support the less privileged, to demonstrate the spirit of "Ubuntu", true love and peace to all.

I wish you safe travels as you embark on your journeys to reach your planned destinations.

Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2025!

Yours truly,

His Worship Cllr. Taarah Shalyefu
The Mayor of Ongwediva Town

STAFF APPOINTMENT



The Ongwediva Town Council has appointed Ms. Otilie Shingenge as Head of Corporate Communications division (Corporate Communications Officer) effective from 01 September 2024.

As Ms. Shingenge embarks on her new journey and role, OTC is confident and trust that her contribution and leadership skills and knowledge will have a positive impact on the Council to turn around the organization's communications and public relations strategy into effective, efficient and responsive tool to enhance the delivery of services.

ONGWEDIVA MANTAINS STATUS QUO



During the elections of office bearers held on 18 November 2024, at Ongwediva Trade Fair Centre in accordance with Section 11 (2) (c) and 21 (2) of the Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992 as amended, His Worship Cllr. Taarah Shalyefu was re-elected as the Mayor of Ongwediva Town for one year.

At the occasion, Cllr. Ulalia Katonyala retained her position as a Deputy Mayor of the town. Councillor Fabiam George remained the Chairperson of the Management Committee while Cllr. Naemi Amuthenu and Cllr. Jona Helao are members of the Management Committee. Councillor Otilie Haitota and Cllr. Mathews Tiyeho are Ordinary Members of the Council. The election was presided over by Magistrate Mozay Jansen of Oshakati District.

EXCITING NEWS FOR OATF 2025

We are thrilled to announce that preparations for the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair (OATF) 2025 are officially underway! Mark your calendars: application forms will be available starting the first week of January 2025.

How to Apply:

- Visit our website at www.oatf.com.na/apply for a quick and convenient online registration process.
- Prefer a paper form? Stop by the Ongwediva Trade Fair Center to collect your application.

What to Look Forward to in 2025

- Innovative Exhibitions: Expect a diverse range of exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge products and services from Namibia and beyond.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with business leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators in various industries.
- Interactive Experiences: Participate in live demonstrations, workshops, and activities for all ages.

Stay tuned for more updates as we draw closer to this incredible event. We can't wait to welcome you to the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair 2025 and create lasting memories together!



CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Construction of Ongwediva Leisure Park



In an effort to bring members of the community together to build a better sense of unity and minimize the feelings of isolation, Ongwediva Town Council has embarked on the construction of Ongwediva Leisure Park at Extension 11.

During the Ground-Breaking ceremony held on 06 November 2024, the Town's Mayor Taarah Shalyefu said that the Leisure Park Project will transform the area into a lively activity hub. Councillor Shalyefu indicated that, the park will feature green spaces for family picnics, play areas for children, and walking trails winding through open spaces, inviting everyone to reconnect with nature. There will also be an amphitheatre for concerts and community events, providing a place for cultural celebrations.

"This project is about more than just physical changes; it's about creating opportunities. The construction will bring jobs to our community, and once completed, the Park will attract new businesses, boosting local economic activities," he said.

The Mayor added that as the neighbourhood becomes more desirable, property values will rise, benefiting property owners.

The Council has budgeted N\$2,5 million for the first phase during 2024/25 Financial Year.

The first phase includes fencing off the area, installing water and sewer lines.

Phase 1 is expected to be completed by March 2025.



2. Refurbishment of Ongwediva Water Tower



After a thorough inspection and analysis of the status of the water tank, Ongwediva Town Council has appointed a contractor to renovate the tower that supplies water and

feeds the rest of other towers within the town. This was revealed by the Senior Manager for Technical and Planning Services, Mr. David Mulokoshi during the site-handover on 08 November 2024.

Mulokoshi stated that the tower needs to be refurbished due to its operational ages for decades. Hence the Council in its Annual Budget for 2024/2025 Financial Year decided to renovate this water facility in order to minimize further issues that will be more costly to the Council. The Council has allocated a budget of N\$5.3 million to complete the project.

If you get caught in smoke: Stay low, smoke will rise to ceiling level first.

- Drop to hands and knees and crawl towards the nearest exit.
- Hold your breath as much as possible; breathe through your nose and use a filter such as a shirt, towel or handkerchief.
- Be aware of your surroundings, take note of and follow EXIT signs.



4. Streets Naming

The Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honorable Erastus Utoni on 04 December 2024, has unveiled the street names of individuals who have made significant contributions and played crucial roles in the community of Ongwediva and Namibia at large.

This exercise is part of the Council's Strategic Plan and is in line with its mandate of providing essential services to community members.

It will further serve as a focal point through symbolism, association and remembrance and shall provide an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our residents and fellow country-men.

Street naming is crucial as it helps to figure out where we are, talk about where we have been, and ascertain whether we are heading in the right direction; and more so, helps identify and locate a property and assist the emergency services to deliver or provide services among others.



3. Construction of High Mast Lighting



There is light at the end of the tunnel as Ongwediva Town Council handed over the site on 15 November 2024, for the provision and installation of a High Master Lighting intended for the residents of Onawa and Okandjengedi areas.

The much needed project which commenced on 15 November 2024, will cost Council N\$ 800 000, and is expected to be completed by February 2025.

This Initiative is responding to the government call and vision of bringing services closer to the people, and subsequently to Ongwediva Town Council's Strategic Plan which is in alignment with the Local Authorities Act, (Act No. 23 of 1992) as amended.



When Ongwediva was identified as a settlement in the early sixties by the South African colonial dispensation, the late Nandjebo Mengela was the Senior Headman of the area.

EARLY CHRISTMAS TREAT



Making it a customary practice the Ongwediva Town Council has made it a mission to bring the spirit of togetherness and joy for its community members. This year the Council hosted a special Christmas lunch on 19 November 2024, focusing on people with disabilities.

The Council has allocated an amount of N\$60,000 in the current financial year to cater for the less privileged members of the community.

Officiating the event, the Town's Mayor Cllr. Taarah Shalyefu said the event aimed to foster inclusivity and celebrate the town's diverse community.

"By hosting this lunch, we aim to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities, can partake in the celebrations and feel valued, supported, and included," he said.

Shalyefu added that many people living with disabilities are often neglected and forgotten, which causes distress. Thus, the lunch serves as a reminder that they are loved and appreciated.

Speaking at the same occasion, Ndapewa Shooya expressed her delight at being among people who resonate with her experiences and share similar disabilities.

She stressed that disability is not an illness but an opportunity, emphasizing that while they might be differently abled, they are a perfect combination in society.

The Council hosted more than 100 guests at the Ongwediva Sam Nujoma Multi-purpose Centre; and those in attendance received food hampers and were treated with a light lunch.

OTC Celebrated Heritage Week



Heritage Week is an opportunity for Namibians to celebrate their heritage and embrace its rich culture. It encourages Namibians to keep their culture alive and to pass on inherited traditions, norms, values, beliefs and knowledge to their descendants.

Furthermore, heritage gives us a sense of pride in our identity and promote unity and a sense of belonging among others. For Ongwediva Town also known as 'The Valley of the Leopard', this memorable occasion brought about joy, laughter, networking, and unity among employees as they dressed up in their different traditional attires to signify and symbolise what is known as 'Namibia Heritage Week'.

This year's Namibia Heritage Week was celebrated under the theme: "Kultuur is Gemeenskap, Gemeenskap is Kultuur" in Afrikaans, which translates to Culture is community, community is Culture in English. Our Culture Our Pride!

Council Standby Team for Emergency & other Services

- **Water, Sewer & other Services:**
[08 11 47 40 74](tel:0811474074)
- **Fire, Accidents & other Services:**
[08 11 44 41 51](tel:0811444151)
- **Public Relations & Communications:**
[081 2840 655](tel:0812840655)

Debate Competition

In an effort to meaningfully contribute to the education sector, Ongwediva Junior Council (OJC) in conjunction with Oshana NANSO held debate, public speaking and spelling bee tournament at Ongwediva Secondary School in Ongwediva town.

A two day competition took place on 21 - 22 September 2024, and aimed at creating a sense of civic responsibility within the community, school learners and youth at large.

Ten schools from Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Omusati regions participated in the annual tournament primarily aiming at promoting youth matters across the regions and beyond.

The Ongwediva town's Mayor Cllr. Taarah Shalyefu officiated the occasion.



Employees Engagement & Wellness Activities



The Ongwediva Town Council employees engaged in a day-off to network, socialise and connect through wellness exercise, and team building session.

The occasion held on 13 December 2024 at Ongwediva Trade Fair Centre was packed with different fun activities in an effort to promote the culture of togetherness, teamwork, and networking among others.



The Ongwediva
Newsletter Editorial Team
wishes you a Splendid
2025!