

Govt eases transport in Ohangwena



Progress... Donkey carts remain a lifeline for Omboloka residents as gravel roads near completion.
Photo: File

■ **Taimi Haihambo**

After more than 30 years of independence, communities in the deep rural areas of Omboloka and Omolondo in Oshikunde constituency of Ohangwena

region, are finally seeing light at the end of a long, sandy road. For decades, residents have lived in isolation, relying on rough sandy tracks that made travel nearly impossible. The local councillor of Oshikunde constituency,

Lonja Kaishungu, said teachers working in these areas have endured the worst, often forced to leave their vehicles at nearby shebeens or along the main road before walking or taking buggies for 30 to 60 kilometres through

the bushes to reach their schools.

“In most cases, small cars could not make it, and only 4x4s could brave the soft, uneven terrain. Those without such vehicles relied on donkey carts, and in emergencies, even the sick had to be transported in the same way to reach the main road in search of help,” she explained.

The situation has tested the patience and resilience of the people for over three decades, but at last, change is on the horizon.

The government has finally constructed gravel roads; one connecting Omulondo and Oshuuli, and another connecting Omboloka and Omukukutu.

Both roads are nearing completion. The project, entrusted to Emirates Trading CC, began on 2 July 2024 and is expected to be completed by 2 July 2026 at N\$6,9 million.

Although the roads are not tarred, residents are deeply grateful, describing the development as a long-awaited relief. For teachers, it means no more leaving their vehicles kilometres away or waiting weeks to see them again.

Kaishungu highlighted that for her community, it means smoother travel, easier access to services, and safer journeys for everyone, even the donkeys will now have an easier path to run on. *-taimihaihambo2000@gmail.com*

Trans-Caprivi highway at Ndiyona lights up

■ **John Muyamba**

NDIYONA – The Minister of Urban and Rural Development, James Sankwasa has said government remains steadfast to further investments in rural infrastructure, including water, roads, schools, and health facilities, to ensure that no Namibian is left behind.

Sankwasa made the remarks in a statement read on his behalf by his advisor, Boniface Mutumba on Monday during the official handover ceremony of the newly installed streetlights along the B8 trunk road (Trans-Caprivi Highway) at Ndiyona settlement in the Kavango East. “This project is a testament to our government’s commitment to inclusive development and the upliftment of rural communities. Access to reliable and safe infrastructure is vital for the development of our communities. Street lighting may seem an ordinary amenity to some, but to many, it symbolises hope, safety, and opportunity,” he said.

Sankwasa said the streetlights are more than fixtures, they are beacons of progress. “By illuminating the Ndiyona settlement and the B8 Trunk Road, we are enhancing safety, as

proper lighting reduces the risk of traffic accidents and deters criminal activity. Families, students, and travellers can now move with greater confidence after dusk,” he noted.

The installation of the streetlights on the trunk road (B8) at Ndiyona was carried out at a total cost of just over N\$ 1.1 million. With this type of development, Sankwasa said, night-time travel becomes safer and more reliable, supporting economic activities, access to healthcare, and social interactions beyond daylight hours.

“This project is firmly aligned with our national development objectives of rural electrification, as expanding access to electricity remains a cornerstone of our commitment to inclusive growth. The project also forms part of integrated infrastructure investment because street lighting complements road infrastructure, drainage systems, and signage to deliver holistic improvements,” he stated.

Meanwhile chairperson of the Kavango East Regional Council (KERC), Damian Maghambayi during the event highlighted that development

plans of the region are sidelined.

He said KERC commissioned a comprehensive assessment to identify potential growth points within the region for possible upgrading to settlement areas.

The study examined various factors, including the availability of existing services and infrastructure such as government offices, schools, businesses, agricultural projects, and other facilities that contribute to economic growth and community development.

Based on this detailed assessment, Kayengona, Mukwe, Ndonga, and Muroro were identified and prioritised as potential growth points, with Kayengona ranked as the highest priority.

“Despite these evidence-based findings, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development disapproved all the proposed growth points for Kavango East region, while similar considerations were granted to other regions, such as Oshikoto,” he said.

Maghambayi said approving these growth points will not only bring much-needed services closer to the people but will also strengthen the local economy and contribute to sustainable regional development.

Urban ministers advisor, Boniface Mutumba (middle) during the official handover ceremony of the newly installed streetlights along the B8 trunk road (Trans-Caprivi Highway) at Ndiyona settlement in the Kavango East.
Photo: John Muyamba



|Gâseb urges citizens to vote for development

Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders, Goab Immanuel |Gâseb has called on all eligible voters to participate ‘massively’ in the upcoming Regional Councils and Local Authorities elections.

|Gâseb in a statement on Monday described the polls as “a vital tool for shaping the development trajectory of Namibian communities” and applauded the Namibian government for its firm commitment to the Constitution through the regular hosting of peaceful and credible elections.

Such democratic practices serve as a living testament to the maturity of Namibia’s democracy, the chairperson said. “These elections are not just a constitutional process, they are an opportunity for communities to either reaffirm their support for leaders who have delivered on development, or to demand change where leadership has fallen short,” he said.

|Gâseb stated that regional and local elections, are often underestimated but carry tremendous weight for rural communities in particular.

He pointed out that elected councillors are directly responsible for championing government initiatives that tackle core issues such as water access, electricity provision, resettlement, grazing rights, education and healthcare which are critical components of rural life.

He further emphasised that the future of rural development cannot be left solely in the hands of traditional authorities. “We need collaboration among leaders. Traditional leaders, regional councils and local authorities must work together if we are to achieve sustainable and inclusive development,” he said.

In an impassioned message to the youth, |Gâseb urged young leaders to support President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah’s reforms which aim at ensuring that every Namibian benefits from the country’s natural wealth regardless of background, tribe or gender.

He encouraged those disillusioned by slow development in their constituencies not to retreat from the democratic process. “Your vote is your voice; use it to shape the future you deserve,” he stressed.

|Gâseb wished the nation a peaceful, transparent and successful elections, urging citizens to reflect on the power of the ballot to drive transformation in their communities and the nation at large.

The Regional Councils and Local Authorities Elections are scheduled for 26 November. *-Nampa*

PUBLIC NOTICE: ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) STUDY – REHABILITATION AND DUALISATION OF THREE 5KM ROAD SECTIONS FROM THE TRAFFIC LIGHT INTERSECTION IN OUTAPI TOWNLANDS: MR92 TOWARDS OSHIKUKU, MR92 TOWARDS RUACANA, AND MR123 TOWARDS IN THE OMUSATI REGION

The public is notified that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner as required under the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 and its 2012 EIA Regulations. The proposed project is a listed activity under the EIA Regulations that cannot be undertaken without an ECC, which is issued upon approval of an ESIA Study, i.e., ESIA Scoping Report and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

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Appointed Environmental Consultant: Serja Hydrogeo-Environmental Consultants CC (Serja HGE Consultants)

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Contact Person for the ESIA Study: Ms. Fredrika Shagama: Project Environmental Assessment Practitioner; Mobile No.: +264 (0) 81 749 9223 (by sending an SMS or WhatsApp for easy recording of comments or concerns); Email: eias.public@serjaconsultants.com / (direct emails or scanned/photos of clearly handwritten letters).

The public is therefore invited to register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and submit comments, concerns (in writing), and/or receive further information on the ESIA Study. The deadline for registration as I&APs and submission of comments, issues, or concerns is Friday, 05 December 2025.



Elindi brothers ordered to pay N\$14m to DBN

■ Iuze Mukube

Windhoek High Court Judge Thomas Masuku on Monday in a decisive summary judgement ruled in the favour of the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) to be repaid over N\$14 million owed by Ombili Health Centre.

The Centre is owned by Peter and Malakia Elindi.

The matter stemmed from the entity's failure to repay a loan signed on its behalf by Peter Elindi in 2017, who was its director at the time.

After countless unsuccessful attempts by the bank to recover the outstanding amount, DBN sought an order to compel Ombili and its sureties, the Elindi's and Nyambali Medical Centre to

pay 14.1 million to the bank. Since, Peter, Malakia and Nyambali were jointly and severally liable for the indebtedness of Ombili, they must ensure the amount is repaid back in full to the bank.

In terms of the loan agreement, DBN agreed to lend Ombili an amount of N\$2.6 million, which the entity would repay the amount within 36 months in monthly instalments.

Another component of the agreement, which comprised of a property loan agreement, an advance of N\$10.7 million was given to Ombili, specified to be repaid back within 132 months.

The amount accumulated to over N\$17 million after Ombili failed to pay the monthly installments in terms of the

facility agreement, and since an amount was written off via a settlement agreement, the entity had to pay back N\$12.2 million before 31 August 2024.

However, Ombili breached the agreement by failing to pay the money before 31 August last year, and the debt accumulated to N\$14.1 million as of 11 July 2025.

"Summary judgment is granted in favour of the applicant and against the first, second, third and fourth respondents, jointly and severally, the one paying the other to be absolved as follows; payment in the amount of N\$14 145 993.53," ruled Masuku.

The matter was regarded as finalised and removed from the roll.

A summary judgement is a decision that is made before a



Repayment... Peter Elindi.

Photo: Heather Erdmann

full trial is heard, where a judge rules in favor of one party after finding that there is no genuine dispute over the material facts and that the law is clear. -mukubeiuze@gmail.com

Magistrates' go-slow soon over

■ Hilma Nalupe

An agreement has been reached between the Magistrates Commission and the Office of the Judiciary, regarding the improved working conditions. Conditions which they previously voiced their discontent against.

According to a statement released by the Magistrates and Judges Association of Namibia, the improved conditions will be effected once approved by the Minister of Justice and Labour Relations, Fillemon Immanuel.

The magistrates went on industrial action since 5 November 2025, in protest of poor working conditions, concerns over poor remuneration, promotions, safety and poor institutional support.

As part of the industrial action, magistrates undertook a go-slow, which is a partial stoppage of work and instead of resuming with court at 09h00 every morning, they only begin after 14h00. This resulted in no bail hearings or trial proceedings taking place.

Representative of the magistrates, Florian Beukes clarified that magistrates have been showing up for work and starting at 08h00.

"The magistrates have been reporting to work every day at 08h00 and doing their work, the only difference is that the court hours start later than usual," Beukes said.

Beukes further stated that the magistrates will continue to work in this manner until the Minister of Justice and Labour Relations signs the agreement that will put into effect the terms reached by the Magistrates and Judges Association, together with the Magistrates Commission and the Office of the Judiciary.

When contacted for comment, Chief Regional Officer of the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations, Edmund Khoaseb was unreachable at the time.

-hilmanalupe@gmail.com



Katutura Magistrates Court

Photo: Contributed

Former Omaruru mayor nabbed for graft ...as ACC swoops in on Erongo

■ Eveline de Klerk

SWAKOPMUND - The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has arrested the former mayor of Omaruru, Hendrina Gebhardt marking it the third arrest in Erongo in less than a week.

Gebhardt, who is also the Swapo Party candidate for the Omaruru constituency in the upcoming regional elections, was taken into custody on Monday afternoon by ACC.

Her arrest stems from her time in office as the town mayor, as she is accused of abusing her office in 2012 to secure a municipal foreman position for her brother at the Omaruru town council.

The former mayor made her first appearance in the Omaruru Magistrate's Court

on Monday afternoon.

State prosecutor Martin Hausiku told the court that while the charges are serious, the State would not oppose bail of N\$10 000. Gebhardt requested that the amount be reduced, citing that she is a single mother. Magistrate Taaundamuje Mukumbo granted her bail of N\$8 000.

Hercase has been transferred to the regional Court for 4 December 2025.

Earlier this week, the ACC also arrested former control inspector of the ministry of works in Swakopmund, Anthony Christopher Dreyer. Dreyer allegedly allocated government contract of N\$84 132 to his own company, Camel Thorn Investment in 2020 without following procurement procedures.

"The work involved servicing firefighting equipment at the ministry of fisheries and marine resources," ACC said in their statement. He faces charges related to the procurement act and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA)

Dreyer was granted bail of N\$20 000 and will make his second appearance on 25 February 2026 for plea and trial.

In a separate case, two senior officials from the directorate of education were also arrested over alleged corrupt practices linked to the admission of an administrative officer into a UNAM teacher training programme meant only for unqualified teachers.

The ACC alleges that the deputy director for

programmes and quality assurance, Natalia Guriras, and administrative officer Betty Somses provided false information in 2018 to secure Somses' placement in the diploma in junior primary education (DJPE INSET) programme.

It is further alleged that the directorate falsely claimed Somses worked at a non-existent school in the region to meet the admission requirements. "Guriras was charged for corruptly using her office for gratification, while Somses was charged for providing false information to a public body," the ACC stated.

Both were granted bail of N\$10 000 each, and the matter was postponed to 24 August 2026 for plea and trial.

-edeklerk@nepc.com.na



Former mayor of Omaruru, Hendrina Gebhardt.

Photo: ACC

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Henties Bay residents fume over prepaid water meter plan

RENTHIA KAIMBI
Staff Writer

Urban and rural development minister James Sankwasa has defended the nationwide rollout of prepaid water meters. He said the move is necessary as local authorities owe NamWater about N\$3.5 billion.

Sankwasa told the Windhoek Observer that he fully supports local authorities installing prepaid meters as part of efforts to settle the growing water debt.

His comments follow rising anger in Henties Bay, where the compulsory installation of 3 500 prepaid meters has triggered protests.

“Any local authority that goes to put water meters now has my full support. Because we have to pay the N\$3.5 billion debt to NamWater,” he said.

NamWater announced in March this year that it was owed N\$2.4 billion by local authorities, municipalities, town councils, individuals, village councils, and rural water communities.

This reflected a 16% increase from the N\$2.1 billion recorded in June 2024. At the time, local authorities accounted for the largest share of the debt, owing N\$889 million in total.

Among them, the Rundu Town Council topped the list with an outstanding balance of N\$333.9 million, followed by the Rehoboth Town Council, which owed N\$108.4 million.

Sankwasa explained that the move is part of a government and cabinet decision to address the country’s escalating water debt.

“We are trying to address an abnormal situation here and we want to normalise it. There is



There is nothing amiss with Henties Bay installing prepaid water meters or any other local authority. In fact, those that are not installing prepaid meters are violating a cabinet decision, because the water bill keeps escalating with NamWater. **-James Sankwasa**

nothing amiss with Henties Bay installing prepaid water meters or any other local authority. In fact, those that are not installing prepaid meters are violating a cabinet decision, because the water bill keeps escalating with NamWater,” said Sankwasa. Documents show the Henties Bay project costs N\$26.9 million, covering the supply and installation of the meters, including system setup and testing.

The ministry has already paid N\$15 million to the supplier, ITEM Engineering, a company managed by Cenored chief executive officer Fessor Mbango. The municipality must pay the remaining N\$11.9 million by the end of the 2026/2027 financial year.

In a letter to the council in June 2025, Sankwasa acknowledged the financial strain on the municipality but urged it to “strive to avail the remaining balance”, adding that the ministry would “try to make additional budgetary provisions”.

The rollout has met strong resistance from residents, who argue that the prepaid system raises water costs and exposes them to sudden disconnections, especially after business hours.

Residents also claim there was no proper public consultation before the installation began. Some community members have calculated that prepaid users may now pay more per cubic litre. The Henties Bay Council, however, defended the project, saying it is necessary to settle its N\$10 million debt to NamWater and curb water theft. The municipality said prepaid meters ensure residents pay immediately for water used and can better manage their consumption. Henties Bay chief executive officer Ignasia Neis said the council plans to hold a follow-up meeting with residents, acknowledging that the earlier public notice did not attract enough engagement.



James Sankwasa- Photo: Contributed



NOTICE #2 !!!

The Trustees of Rössing Pension Fund are calling on all *registered former members* who have NOT claimed their allocated surplus (1st or 2nd or both allocations) to come claim IMMEDIATELY. Claims eligibility will be subjected to the Fund qualifying criteria.

All former members’ surplus NOT claimed by the 31st December 2025 will be identified and published in the Government Gazette in January 2026 as per Section 93(1) and (3) of the Administration of Estates Act No. 66 of 1965.

Subsequently, all such unclaimed surplus in the former member surplus reserve account will be deposited in the Guardian’s Fund during May 2026.

For any queries, kindly contact the Principal Officer at rpf@rossing.com.na or +264 811 45 6004.

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CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION AND PROSPECTING ACTIVITIES FOR BASE AND RARE METALS, INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, AND PRECIOUS METALS ON EPL 10561 in the OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

This notice serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an application for the environmental clearance certificate will be launched with the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Regulations (GN 30 of 2012).

Project: The proposed EPL is located approximately 30 km east of Kalkveld and 55 km northeast of Omaruru in the Otjozondjupa Region, covering an area of approximately 39,983 hectares. The area is accessible via the D2329 and D2414 gravel roads (western section) and D2483 and D2404 roads (eastern section). These established road networks provide essential logistical access to the licence area, supporting the planned exploration activities. The proponent seeks to undertake exploration and prospecting activities targeting a range of commodities, including base and rare metals, dimension stone, industrial minerals, precious metals, and semi-precious stones.

Proponent: Truepace Investments (Pty) Ltd

All interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project on or before 17/11/2025. Contact details for registration and further information:

Augite Environmental Consulting

Dr. K Kanguuechi

Email: kkanguuechi0@gmail.com.

Cell number: 0817069027



Heading out this holiday? Here's how to secure your home



As the holiday season approaches and many homeowners prepare to travel, securing your home is more important than ever.

Antonie Goosen, principal and founder of Meridian Realty, emphasizes that a proactive approach can help homeowners enjoy the festive season with peace of mind.

“Ensuring your property is secure while you’re away is crucial,” says Goosen. “Implementing a few key strategies can significantly reduce the risk of break-ins or mishaps.”

Here are Goosen’s top tips:

1. Install a comprehensive home security system – Include alarms, cameras, and motion sensors. Remote monitoring adds extra peace of mind.
2. Illuminate your property - Use timers or smart bulbs to keep your home well-lit and deter intruders.
3. Inform trusted neighbors or family - Ask them to check on your property, collect mail, and maintain the appearance of activity.
4. Reinforce entry points - Secure doors, windows, and other access points with locks, deadbolts, or security bars.
5. Use smart locks and security cameras - Upgrade for remote access control and real-time monitoring.
6. Avoid publicizing vacation plans - Refrain from sharing your absence on social media.
7. Secure valuables and documents - Use fireproof safes and digital backups for important items.
8. Arrange mail and deliveries - Suspend newspaper deliveries or have someone collect mail to avoid signs of absence.
9. Consider professional monitoring services - These can respond quickly to alerts and potential breaches.

10. Create the illusion of presence - Use timers for TVs, radios, or lights, and consider asking a neighbor to park in your driveway.

Additional expert tips: To provide a second perspective, Home-Dzine recommends simple yet effective measures:

Secure sliding doors with a block - Sliding patio doors are often a weak point. Placing a metal or wooden block in the track makes forced entry difficult.

Install metal-framed security doors - These doors add an extra barrier, allow you to open your first door safely, and improve overall home security.

Goosen adds, “A multi-layered approach is best. Combining common-sense measures with smart tools ensures your home stays safe while you enjoy the holidays.” -**Property 24**

VACANCY

Company: Atenu Developments CC
Position: Design and Projects of Head

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- 7 years of experience in construction in rural areas,
- Project Management Certification,
- Budget control and previous leadership in materials procurement.
- Use of Autocad, Revit, Project MS, Office and Adobe Suite.
- Fluency in English.

All candidates interested please send your CV to: samuel@operfin.com

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

OUTRUN CONSULTANTS CC HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE SUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF REMAINDER OF ONIIPA TOWN AND TOWNLANDS NO.1164 INTO PORTION A/1164 TO ENABLE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE-OF-THE-ART-SPORTS-AND-RECREATION-CENTER AND RELATED PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed development will trigger certain activities listed under the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Schedule 5.1) that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) being conducted and Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) being obtained. You are therefore invited to register and attend consultation meetings scheduled as follows:

Proponent: Chris Juniors Private School

Venue: Oniipa Townlands No. 1164

Date: 6 November 2025

Time: 09hrs00

Project location: The exact location of the project site is highlighted in the Background and Invitation to participate Document (BID).

Contact Details

Name: Josiah T. Mukutiri

Contact No. +264 812 683 578 Email: outrungreeninfo@gmail.com



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