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Media Monitoring on Urban Development in Namibia
Media Monitoring on Urban Development in Namibia is a service provided by Development Workshop Namibia (DWN), a newly registered Namibian NGO with a focus on sustainable urban development and poverty reduction. DWN is part of a world-wide network of Development Workshop (DW) organisations with centres in Canada, Angola and France, and offices in Vietnam and Burkino Faso. It was founded in the 1970s by three architect students in the UK and has been funded by non-governmental organisations, private citizens, and national and international development organisations.

In Namibia, DWN’s activities focus on urban related research, effective urban planning for the urban poor, solutions to informal settlements, water & sanitation, and projects specifically targeting disadvantaged segments of the urban youth. Through 40 years of engagement on urban issues mainly in Africa and Asia, the DW network of organisations has acquired significant institutional knowledge and capacity and is well integrated in regional and international networks.

The Namibian media provide an important source of information on urban development processes in the country, highlighting current events, opportunities and challenges. The media further provide insight into the different views and perceptions of a variety of actors, be it from government, non-government, private sector, and individuals that reside in Namibia’s towns and settlements.

It is therefore hoped that DWN’s Media Monitoring service will provide insights into those different views, with potential use for a variety of institutions and decision-makers that work in the urban environment in Namibia.

The Media Monitoring service is currently provided on a monthly basis and monitors the following newspapers: The Namibian, Republikein, Namibian Sun, New Era, Windhoek Observer, Confidente, and Informante.

The articles are grouped into following categories:
1. Urban Planning, Land & Housing
2. Urban Infrastructure and Services
3. Livelihoods and Urban Economy
4. Environment & Human Health

The text of the news articles has not been altered and thus reflects the opinion of the respective media outlets, and not that of DWN. We hope you find this service useful and interesting. DWN is keen to improve the service and welcomes suggestions and comments.

Yours sincerely,

Development Workshop Namibia
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1 Urban Planning, Land and Housing

1.1 Land grabbers in Rundu are at it again

*The New Era* | 02/08/2018

A mob of people referring to themselves as the ‘landless residents’ has illegally demarcated plots for themselves in Rundu, a week after they were stopped from occupying the land illegally. They insist that they have waited for too long for the council to allocate them land. The group has been camping on site since July 21, and claim to have over 2000 members on their list who need land. They are currently demarcating a virgin piece of land to cater to that number. When the group was stopped by police on Saturday July 21, they gave council an ultimatum to get back to them with positive feedback within a week. When the town council arranged a meeting with the group on July 25, at the Kavango Community Convention Centre, the group refused to attend the meeting at that venue. They demanded that the meeting take place at the area where they wish to settle. “Council will not hold a meeting at the land where they are now, the council chose a venue which is suitable for a meeting, they could have agreed if they were willing to discuss with council, yet they refused,” said the Public Relations Officer for Rundu, Benjamin Makayi. Makayi cautioned that people should not take matters into their own hands but follow procedures. “Everything have rules and regulations and they have to be followed. We know that some of this people have got plots already, some have sold their plots and are now in that group, why they are there is for them to get plots and resell them, and that is not what we want for our town,” Makayi continued. However, the group maintains that they do not have plots and they live with their parents, rent, and relatives. “We are demarcating our streets and plots with equal sizes as you can see, and we are also verifying that no one should get more than one plot. We won’t erect permanent structures for now just shacks,” said group committee member Alex Muyambango. In October last year, the group attempted to grab land at the area known as the golf course and the police were called in to halt them with threats of arrest. That was followed by meetings with the council where the group claims it was given the hope of getting land, only to later be told that the plans would no longer materialise. They said this was the reason they planned to grab land.

1.2 Give people land – Gaborone mayor

*The Namibian* | 08/08/2018

The mayor of Botswana’s capital city, Gaborone, Kagiso Thutlwe, yesterday challenged the City of Windhoek to address the issue of informal settlements. He was speaking in Windhoek at an event where a cooperation agreement was signed between the two cities which already have an existing cooperation agreement, signed in 2003, which was never implemented. Thutlwe said Windhoek was too beautiful a city to have informal settlements, and that such areas should not be called informal settlements to make them sound nice, but rather squatter camps. “People should get land. I see you have land. They should get land so that they can build better houses. They are the responsibility of not just yourself, but also of the President, who resides here with them,” the visitor stressed. The young Gaborone mayor also expressed gratitude for the hospitality he received, and praised Windhoek’s cleanliness, roads and the wastage management system, amongst others. Windhoek mayor Muesee Kapazua said more could also be learned from Gaborone, especially in terms of by-laws. He expressed happiness that the relationship between the two cities would be cemented because Namibia and Botswana shared a long history of cooperation. Windhoek’s acting chief executive officer, Fillemon Hambuda, and the town clerk of Gaborone, Israel Lebuile, presented some of the issues the two cities had agreed on, and also mentioned that an action plan would soon be approved. Aspects such as capacity building, cultural exchanges, tourism, waste management and law enforcement were part of the cooperation agreement.
1.3 'Address urban, ancestral land and absentee landlords'

The Namibian | 08/08/2018

For the second national land conference to be seen as genuine rather than a political gimmick, it must address urban land, ancestral land, farms owned by absentee landlords, as well as the resettlement programme. These were the views of Rally for Democracy and Progress secretary general Mike Kavekotora when interviewed by Nampa recently. “There are a number of issues that must form part of the agenda for it not to be seen as lip service by the ruling party. The issue of urban land must form part of the agenda, as must the issue of absentee landlords. The whole resettlement programme must be reviewed and re-engineered to have meaningful significance in the eyes of the public”, he stated. He then took on the subject of ancestral land, which has been a thorny issue among its antagonists and protagonists alike. “People must respect the historical perspective of other communities. There are people who are not uniquely qualified to speak about ancestral land, and would want to see the issue of ancestral land not discussed at this conference,” said Kavekotora. The politician added that the participants and those allowed to present position papers on land at the upcoming indaba must be clearly defined. “It must be clearly stated for them not to be seen as stooges just brought in to sing and dance to the tune of Swapo,” he noted, adding that the aspect of overpopulation and the fencing off of large tracts of land by the powerful and rich in communal areas must likewise feature prominently. Also, a commission of inquiry should be constituted to determine who benefited from government’s land reform through corrupt or illicit means. “No matter relating to land must be tabooed. The allocation of farms through corruption must come to the fore and must be discussed, and the people who are responsible for those exercises must be taken to task,” he said. The land conference is scheduled to take place from 1 to 5 October 2018. Last month, land consultations were held countrywide in preparation for the conference. According to the concept paper for the land conference, ancestral land restitution, the willing buyer-willing seller approach, the removal of the veterinary cordon fence, land valuation and pricing, the bankability of communal land, and urban land reform are some of the topical issues the convention will attempt to address.

1.4 Henties residents threaten to grab land

The New Era | 09/08/2018

Some landless residents of Henties Bay have threatened to grab land today if their demands for residential land are not met. Residents will stage a peaceful demonstration today at the town after which, they said, they will resort to land grabbing if council does not respond to them in writing by 11h00 today. The group that identify themselves as the Henties Bay Social Action movement say some of them have been on the council’s waiting list for the Build Together programme for more than 10 years. Chairperson of the group, Andreas Prins, told New Era yesterday that the waiting list for the Build Together programme was stopped when houses were constructed under the mass housing project. He says that about 200 residents will take part in the demonstration today. “Council knew exactly what the demands of the residents were in terms of housing. They knew that ordinary residents would not be able to afford the mass houses, yet they went along and built them,” Prins said. He added they are frustrated with council, accusing it of merely shrugging its shoulders when residents previously demanded houses and residential plots. “We have been renting for years now. Our kids are not young anymore and we certainly are also not getting younger. Until when must we pay rent?” According to Prins, they handed a petition in May to the council in which they demanded affordable houses and residential land for residents. He said the council’s only response to the petition was that they did not have funds to meet their demands. “We are giving council until 11h00 today to respond to our demands in writing, if not, we will go out in masses and grab land as council failed us in terms of land and housing delivery,” he said. When he was contacted for comment yesterday, the Mayor of Henties Bay Herman Honeb said there are currently no funds to service land at the town. “However, our officials met with the group and had good discussions about the issue. It is just that some of their
demands are unrealistic and cannot be met overnight,” he said. Honeb said the shortage of land is not an issue peculiar to Henties Bay but affects all municipalities in the country. “This is one of the reasons why the second national land conference is taking place in October to also discuss and seek solutions to how best local authorities can address the challenges,” he elaborated. He cautioned residents of Henties Bay to rather directly consult with the council instead of resorting to land grabbing, as it would give the town a bad image. “We do not want to scare away investors as we need them for development,” he said.

1.5 The new land question

*The Namibian* | 10/08/2018

Urbanisation is a defining character of our times. ‘The right to the city’ is not only the right to live in a city, but the right to change it. This is important because by changing the places we live we change ourselves. Namibia’s towns and spaces are the result of an apartheid-modernist regime aimed to separate. Just as past regimes developed a comprehensive plan to effect divisive policies in the country (e.g. the Odendaal plan), today the second land conference provides an opportunity to deliberate a plan for a new way of producing the towns and spaces where we live.

Thesis on urbanisation in Namibia

1. Namibia’s future will be predominantly urban. Although on a statistical level this might be understood, the deeper implications of an urban future have not been well articulated.
2. Namibia will need to accommodate two million additional urban inhabitants by 2050. At this point, the proportion of those living in urban and rural areas will be the opposite of that in 1990. The provision of housing that would be required every year to meet the need, is more than the total numbers of houses provided through state-supported mechanisms since independence.
3. Government expenditure on housing and urban development has been insufficient, compared with much higher levels of investment in OECD countries, Zambia or South Africa.
4. The vast majority of households are excluded from the ‘formal’ housing market. The Namibia Labour Force Survey (2014) indicates that almost 90% of households earn less than N$5 000 per month and only about 4% has a monthly income above N$10 000.
5. Urbanisation is largely driven by inhabitants mobilising their resources at the grassroots level. Efforts like those of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and other self-organised groups provide examples of how grassroots-led urban development takes place, how it can be supported (or frustrated) by local authority professionals.
6. The informal economy is becoming the largest base for employment in Namibia, estimated at two-thirds of employment. Urban planning and development needs to acknowledge this reality to actively empower the informal economy.
7. The prevailing low-density suburban model is unsustainable and reproduces social inequality. This is not only expensive to develop and service, but creates a low future rates base, provides little opportunities for informal economies to emerge, and is generally expensive to maintain, both for local authorities and for inhabitants.
8. Emphasis on ‘ownership’ over other forms of security of tenure can have the opposite effect, namely endangering security of tenure of the urban poor. International experience shows that titling programmes are effective when there’s a relative balance between supply and demand. The urban poor are prone to sell in distress situations, even when there’s clauses preventing the sale, as transactions may take place informally.
9. Innovation takes place largely at the local government level. Some local authorities have developed planned layouts preparing informal settlements for future upgrading; others have developed local forms of titling; and others have developed a collaborative approach to engage with informal
settlement groups. However, local authorities' funding is in pressing need of reform to enable such innovation.

10. The commercial private sector can't provide systemic solutions for the urban poor beyond charity. Public-private partnerships are effective for credit-linked medium-density (rental) houses, but not where there is lack of 'effective demand' (i.e. those in need of a house with the funds to acquire it at market prices).

11. Rural and urban development needs to be jointly addressed. New policies and frameworks for urban development need to take the entire territory as a whole.

12. Urbanisation represents a unique opportunity to focus state-supported development efforts, as cities are inherently public, contain a vast amount of opportunities for livelihoods generation, education and other social benefits, and are places where existing networks are intense and can be mobilised to meet public development efforts half-way.

Potential 'game changers'

The right to adequate housing. This United Nations definition is comprehensive and covers various aspects of housing, learning from past international experience: 'Adequate housing' is not just affordable houses, but also needs to be tenure-secure, culturally adequate, optimally located, supported with infrastructure, among others. It does not mean that the government should provide houses for everyone, but that it must support the 'progressive attainment' of adequate housing over time. Through informal settlement upgrading and planned layouts with local, flexible forms of titling, major strides can be made in the provision of urban land for sustainable urban development for the vast majority of citizens. Focus public investment on public infrastructure. Support for livelihoods opportunities (e.g. informal markets), educational and health facilities, recreational facilities, and transport infrastructure are required to have a dignified life in urban areas. Higher density urban development and an increase in the variety of housing opportunities (including regulated rental housing) can make housing more affordable, flexible, and more widely available. A form of development that is progressively attained, and that provides a framework for a different kind of urbanisation to develop from the onset, should be embraced.

Discussion

Land debates, both urban and rural, are often driven by political considerations. Urban land can be a key device in reducing poverty in the country as a whole. How does one change the narrative enabling 'formal' institutions to support 'informal processes'? There is a perception that acknowledging 'the informal' is 'breaking the law', but the reality is that the formal and the informal need to meet each other half way. Solutions will differ, whether you depart from the disadvantaged point of view or the privileged point of view. Therefore, it is important to include disadvantaged groups in the discussion, so that the decision-making process does not become too technical and does not speak about 'the poor' as 'the other' living 'elsewhere', but as 'us'. It is also important to acknowledge the issue of representation. Organisations like the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia represent tens of thousands of members, so their arguments should carry more weight than individual contributions. What would 'social housing' mean in the context of Namibia? The mass housing blueprint mentioned social housing, but it did not unpack what such programme would entail. There is a need to have periodic fora where urban issues are discussed and the university is a strategic place to do so.

About 'The New Land Question' programme

The aim is to activate the university as a platform to re-examine 'the land question' in Namibia, define the contemporary nature of the situation, and identify emerging questions from a contemporary, multi-disciplinary, and projective point of view. The programme is coordinated by the Integrated Land
Residents refuse to relocate from Choto channel

The Namibian | 13/08/2018

Despite the Katima Mulilo Town Council’s efforts to provide serviced plots for people living in the Choto water channel, they have refused to be moved, preferring to remain and risk floods during rainy seasons. Most of the people live in mud houses, and every rainy season, their houses are flooded and damaged together with their goods. The town council is currently holding consultative meetings with the residents of Choto compound, especially those living in the canal, to encourage them to move out of the waterway. Katima Mulilo town council corporate communications officer Muyoba Muyoba told The Namibian last week that after the surveyors evaluated the town in 2004, council was advised that that specific area was not suitable for residential plots as it is a waterway. “The council decided after that report from the surveyors to make plots available in the higher areas of Choto compound for these people to be relocated. However, up to today, many people have refused to move. The council will bring water and roads to where they will be relocated. We are also in consultation with the Northern Regional Electricity Distributor (NoRED) for electricity, and the process of installing sewerage facilities in the whole compound are in the pipeline. So, there is no reason why they refuse to move, claiming the plots are not serviced,” he stated.

Muyoba said the issue of whether the people will be compensated or not will still be discussed in the next management meeting. The deputy mayor of Katima Mulilo, Charles Matengu, told The Namibian yesterday that they have realised that some people who agreed to move out have also seen a business opportunity, and started renting or selling the plots in the waterway. “They do not even have title deeds, but they are busy selling or renting them out, which is not good at all. The people should understand that this is for their own good because according to the surveyor's recommendations, in 50 years, the riverbed will expand. This means those who seem not to be affected much now will be in trouble then,” he explained.

Lifasi Matali, one of the people who are to be relocated, told The Namibian that she does not want to move to a new place because since she came back from Windhoek in 1994, that is the place she has called home. “I do not want to be relocated as I'm in the process of building a permanent structure at this plot. In fact, although I am living next to the waterway, my plot is not flooded when it rains. So, I see no reason to move. We cannot go and start afresh over there as there is still no electricity or water,” she stated. Buying a plot in informal settlements like Choto costs N$10 per square metre. In a meeting with the residents in May, chief executive officer Raphael Liswaniso said the council was owed N$86 million for plots and N$57 million for services, and this was hampering the development of the town.

Keetmanshoop municipality to service 110 erven

The Namibian | 13/08/2018

The Keetmanshoop municipality has allocated N$15 million for the servicing of 110 erven in the Westdene residential area, including the provision of roads and electricity. This was said by the municipality’s public relations officer, Dawn Kruger, in a press statement on Thursday. The funds were provided by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, and the erven already have water and sewer reticulation done in 2016, the statement indicated. Furthermore, the ministry, the municipality and the National Housing Enterprise handed over 88 plots in the Krönlein residential area to J Groenewaldt Properties at the end of last month for the construction of houses under the Mass Housing Programme at a cost of N$22 million. The mass housing project commenced in Keetmanshoop in 2013, and was executed in various phases. So far, 199 houses have been constructed, of which 159 have been handed over to their respective owners. The rest will be handed over in due course. “The Keetmanshoop municipal council is committed to taking the necessary resolutions to ensure that the
houses are legally transferred to the owners soon,” the statement added. It said with the construction of the remaining 88 houses expected to be completed within the next six months, Keetmanshoop will have completed its initial mass housing project. The statement also indicated that the Road Fund Administration (RFA) has made available N$676 000 for the procurement of equipment for traffic law enforcement in the new financial year. “Equipment such as alcohol testing machines for traffic officers will be purchased. The RFA also budgeted close to N$1 million to rehabilitate First Avenue – the road to the governor’s office – in town during the current financial year,” the statement reads.

1.8 NHE wants to construct 423 houses

The National Housing Enterprises (NHE) has requested for a proposed strategy for the construction of 423 houses in Rundu, Omuthiya, Oshakati and Okahao by the end of February 2019, its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Gisbertus Mukulu has said. Mukulu made the announcement on Monday at the handover ceremony of a house by Standard Bank Namibia through its Buy-a-Brick initiative to Paralympic Games gold-medallist, Ananias Shikongo. He thus called on the local authorities to avail serviced land to NHE at affordable prices that will enable it to construct and sell the houses that are affordable to the majority of Namibians. He explained that apart from limited financial resource at NHE’s disposal, there is also a lack of available serviced land for the development of houses in local authorities. The available serviced land is very expensive and has an ultimate effect on the cost of housing products, he added. He however expressed that unfavourable housing prices in Namibia are being fuelled by expensive municipal land. Mukulu said currently there is not enough supply of housing stock in the market and consequently the profit-oriented developers have an opportunity to exploit market forces to their advantage. This means that low-income groups will not be able to acquire decent houses, he added. We at NHE are aware of some challenges before us in the provision of housing to the nation, he noted, saying that these challenges include limited public investment in housing and municipal infrastructure, which contributes significantly to very high costs of houses in Namibia. The CEO continued that NHE could not do what the private institutions are practicing by inflating housing prices as its target income group will not afford them. As a public entity, the NHE is further faced with a challenge where it competes for the acquisition of housing land with private sector institutions, which are prepared to pay the high cost of land and simply transfer cost to the clients, Mukulu said.

1.9 The challenge of urban land

Veteran property developer Bennie Joseph says that municipalities will need a lot of assistance if they have to make enough land available to meet the demand as urbanisation continues to grow. Joseph made the remarks in the build up to the national land conference, slated for October this year, in an interview with Namibian Sun. “Municipalities are not in a position to develop because there is a shortage of money. Government does not also have the money to develop the land. We have enough land but not enough capital,” Joseph said. Without mentioning a specific value required, Joseph said that government would need a lot of money. He added that he did not believe that there was unwillingness on the part of government to develop urban land in Windhoek and other towns. “It will take a lot of money and it is not because government does not want to, it simply cannot. We are in a situation now where the taps have been closed. This has brought the market to a standstill. Speculation has disappeared,” Joseph said. He also felt that policy makers should observe the sentiments on the ground to tackle the land problem with the land conference scheduled for October. “There was no communication on urban land. Those discussions never took place. “Government must intervene and listen to the man on the street. Government needs to find out what the voting public want. People must be realistic [though],” Joseph cautioned. According to him, the first conference did not address
the issue thoroughly and there would be a need now to hone in deeply into the matter. The conference will take place from 1 to 5 October at the Safari Court Hotel in Windhoek. Although it is unclear at this point what the exact agenda for the conference will be, it is certain that ancestral land and expropriation, with or without compensation, will take centre stage. During his State of the Nation Address (SONA) earlier this year President Geingob said ancestral land restitution would be discussed at the upcoming conference. Also on the agenda would be the willing buyer, willing seller principle; expropriation in the public interest with just compensation, as provided for in the constitution; urban land reform and resettlement criteria, and the veterinary cordon fence.

1.10 No money to compensate residents for development

Republikein|16/08/2018

The Nkurenkuru Town Council needs N$137 million to compensate 706 households to make way for the town’s development. The council’s chief executive officer (CEO), Petrus Sindimba, told Nampa the town council does not have the money to compensate residents, a challenge that is hindering the development process of the town. He said before Nkurenkuru was proclaimed as a town in 2006, it was a settlement area and many people were residing within the communal area. “For development to take place, we need to compensate residents as per the government compensation policy, but due to the current economic crisis there are no funds,” he said. Article 16(2) of the Namibian Constitution gives Parliament power to make laws that allow state-established bodies such as local authorities to expropriate property in the public interest, on condition that it pays compensation to those affected by such expropriation.

Plan

Sindimba noted that as per the town’s developmental plan, there are 19 extensions identified for the development of houses of which six have been fully serviced. The CEO added the town has a shortage of serviced land and there is a high demand for it as many government and private companies need land to build due to decentralisation of services. “Since the town council does not have money to develop the town entirely on its own, it has thus far partnered with two companies, Etemo Investment Property and G-Investment Property, in October 2017 through public-private partnerships to develop parts of the land,” Sindimba explained. The tender given to the two companies is to service erven with tarred roads and water, electricity and sewer connections as well as to build affordable houses on some erven. A related challenge at Nkurenkuru is lack of infrastructural development, with Sindimba pointing out that some government agencies and ministries were not developing land that was allocated to them free of charge. The donation of land to these institutions was an effort by the council to fast-track development in the town, the smallest in Namibia, and bring needed services to its residents. The town, described by Sindimba as being in its infant stage, is home to around 15 000 inhabitants.

1.11 Nkurenkuru town council to repossess undeveloped erven

Republikein|17/08/2018

The Nkurenkuru Town Council will soon repossess undeveloped erven which have been allocated to individuals at the town, the council’s chief executive officer (CEO), Petrus Sindimba warned. In an interview with Nampa, Sindimba said erven lying idle for more than the grace period of three years, will be returned to council and allocated to individuals who are ready to develop the plots. Sindimba said there are over 231 fully-serviced erven allocated to applicants for businesses and houses and are not yet developed. “Those with erven that are not developed can voluntarily return the plots to the council or else we are going to repossess them because we want development in the town,” said
Sindimba. He said the council has written warning letters to applicants in July with an extension period of three months to start developing the erven before repossession. “There is a shortage of serviced land in Nkurenkuru, yet those allocated land are doing nothing and council would rather give land to individuals who are ready to develop,” he stressed. Sindimba advised interested people to apply only when ready and instead give opportunities to those who are prepared to be part of the Nkurenkuru development drive. The CEO earlier in a separate interview, also bemoaned the delay in services to residents on the part of various government agencies and ministries that are yet to develop land allocated to them free of charge. Nkurenkuru, previously a settlement, was proclaimed as a town in 2006. The town, described by Sindimba as being in its infant stage, is home to around 15 000 inhabitants.

1.12 Oshitayi land disputed resolved

The Namibian Sun | 21/08/2018

The Ondangwa town council has resolved a dispute in which a family of seven was facing eviction from their home at Oshitayi townlands in Ondangwa. The decision was made in favour of Tarah Nangolo and his family, who were left stranded last year after they were evicted from the house which Nangolo built 2015 in Ondukutu village in Oshitayi. It is reported that Nangolo received the land from the late Ondukutu village headman, Tarah limbili in 2000. In 2015, another village resident, Luther Natangwe limbili, approached the Oshakati High Court claiming that the piece of land were Nangolo built his house belongs to him. In November 2015, Nangolo was issued with a court summons. He went to court, but he ended up losing the case in October 2016. In April last year, Nangolo was issued with another court letter informing him of the removal of his belongings from his house and ordering him to pay N$84 594. Again on 29 June last year he, was approached by the messenger of the High Court and served with an eviction order. It is, however, alleged that that limbili claimed to be in possession of a title deed from the town council giving him ownership of the land. The town council challenged the authenticity of limbili's documents which the former acting CEO of Ondangwa, Paulus Ndjdhi allegedly signed in 2016. The council CEO Ismael Namgongo, said that the issue is a family matter and has nothing to do with the town council. “Ondukutu village is part of town council's land, but it has not been proclaimed as a township yet. The area has not been serviced yet and town council has not issued plots or a title deeds to residents - as limbili was claiming. The letter in question was issued, but it is not a title deed. It is an acknowledgement letter that he resides in that village. It cannot be used to claim for any land in that village,” Namgongo said. “We had a meeting with the community together with the traditional authority and it was resolved that the land belongs to Nangolo.” Nangolo, when contacted, would not comment on the matter.

1.13 City street renaming a menace

The Namibian | 23/08/2018

The City of Windhoek has failed to internalise street renaming into their system, leading to some residents having similar erf numbers, and bills being issued under old street names. City spokesperson Lydia Amutenya last week confirmed that this has happened, but added that they are working on synchronising the street renaming into their system. Some residents have shared their concerns with The Namibian that although street names have been changed, they still receive their municipal bills under the old street names. Others also claimed that in the case of street mergers, they have had to share erven numbers. This issue came up when veteran lawyer Andreas Vaatz recently complained about street renaming, and the inconvenience it brings when the renaming is not harmonised with the operations of the municipality. The lawyer is one of the residents whose street in Windhoek's Ludwigsdorf was changed from Gloudina Street to Joseph Mukwayu Ithana Street back in 2011. Vaatz had resisted the street renaming but failed in court twice. However, eight years later, he still receives
his municipal bills under the Gloudina Street reference. “This fact is important because whenever one wants to open a new account at a bank, the bank wants proof of one's private address, and they always demand a copy not older than three months [...] Thus, I tell the bank manager that I stay in Joseph Mukwayu Ithana Street, and he asks me for proof of where I stay. I then hand him a copy of the municipal account, which is still under the old name Gloudina Street, and he thinks I am lying,” said Vaatz. The Namibian's mini-survey revealed that some houses in former Mission Road and Gewers Street, which were merged to become Kwame Nkrumah Street, share the same erf numbers. Additionally, Uhland Street, which was renamed to Kenneth Kaunda Street back in 2013, still shows up on internet searches as Uhland Street, and not under the new name. So far, there have been over 60 street renamings in Windhoek. The Namibian visited the controversial street this week and realised that the city had failed to rename the playground after Ithana as it still uses Gloudina, the old street name. Amutenya said the city's secretariat to the street and place naming/renaming committee is aware of other similar cases. “However, the responsible unit is working on the updating of the system. The secretariat will once more use this enlightenment to ensure action by the respective unit,” she promised. “We acknowledge that there is a need for the synchronisation and reallocation of gate numbers/house numbers, especially in instances where streets were merged. However, it should be noted that the street renaming or merging of streets does not affect the erf number, neither does it contribute to the mix-up or duplication of erf numbers in a township.”

Renaming Objections

Vaatz wrote an objection letter to the latest proposed street renaming of Bismarck Street to Simeon Lineekela Shixungileni. “It is thus not understood why this street must now be renamed to Simeon Lineekela Shixungileni, a name I have never heard of in my life,” he stated. According to the lawyer, this will affect his business, as his clients will not be able to find him under this lengthy and challenging name. “More practical is not to use persons’ names for street names, but instead names one can easily remember, such as names after plants, stones or Christian names such as Anna or Katerina, etc. I hereby wish to call on all interested members of this city to express objections to the continued changes of street names in Namibia,” said Vaatz. He said his firm spends over N$50 000 on letterheads, stamps and cover cases, which he will now have to change at the same cost. The lawyer stated that the constitution of the country calls for fairness, and asked whether it was fair for the street to be renamed by those who do not have offices there. Some businesses in Bismarck Street such as EuropCar, Wes Architects, Bits & IT Solutions supported Vaatz in rejecting the street renaming as it would affect operations. Amutenya said the city got Vaatz's objection letter, and that consideration of the specific application was done following the street and place naming guidelines, which make provision for public consultation after the council had pronounced itself on the matter. “Procedurally, the appeal needs to be further considered by the committee and ultimately by the council, which will take the final decision,” she explained. According to her, the decision taken by the council on any lodged appeal (reconsideration of an appealed application) will be final, and no further objections will be entertained. “At this stage, and with the current prevailing appeal(s), the decision taken by the municipal council to rename Bismarck Street is not final, as such appeals need to be given the deserving consideration by the council,” said Amutenya.

1.14 Okongo faces land allocation challenge

The Namibian Sun/29/08/2018

Since Okongo’s proclamation as a village, the local village council has been faced with the challenge of allocating land to the people who would like to construct their houses. According to village council CEO, Wodibo Haulofu, the local authority has formalised land where a number of plots have been established, but there is no money for servicing, so the plots cannot be allocated to those who want to build. Haulofu said currently the village council has demarcated the town land into five extensions
were 600 plots have been established, but residents who own property have no title deeds at this stage. “Many of these plots have been partly allocated to the owners, but they cannot build their houses yet. The land has been surveyed, but has not been serviced. We cannot fully allocate the plots to the owners because the land is not yet serviced. We are still looking to the line ministry to make funds available to us to service the land, so that we can allocate it to the owners,” Haulofu said. “Currently we have about 1 000 people who want to build their houses in Okongo, but due to the unavailability of serviced land we cannot allow them to do that.” Haulofu said last year the village council used N$3 million for the construction of electrical reticulation services for 212 plots and street lighting in the main road. “We are getting a little money from the line ministry and the National Planning Commission (NPC) and we are trying by all means to utilise it. Currently we have awarded a tender for the construction of electricity (infrastructure) for 200 plots to the value of N$8.5 million. We are again waiting for about N$11 million from the NPC, which we are going to use for sewage and water services.” Haulofu said business development is doing better at the village, but there is no movement on housing land delivery. “We are also faced with the slow pace of the implementation of capital projects due to a reduced budget. We would like the government to avail more funds so we can implement our projects within the planned period,” he said. The council is also planning to make Okongo food self-sufficient and is demarcating agricultural plots to attract investors. Haulofu said investors with agricultural options are welcome to build their houses in Okongo and invest, in order to create employment. He said about 600 people have applied for land at the village, which is more plots than the council can deliver at the moment. Apart from formal residential housing, the council also created 600 plots in the informal area. Haulofu said all those currently occupying land without it being allocated by the council will be relocated to the informal area. “There are many shacks within the town land and we have allocated many of them with numbers. We are relocating these people to the informal area, according to the numbers we allocated them. In Okongo we do not want anybody to feel left out.”

1.15 Council makes amends for Chinese land saga

*The Namibian Sun* | 30/08/2018

The Okongo village council is constructing a N$2 million facility to house a women’s tailoring project, after the land the initiative had previously occupied was allocated to a Chinese firm. In 2016, the village council allocated two prime plots to Chinese-owned entity, Lenn’s Investment, to establish two business complexes, while one of the plots was occupied by the tailoring project. The council has since been trying to rebuild its relationship with the community, following the huge uproar caused by it allocating the plots to the Chinese firm. The deal was not well received by local residents, who were up in arms at the time. They were furious that the village council had allocated two strategically-located business plots that were at the time being occupied by nine local women, who had set up a tailoring project. The women were evicted and left without a place to operate from, but last year the village council moved to make amends by giving the green light for the construction of a new facility for them, to the tune of N$2 million. Village council CEO, Wodibo Haulofu, told Namibian Sun the women were affected by the plot allocations to the Chinese company, which had paved the way for business development. “The council allocated two prime plots to a Chinese investor to construct two business complexes. The two plots were occupied by a group of women who were owned a tailoring project and were operating from one of the plots, but the land was not allocated to them,” Haulofu said. “Since these women were affected by this development and they lost the place where they were operating from, the council decided to build a tailoring project for them.” Haulofu said the new premises currently under construction will have the capacity to accommodate about 30 tailors and will include office space for an administrator. In 2016, angry residents staged a peaceful demonstration to condemn the council’s decision to award the land to the Chinese entity. Some residents even clashed with the Chinese business owner, after they tried to prevent a construction company from building on
the plots. Haulofu said the council is doing everything in its power to reconcile with the community, especially the affected women.

1.16  City warns corrupt land applicants

*The Namibian Sun* | 31/08/2018

Windhoek city councillor Hileni Ulumbu this week slammed property developers accused of corruptly using persons with disabilities to apply for land. Although it is unclear how many such cases have been identified, City spokesperson Lydia Amutenya told Namibian Sun that there were currently 170 applications by people with disabilities on the waiting list. “This is an increasing practice that came to the attention of the council,” Amutenya said. Ulumbu said the council had “noted with great concern a trend whereby our residents with disabilities are used as fronts in applications for land”. She warned that it is a criminal act to forge documents purporting that an application is made by a disabled person. She warned the public, especially persons with disabilities, not to fall victim to corrupt developers who “get their land application through and later abandon them after such approval is granted”. Ulumbu said this practice was unacceptable and must end immediately. She said property developers were using disabled people to apply for land, “with a notion that such projects are aimed at providing employment and uplifting the living standards of people with disabilities”. Ulumbu said the City was already burdened with a backlog of applications for residential plots and therefore urged all residents to follow the correct procedures. She said the City would remain vigilant against corruption in land applications.
2 Urban Infrastructure and Services

2.1 Water restrictions in place again

*The Namibian Sun* | 02/08/2018

The City of Windhoek has reinstated water restrictions after its supply dams received only a quarter of the expected inflow in the past rainy season. Windhoek residents will be forced to cut their water use by 10%, the municipality announced this week. NamWater recently announced that the storage dams supplying water to central Namibia received only 24.91% of the average expected inflow. This left the municipality with no choice but to change its water status from Category B (supply alert) to Category C (water scarcity). This comes a little more than a year after the City relaxed severe water restrictions in June last year following a good rainy season. The municipality had been implementing Category E (critical) water restrictions, which required 20% water savings, for a year and half. Category C has a mandatory 10% savings target. The City thanked residents for their "continuous efforts to use water wisely and for the savings achieved thus far, especially in the 2017/18 season when an average saving of 7.69% was achieved against the target of 5%.” NamWater’s weekly dam bulletin, issued on Monday, showed that the Swakoppoort Dam is only 33.5% full, compared to 48.9% last season. The level of the Von Bach Dam is at 52.3%, compared to 68.6% last season. The Omatako Dam is at 1.1%, compared to 24.6% last season. Water transfers from Swakoppoort to Von Bach started in March, and transfers from Omatako to Von Bach began in February. The total level of the three dams stands at 30.2%, compared to 48.1% at the same time last year. The City urged residents to comply with the Category C water savings target and said weekly water-use updates would be issued. The restrictions allow lawns to be watered twice a week. Trees, shrubs and perennial plants may also be watered twice a week, but by hand only. Flowers, vegetables and community gardens too may be watered by hand only, not with sprinkler systems. No watering may take place between 09:00 and 18:00 in summer and between 10:00 and 16:00 in winter. Sports fields and public gardens must be watered with semi-purified water only. The restrictions include a ban on washing cars with hosepipes at home. Buckets may be used to wash cars. Commercial carwash operations are limited to 30 litres per car. The City urges residents to keep a close eye on their water consumption in order to quickly detect water leaks, and to limit consumption to 90 litres per person per day.

2.2 Windhoek residents urged to save water

*The New Era* | 03/08/2018

In light of shrinking water in its supply sources the City of Windhoek has urged residents to save 10 percent of water as the City faces a water scarcity. This comes after an official water scarcity was declared and subsequently water restrictions should be implemented accordingly, the City of Windhoek announced. As a result, water saving targets for Windhoek accordingly increased from five percent to 10 percent. A press statement issued by the City said the recent announcement made by NamWater was that the inflow into the dams for the past rainy season amounted to only about 24.9 percent of the average expected inflow. “Therefore, in line with the provisions of the water management plan, the City of Windhoek herewith announces to our esteemed residents that, based on the current situation with regard to the availability of water for the next three years, the City of Windhoek has no choice but to increase demand management by moving from the current category, which is to reduce water consumption to mandatory water savings as per the scarcity severity with effect from August 1,” reads the statement. The City has also started with water restriction measures as of August 1 which include restriction of watering of gardens, the washing of cars at home, other than utilising certified car washes, while pool covers are mandatory and no filling of private pools is allowed. The City’s section engineer: mechanical and electrical, Jacobus Theron, explained the importance of water demand management or water saving of at least 10 percent. “All the saving we
will gain on that 10 percent we offset against the abstraction from the boreholes. We are trying not to abstract too much water from the aquifer. We are still trying to keep the emergency source for the future. Whatever we can save today and tomorrow will be offset against abstraction — meaning we are pumping less water from the aquifer, which will be good for us in the long run,” said Theron. He added that they are planning to have sources that will sustain the City for the next three seasons if there are no inflows into the dams, which necessitated plans to use some of the emergency sources such as boreholes in Windhoek and other emergency sources that are managed by NamWater.

2.3 Windhoekers móet nou 10% water spaar

Republikein | 07/08/2018

Stadsbewoners sal voorts 10% water moet spaar nadat die Windhoekse munisipaliteit 'n waterskaarste aangekondig het. Dit volg nadat die nasionale waterverskaffer, Nam-Water, onlangs bekend gemaak het dat min water tydens die afgelope reënseisoen damme binnegevloei het wat Sentraal-Namibië van water voorsien: Net sowat 25% van die normale hoeveelheid. Die munisipaliteit het verlede jaar 'n waterbestuursplan opgestel waarvolgens hy die bestuur van die stad se water aanpas volgens NamWater se jaarlikse vooruitskouing vir waterverskaffing. Hiervolgens is die stad nou van kategorie B, vir 'n watertoevoerwaarskuwing, na kategorie C, vir waterskaarste, vanaf 1 Augustus geskuif. Dit beteken onder meer dat grasperke slegs twee maal per week natgemaak mag word, terwyl bome, bosse en meerjarige plante slegs met die hand twee maal per week natgemaak mag word.

Monitor verbruik

In die somer is die natmaak van tuine verbode tussen 09:00 en 18:00, terwyl dieselfde geld tussen 10:00 en 16:00 in die winter. Sportvelde en publieke tuine mag slegs met gedeeltelik gesuiwerde water natgemaak word. Verdere beperkings sluit in dat klerspieëlwater slegs 30 liter water per kar mag gebruik, swembadbedekkings verplig is en fonteine nie mag loop nie. Die munisipaliteit raai huishoudings aan om hul waterverbruik gereeld of minstens weekliks te monitor om enige waterlekkasies vroeegtydig op te spoor. Afslag vir lekkasies sal voorts slegs vir een maand aan huishoudings toegestaan word. Die munisipaliteit het Windhoek-inwoners bedank nadat hulle in die 2017-'18 reënseisoen gemiddeld 7,69% water bespaar het, terwyl die teiken 5% was. “Stadsinwoners word aangemoedig om voort te gaan om water te bespaar, hul verbruik binne aanvaarbare vlakke te hou en ook by die vereiste besparings van 10% te hou. “Die munisipaliteit sal voortgaan om weeklikse statistieke uit te reik oor hoeveel water bespaar is in vergelyking met die doelwit van 10%, asook ander belangrike inligting om die publiek ingelig te hou,” is in 'n persverklaring gesê. Die waterbestuursplan help die munisipaliteit om interne prosedures op te skerp sodat dit beter dienste aan stads-bewoners kan lever. “Benewens dat die waterbestuursplan 'n skakel skep tussen waterverskaffing deur NamWater en die bestuur van die aanvraag deur die munisipaliteit, het die plan ook vir 'n deurlopende holisitieuse benadering gesorg, eerder as om in droogtes op noodplanne te moet staan,” lui die verklaring.

2.4 Windhoek could face Cape Town-type water crisis

The New Era | 08/08/2018

The situation is so dire that Cape Town even mooted the improbable idea to tow an iceberg from the Antarctica over a distance of 2000 kilometres to the South African city to avert a possible water calamity that could still happen in 2019. Spokesperson of the City of Windhoek, Lydia Amutenya yesterday told New Era that while they appreciate that some people are doing everything to adhere with the municipality’s call to save water, others are not yielding the call simply because they can afford to pay for the water. “It’s not about affordability it’s about the source,” cautioned Amutenya.
She said that the southern part of Windhoek including areas such as Academia and Cimbebasia are already using water from boreholes and that in times of crisis, NamWater could reduce their water supply to the municipality by up to 70 percent. The City of Windhoek last week urged residents to save water by up to 10 percent. After assessing the situation for the three years to come, NamWater declared after the last rainy season, only 24.91 percent of the expected inflow in the dams was filled, according to a press release from the City of Windhoek. Amutenya said yesterday that restrictions would be enforced so that all excessive water use activities would be minimised. For outdoor watering, lawns and plants can only be watered twice a week. All flowers and vegetables can only be watered by hand, and watering is forbidden from 9:00 to 18:00 in the summer and between 10:00 and 16:00 during the winter, according to the press release from the City of Windhoek. As for the public gardens and sports fields, they will be maintained with semi-purified water. For the car washing, it is allowed at home only with a bucket or pressure cleaner. And for the commercial car washings, it is limited to 30 litres per car and needs to be certified as authorised. For the pools, water savings are required, and the pool covers are mandatory. Fountains and water features cannot be operating, according to the press release. Amutenya further urged residents to look out for water leakages and report them. “Sometimes people have leaks and they discover it too late,” she said. Amutenya also said that water scarcity does not just affect Windhoek but rather the central part of Namibia.

2.5 Swakop shuts chaotic new parking system

The New Era | 09/08/2018

The Swakopmund Municipality had to temporarily suspend its newly installed parking system in town following a huge public outcry over the system that has been described a nuisance. The system has been operational for about two weeks now but was criticised by residents who said that the system was a nuisance and defeated the whole purpose it was created for. The system that cost the municipality about N$1.5 million, instead of reducing unregistered car guards, reduce crime and theft out of vehicles and to better manage available spaces so that motorists are able to access parking space during business hours has turned out to be ‘chaotic,’ according to appalled motorists. This resulted in the Swakopmund municipality reverting to the drawing board with the Namibia Parking Solutions straightening out the challenges facing the system. The Swakopmund Municipality yesterday issued a notice indicating that the system will be suspended until further notice. The Swakopmund Management Committee and Namibia Parking Solutions who is managing the parking system, is expected to meet as soon as possible after which residents and the public will be notified how the parking bays will be managed accordingly. The aim of the system initially was to create more parking space available to visitors as at the moment many motorists use the parking spaces in town to extended periods at the expense of visitors to the CBD. About 50 former car guards have been recruited as employees of Namibia Parking Solutions. The car guards also expressed unhappiness over the system saying they would make less money, as the public will pay directly into the new parking metres.

2.6 City faces a water crisis, again

The Namibian | 09/08/2018

The City of Windhoek once again announced a water crisis and is restricting hair salons, car washes and construction sites from using too much water. During the past four years, the local media has been saturated with reports about how the city will run out of water, and promises to come up with long-term solutions have fallen by the wayside. Being the capital city of Namibia and housing up to a quarter of the country’s population of 2.4 million, the city relies on NamWater for 70% of its water, while the other 30% comes from surface water and boreholes. However, due to poor rainfall, NamWater this week reported low water levels at the three dams where Windhoek draws its water from. According
to the report, the three dams supplying the central parts of Namibia – including Windhoek and Okahandja – with water are currently a combined 29.9% full, according to the corporation’s latest weekly dam bulletin. The Swakoppoort, Von Bach and Omatako dams had a combined total of 46 million cubic metres of water on Monday, compared to 73.5 million cubic metres a year ago when the three dams were 47.6% of their total storage capacity of 154.5 million cubic metres. The City of Windhoek’s spokesperson Lydia Amutenya said the supply situation needs to be taken seriously by all stakeholders to make sure that the city survives water scarcity, “and not run out of water completely”. The city has a drought response plan, which includes various categories between A and E, based on the severity of the water crisis. Amutenya explained that the city has now moved from Category B, which means there was a need to be alert about the low water levels, to Category C, which shows that there is a drought, and water savings need to be increased to 10%. She said by the end of last month, the city had managed to achieve water savings that are higher than the 5% target. But all residents, businesses and consumers still need to do their best to keep the situation under control, as “with concerted efforts, we will survive the drought.” “The city is well-known for water recycling through our reclamation plant, and there are also plans to construct a second reclamation plant in the foreseeable future that is expected to augment water supply,” she said, adding that the only effective measure to conserve water now is to use it sparingly. The city published a statement in local media this week, urging residents to use water sparingly in a bid to prolong the usage of the little available water. Speaking to The Namibian on Tuesday, the Popular Democratic Movement’s councillor Ignatius Semba said the city should come up with a long-term solution to the water crisis. He said the issue of water is not being taken seriously by the city or central government as they keep coming up with solutions which are not implemented, such as the idea of a desalination plant. “It is a known fact that Namibia is a dry country, and we are a desert. We need long-term solutions, as opposed to quick fixes,” said Semba. The Rally for Democracy and Progress’s president, Jeremiah Nambinga, and city councillor Brunhilde Cornelius also called for better solutions. “I do not think the government has thought of harvesting water. Some think it might not help, but it could because restricting people from using water will not help,” he stated. Former Nudo president Asser Mbai suggested that the city should come up with a better plan to manage the influx of people from the regions. He said this contributes to the water issue, as more people means more services should be provided. “Maybe come up with a plan that looks at how many people are allowed to come in and stay in Windhoek per month or year, and thus know what you are dealing with,” Mbai urged.

2.7 Kindergarten brings colour to drab informal settlement

The New Era|09/08/2018

Right in the middle of the silver corrugated iron sheet shacks at the sprawling informal settlement of Havana is a purple structure that catches the eye at first sight. It is the Maria Kindergarten, a private pre-primary school started eleven years ago by Fiina Martin, who is now 60-years-old. Martin who has a qualification in Early Childhood Development (ECD) said she was compelled to start the kindergarten in the heart of Havana because she wants to see children in that neighbourhood to be educated. Martin started with 12 learners in one class but today the kindergarten is home to 200 learners with eight classrooms. The school has two curriculums, namely the Amazing Brainz for 2 to 4-years old children which amongst others focuses on the health and social development of children. As for the 5 to 6-years old, the school follows the government curriculum and the learners are exposed to drawing, mathematics, environmental issues and games, explained Martin. The school has eight teachers and five assistants of the school. “When I came here in Havana, I could see a lot of kids playing in the streets, and I wanted to take care of them, to educate them. At first it was very small, then we had to expand on the other side of the street to welcome all the kids,” Martin gushes passionately about the school’s growth. The school’s structure is a combination of corrugated iron sheets and brick walls painted in attractive purple colours. The entire programme of the school is in English, to help the pupils to be fluent at a very early age, said Martin. “My dream for this school is for it to succeed. The kids are the
future, we are working for the future,” remarked Martin. The school fee is N$240 per month. “There’s challenges, some of the parents don’t have work and aren’t paying. But we keep them, so the kids can have an education. Some of them come with empty stomachs, so sometimes some organisations like Life Change come and help us with food,” added Martin. Martin have encouraging words for those who are interested in venturing in business. “Even if there are challenges do not give up. Keep going, to continue to move forward,” advised Martin who is also a teacher at the school.

2.8 ‘Myn’ van akwifer sal waardevolle data onthul

Republikein|10/08/2018

Hoewel water tans teen onvolhoubare hoeveelhede uit die Windhoek-akwifer gepomp word, bied juis hierdie “mynwerk” vir die eerste keer ’n gulde geleentheid om meer te wete te kom oor Windhoek se noodwaterbron. Mnr. Koos Theron, ’n meganiese en elektriese seksie-ingenieur by die munisipaliteit, het tydens ’n onlangse mediatoer van die akwifer gesê ingevolge die waterbestuurplan enegewe Windhoek se huidige waterskaarste, moet die akwifer voorts 20 000 m³ water per dag of 850 m³ per uur aan Windhoekers verskaf. “Nog nooit vantevore het ons soveel water vir so ’n lang tydperk uit die akwifer gepomp nie. Hierdie is dus ’n baie waardevolle geleentheid om meer van die akwifer te wete te kom in terme van presies hoeveel water dit bevat, hoe dit op hierdie intensiewe onttrekking van water reageer en waar ons dit in die toekoms kan hervul. “Hierná sal ons baie meer as tevore oor die akwifer weet,” het hy gesê. Tot dusver duur modelle aan die akwifer beskik oor ’n watervolume van 41 miljoen kubieke meter (Mm3) en is tans sowat 80% vol. Theron het gesê teen die huidige onttrekningsvlakke behoort daar nie ernstige probleme met die gehalte van water te wees nie. “Ek kan dit met redelijke sekerheid sê ná ons die akwifer onlangs vir agt weke aan ‘n toets onderwerp het ons die gehalte van water in terme van hoeveel water dit bevat, hoe dit op hierdie intensiewe onttrekking van water reageer en waar ons dit in die toekoms kan hervul. “Ons het dit teen ’n onttrekkingstempo van 7,5 Mm³ per jaar tot 8,5 Mm³ getoets. Op een plek het ons dit selfs teen ’n tempo van 9,5 Mm³ per jaar gedoen. Solank ons nie meer as 7,5 M³ per jaar onttrek nie, behoort ons nie ernstige gehalteprobleme te ervaar nie,” het hy gesê.

Watergehalte

Theron het gesê teen die munisipaliteit se afdeling wat daarvoor verantwoordelik is om die stad se watergehalte te monitor sal watermonsters op ’n weeklikse basis by die boorgate in die Windhoek-akwifer neem. Dié inligting sal gebruik word om ’n langtermynmoontlikheid te skep. “Dit bied ’n uitstekende leergeleentheid – ons kan toets wat die optimale mengverhouding van die verschillende waterbronne vir die beste watergehalte is,” het hy gesê. Me. Zelda Scheepers, ’n seksie-ingenieur in die munisipaliteit se afdeling vir water, het gesê “Ons is besig met ’n groot klomp werk wat die gehalte van die water betref, maar ook om meer water uit die akwifer te kan onttrek.”

Uitdagings

Theron het gesê by sommige nuwe boorgate word enkele uitdaginge ervaar. “Van die boorgatwater bevat baie mangaan, ander baie yster en sommige weer baie organiese materiaal. Die grootste uitdaging is egter die mangaan, yster en temperatuur van die water. “Ons behandel die water met chloorgas, maar die oomblik wanneer jy mangaan en yster oksideer, veroorsaak die oksidatieproses dat die water verkleur. Die water kan dan enigiets van liggeel tot donkerbruin of swart lyk, afhankend van die konsentrasie van dié metale, asook van die oksidasiëvlak in die water. “Ons móét die water egter met chloor behandel om seker te maak bakteriëë word doodgemaak. Maar sodra jy genoeg yster
Manganese in the water, causing it to turn brown — something that shocks residents. For example, it stains white clothes that are washed in the water. "We need to find a solution for this problem — it is a challenge," Theron said.

He said Windhoek's underground water is also unusually warm. "Our theory and speculation is that the city is located on an old volcanic crater. The water comes up from deep underground. The coldest water we know of is about 38°C. This is also more or less the average temperature of the city's underground water. In some places, the temperature can reach 60°C."

"At one borehole near the city hall in the central area, the temperature of the borehole water is between 80 and 85°C," he said. "The problem is that our equipment cannot handle such high temperatures. Electric motors, pipes, and cables are not designed for such hot water. The hot water damages the rubber seals where pipes come together and makes them brittle."

"A second problem with hot water is that the hotter it is, the more suitable it becomes for bacteria to grow. Therefore, we must ensure the water is properly disinfected so that all harmful organisms are killed. "We must therefore continuously maintain a fine balance between all the factors, because if we add too much chlorine, the water turns brown."

"It is not easy and in Windhoek, we have special conditions that make it a bit more challenging than elsewhere," he said. Theron said leaks in Windhoek's hot water can cause tar to leak. This happens, for example, where Sam Nujoma and Robert Mugabe walk to meet. "This is caused by hot water that is pumped from the Pahl Quelle reservoir. We recently replaced water pipes about 300 meters long with new rubber, which can withstand the heat," he said.

Water distribution

Theron said the boreholes are set up so that water from the eastern and southern suburbs of Windhoek can be supplied to the city. Theron said the city council has 21 boreholes in the eastern and southern suburbs of Windhoek and is using nine of them currently. "These are strong enough to supply 20,000 cubic meters of water per day to Windhoek. They are brand new and first-class," he said. Currently, boreholes in the eastern suburbs are not being used as the city council is working on a water tunnel that will connect the eastern boreholes to the Pahl Quelle reservoir near the Hilton Hotel. "We need to be ready by middle September, then the link to the eastern boreholes will be completed and water can reach the reservoir again."

"Then we will leave two or three boreholes in the southern suburbs of the city to drain. It is better to drain water over a wider area of the aquifer instead of doing it at one point. It is better for the preservation of the aquifer and in the case of, for example, a power outage or a main pipe break, it helps that the entire system is not paralyzed."

Right now, water from boreholes in the south and southeast of Windhoek is pumped to the High Sam reservoir and then to the Pionierspark reservoir. "In the coming months, Windhoek's southern suburbs will primarily receive borehole water. This includes suburbs such as Academia, Pionierspark, Kleine Kuppe, Ausblick, Olympia, Suiderhof, Prosperita and Cimbebasia," he explained. Water from NamWater, as well as Wingoc (Goreangab's wastewater treatment plant) is primarily used in the central and northern suburbs of Windhoek. Theron said the southern parts of the city are higher than the rest. He said further that the city's water network was not designed to transport water from the south and east to the north, but rather the other way around. "We must, however, during the previous drought crisis, apply the opposite water flow and are relatively sure of our ability to do it successfully," he said.

'geheelbeeld'

Hy het gesê NamWater verskaf van 1 Augustus af sowat 30 000 m³ water per dag aan Windhoek. "Dit is veel minder as in die verlede omdat hul bronne onder druk is. Oor Wingoc en die hoeveelheid water wat ons uit rioolwater kan merken en weer in drinkwater kan omskep, sê hy hierdie stelsel sal sowat
17 000 m³ water per dag in die stelsel kan terugplaas. Dié stelsel werk tans egter teen sy maksimum vermoe – die 17 000 m³ is sy perk. Die vierde water “bron” waarop ons staatmaak, is sekerlik die belangrikste – Windhoekers se waterbesparings van 10%. Onder normale omstandighede word sowat 75 000 m³ water per dag aan Windhoek verskaf, maar ons huidige waterbronne kan nie daarmee volhou nie. Die doel is dus dat die hele stad niks meer as 471 000 m³ per week of 67 000 m³ per dag gebruik nie. Die weeklike teiken vir die afgelope jaar was 483 000 m³ en dit het reeds ’n besparing van 5% ingesluit. Theron het gesê die gesê wat water ons gebruik ontreek word, is nie volhoubare nie. “Die akwifer se natuurlike aanvulling is sowat 1,7 Mm³ per jaar. As jy die som maak, lyk dit dit só: As ons daagliks 20 000 m³ water daaruit pomp, is die somtotaal sowat 7,5 Mm³ wat ons jaarliks ontreek. “Verder moet mense verstaan hierdie aanvulling van 1,7 Mm³ per jaar wissel. Soms is die aanvulling beter tydens ‘n goeie reënseisoen en ander kere swakker, wanneer ons ’n droogte ervaar.”

Besparrings belangrikste

Die hoofsaak is dat ‘n oplossing vir Windhoek se waterskaarste gevind word. Tot nuwe bronne beskikbaar is, sal waterbesparings lewensbelangrik bly. Theron sê die huidige bronne wat Windhoek van water voorsien, wat die Berg Au kas- en Kombat-myn, asook die Karst-boorgate insluit, is oorspronklik vir tye van nood ontwikkel. “Dit is nie veronderstel om deel van die alledaagse bronne vir die stad te wees nie. Volgens my dui die feit dat ons dit tans gebruik aan dat ons in die knyp is,” het hy gesê. Hy het die gebruik van nooddronne vergelyk met iemand wat steeds werk, maar reeds van sy pensioengeld gebruik maak om te oorleef, en het gesê dit is ’n groot risiko. Theron sê die gesê ‘n slypskool word jaarliks in Mei oor die sentrale watertoneel gehou waartydens besluitnemers moet beslis oor hoe watertoevoer vir die volgende drie jaar aangepak word. “Daar vind ook weeklike vergaderings tussen die Windhoekers se munisipaliteit en NamWater plaas om te kyk of ons steeds op die regte spoor is,” het hy gesê. Volgens hom is die besparing van water steeds die belangrikste en maklikste manier om meer water aan die stad beskikbaar te stel. “Dit is maklik om 10% ekstra water te hê danksy besparings as wat dit is om nog ’n waterbron te ontwikkel wat ’n bykomende 10% water aan die stad moet lewer. “Enige persentasie water wat bespaar word, sal tot die Windhoek-akwifer se voordeel strek. Dit sal een teen die akwifer verreken word. Dit beteken akwiferwater word gespaar, terwyl die watertoevoer van NamWater en die herwinningsaanleg af op konstante en onveranderende vlakke gehou word.”

2.9 Developers claim waterfront built on no-man's-land

The Namibian | 10/08/2018

Safari Investments Namibia, who built the N$400 million Platz am Meer waterfront at Swakopmund, said the piece of land under scrutiny for alleged irregularities, is still no-man’s-land and is in the process of reclamation. Last Saturday, a ministerial committee tasked by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and chaired by environment minister Pohamba Shifeta, visited the waterfront development as part of an investigation into alleged irregularities over whether it was illegally built on state land. A public lobby group alleged that since the inception of the development nearly a decade ago, the Swakopmund municipality and possibly government officials allowed Safari Investments to continue the project without following the correct procedures. The group further alleged the municipality had no jurisdiction over the area and could have overlapped the boundary. Another claim was that the state never agreed to sell and therefore ownership could not, and allegedly did not, pass. The Namibian understands from sources that the development was on state land, but the question is whether the developer reclaimed the land without permission. The questionable components of the waterfront include the small craft harbour and some of the western portions of the building. Shifeta said a technical committee would be commissioned to look into what procedures were followed when reclamation of state land was done. “We need to have documentation as proof, and then we can take
a decision,” he said, admitting he cannot confirm that land was illegally reclaimed as documentation may still show that correct procedures were followed. Safari Investment CEO Francois Marais agreed with Shifeta that documentation is critical and will ultimately show if due process was followed. He explained that regarding an official agreement between Safari and the Swakopmund municipality, the construction of breakwater structures and a boat slipway was of prime importance to the council and could become a distinguishable landmark of Swakopmund. “Construction of the harbour and related works took place concerning this agreement, [in which it is] clear that land to be reclaimed from the sea and the breakwater structures will be surveyed and transferred to Safari on completion. This is still in process,” he said. Company director Dirk Engelbrecht explained to The Namibian that there is currently no state land available to transfer as it was still being reclaimed. “We took a small piece of Namibian state land and extended it, making Namibia a little bigger, and so increasing its borders into the sea. We had permission to do so regarding the environmental clearance certificate issued by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism,” he said. This extra reclaimed and unserviced land, however, is still no-man’s-land and is now subject to a reclaiming process, which includes creating a title for it. This means it will first have to be surveyed by the surveyor general and put under the control of the Ministry of Works and Transport. This will also extend Swakopmund’s townlands to include the reclaimed surveyed state land. Only then will it be transferred to the Swakopmund municipality, who will extend the boundaries of the waterfront to include the reclaimed land. “Once all this is done, the municipality will be in a position to transfer the property to a third party such as Safari,” explained Engelbrecht. “Safari does not own the reclaimed portion; we just created the land with permission. Now it must be initiated into Namibia’s state land before it can be transferred.” He said this was the first time in Namibia that land was created by a private developer, hence the need to go through the whole process to ensure it is concluded correctly. Those opposed to this opinion feel that the ‘reclamation’ should have been done before the construction of the small crafts harbour and promenade. Swakopmund acting CEO Marco Swarts said the municipality facilitated the ministerial committee’s “in loco” inspection which was not a meeting scheduled to discuss the development “since the inception of the development complied with the required procedures and acted according to the permission granted by the competent ministerial organs responsible for giving such approvals”. “Therefore, until such time that we have not received the outcome and further instructions to both council and the developers, we will not be in a position to respond to your questions at this stage of the inspection,” he said.

2.10 Okuryangava residents worried by overflowing manholes

The New Era | 13/08/2018

Residents of Ongulumbashe informal settlement in Okuryangava are concerned about possible health hazards emanating from five broken manholes in the area that have been flowing for months without being attended to by authorities. Section leaders in the area who requested anonymity said they reported the matter to the municipal sewerage management and maintenance department since April but nothing has been done to date. Worryingly, children from the settlement play along or in the streams that has smelly and dirty water. During a visit to the settlement, a barefooted minor was spotted in the water while his unsupervised friends were playing along the riverbed that is covered with faeces. Ongulumbashe section leaders added they also reported about 10 dysfunctional toilets. Another issue of concern, they said, was that the communal tap in the area is right behind the public toilets. With the outbreak of Hepatitis E in the capital city, residents in the area use riverbeds to relieve themselves when nature calls. One section leader informed New Era that about four cases of the outbreak were recorded in the settlement. Furthermore, the leader also wanted to know when the municipality would demarcate erven in the area, in order to ease the issue of housing. He said they have been residents of the settlement for 26 years. City of Windhoek spokesperson Lydia Amutenya said Ongulumbashe should rest assured that the matter of overflowing manholes is receiving full attention as the matter of urgency. “I would like to encourage the public to always report [these matters] to 061-290 2402/2162,” she said, referring to municipal emergency telephone numbers. “In
the same breath, although the City tries to ensure that facilities are repaired and maintained, we have noted with concern that most municipality facilities are vandalised as soon as they are operational again,” stated Amutenya. She added that members of public should take note that the facilities are meant to improve their standards of living and therefore should look after them as their own. Amutenya further said demarcation process for Kilimandjaro and Babylon is not yet concluded, however the process to finalise the layout has started and sorting out some pending issues including the appointment of the planning consultant to complete the task this year still. “ Once the layout is finalised and approved, the demarcation process would thereafter commence. However, the community leaders and the constituency councillor are well up-to-date with this progress through continuous engagements aimed at providing feedback on community related matters. She said the meeting took place on July 11, 2018 at the Nathanael Maxwilili centre, where the Chief Executive Officer Robert Kahimise met with the constituency councillor and the community leaders and updates the resident accordingly.

2.11 Oniipa town gets electricity

*The New Era* | 16/08/2018

Since Oniipa was proclaimed a town in 2015 it has yet to build modern brick houses for its residents though the local authority has made great strides to service some parts of the new town. One such servicing development was witnessed on Tuesday when the town council serviced an area estimated to have 56 erven at Onethindi Proper that was provided with electricity. Electricity was installed at a cost of N$2.4 million, but the area is expected to be fully serviced at a cost of N$40 million. The chief executive officer of Oniipa Town Council, Junias Jacob, gave the assurance that the second phase of services which will include the provision of tarred roads, water and sewerage reticulation is expected to kick off in September and finalised at the end of March next year. “Once all is in place we will start with the construction of the houses. But we are still looking into which model we will use to construct the houses,” Jacob responded when asked whether the town council has funds to construct new brick houses. Jacob attributes what seems to be slow progress in development at the town to the economic challenges the country is currently facing as the economy is in a slump. Jacob says the council has not received enough funds from the government to implement its planned projects. Currently, the town council has over 800 applications for houses. But currently the council only has about 600 plots which are partially serviced. “We were not able to service any plots fully because of the budget – we are using the little that we have to serve our residents,” Jacob said. The only areas whose services are almost complete are those where there were existing residents at the proclamation of the town. But the council says service provision is a priority and is optimistic that the impact of such service will be felt by every resident at the town within the next two years. Meanwhile the council is still struggling to compensate communal farmers in order to pave way for development and currently there are 30 households being evaluated for compensation, some of which have been on the waiting list since 2015 and are still waiting to be compensated.

2.12 Katima water metres project remains in limbo

*The New Era* | 16/08/2018

The future of the pre-paid water metres project seemingly foisted on residents of Katima Mulilo by the town council remains unknown, after the Zambezi regional governor Lawrence Sampofu halted the project in June and ordered the council to consult residents are consulted. The planned introduction of the water metres seems to have been halted after residents of the town verbally abused the CEO of Katima Mulilo Raphael Liswaniso and apparently made ‘death threats.’ The town council claims it wanted to install the water metres from April “to allow increased revenue and fair water charges, which in turn would reduce customer complaints and ensure compliance with payments,” but its decision
met stiff resistance from angry residents who complained about the N$2,500 that residents were expected to fork out for a metre. The controversial project was supposed to be spearheaded by the Chinese company ABC Investments. Residents were of the opinion the town council simply wanted to milk the poor people, arguing that the water metres were simply too expensive as the previous system only required them to pay N$$450. The residents proceeded to hold two mass peaceful demonstrations that coupled with the death threats compelled the governor to intervene and halt the project. However two months down the line since the project was halted it is still unclear whether it will proceed or not. Approached for comment the Katima Mulilo CEO referred questions to Sampofu. Pressed for answers on whether the project will proceed or not, Liswaniso stated that the project was just put on hold due to the conditions which should be met, which were given by Sampofu and the Namibia Standards Institute. He was however not willing to reveal what those conditions were. It was however reported by a weekly newspaper in June that NSI ordered the town council to stop installing the prepaid water metres acquired from China because they do not have standards approval. Liswaniso however stressed that “the project was not stopped, it was just put on hold, for us to meet the recommendations from NSI.” Sampofu stated that everything is progressing well and consultations with the community have already started. He however could not reveal whether consultations have been fruitful and whether an amicable solution will be reached soon. The new prepaid water metres were installed in most suburbs within Katima Mulilo except in Choto and Cowboy where residents threatened to attack town council officials together with Chinese installing Company ABC Investments, if they could have attempted to forcefully implement the system on them. The system has however been praised by those who are using it as it allows them to control their water usage, and the complaints of water metre readers fabricating the readings have been put to bed. Residents were required to pay the N$2,500 in three months which was later extended to six months instalments, but all the payments have also been put on hold until further notice.

2.13 Faulty pump cuts off water at Katutura hospital

The Namibian | 20/08/2018

A faulty pump was responsible for the Katutura Intermediate Hospital going without water for three days, the health ministry said yesterday. The health ministry’s permanent secretary Ben Nangombe told The Namibian that the water supply was restored around 21h00 on Saturday after maintenance workers spent close to four hours fixing the problem. “The situation was normalised yesterday afternoon, and the water supply is now back to normal,” he explained. Nangombe said the disruption was caused by a faulty pump, which pumps water from the main water reservoir to the hospital’s water tanks. The hospital had back-up water from the City of Windhoek’s water tanks, and therefore no serious ramifications were reported. While he could not confirm the exact number of days the hospital’s water was off, Nangombe said the three days mentioned by two nurses The Namibian spoke to “should be correct”. One of the nurses, who did not want to be named, said the water supply disruption seemed to be becoming a regular occurrence. “They should think about replacing the whole system; this is becoming a big problem now,” the nurse stressed. Eden Rooi, a patient at the hospital, said he knew there was a water problem at the hospital, but that they did not miss any baths or experience any issues whilst using the toilets. The Namibian in February reported that the hospital management had to cancel scheduled surgeries there because of a water disruption, which saw many patients relying on relatives to supply them with water while in hospital. The works ministry’s spokesperson Julius Ngweda was quoted as saying at the time that the water supply was cut off due to a burst pipe.
2.14 Namdeb Private Hospital to be turned into public-private facility

*The New Era|20/08/2018*

The Oranjemund Town Council plans to turn the Namdeb Private Hospital into a public-private facility in order to accommodate residents who cannot afford to use its services. Funds are yet to be allocated for the project scheduled to start mid-2019. It will be carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Oranjemund Mayor, Henry Coetzee in an interview with Nampa recently said the project was initiated because there is currently no state hospital at the town. Access to health facilities and services remain a challenge. The nearest government hospital is in Lüderitz, almost 400 kilometres away, he said. Coetzee said most residents make use of the Namdeb Private Hospital, which is not affordable for all residents. Speaking about other health initiatives at the town, Oranjemund Chief Executive Officer, Shali Akwaanyenga said the council has implemented major health services and activities to keep Oranjemund clean and prevent communicable diseases. The council is responsible for organising health education programmes, including keeping the environment clean, basic sanitation and for preventing various contagious and non-contagious diseases, Akwaanyenga added. Besides the private hospital, Oranjemund has one government health clinic, two pharmacies, one dental clinic and an optician. Oranjemund was a closed mining town since 1936. It was proclaimed as a local authority in 2011 and opened to the public in October 2017.

2.15 Ongwediva sewage overflows to nearby villages

*The Namibian|23/08/2018*

The Ongwediva Town Council has confirmed that sewage from its oxidation ponds has been overflowing into the nearby oshana downstream. The council’s spokesperson, Jackson Muma, told Nampa in an interview on Monday that the ponds were repaired on Saturday, but sewage started overflowing on Sunday. He attributed the overflow to the town’s fast growth in resident numbers as well as businesses. “The council would like to inform the residents in the vicinity of the oxidation ponds that we are experiencing an unfortunate situation, and would like to strictly urge the public not to catch or consume fish coming with sewage water because it is a health risk,” he stated, adding that contact with sewage water must be avoided at all costs. Muma pointed out that the overflow comes at a time when the council is busy trying to find permanent solutions to this persistent problem, and that the council and the community must jointly come up with interventions such as finding feasible ways to treat the water from the ponds, and reusing it for farming activities. The spokesperson further indicated that a cost analysis for erecting culverts in case of unforeseen overflows in future is another possible intervention by the council to address the situation. Plans are likewise envisaged to compensate owners of traditional homesteads in the downstream areas, and relocate them permanently. Muma said the overflow started during the 2015/16 financial year when the council constructed an additional pond, and cleaned the others at a cost of some N$7 million. He could not say how many ponds there are as some of them have been merged. The areas most affected are Oshinyadhila, Elyambala, Efidi and the National Housing Enterprise houses’ area. Villagers told this news agency on Tuesday that the construction of more ponds and the proper rehabilitation of existing infrastructure could be the solution to the problem. “This sewer water smells badly and is a health hazard,” said one of the villagers, Johannes Lucas.
Around 3 000 households in the Omusati region are blessed with electricity after the completion of a N$119 million five megawatt plant. Vice president Nangolo Mbumba, who officially opened the solar power plant at Outapi on Tuesday, said electricity is the key to all social and economic activities in the country’s development agenda. He said it is an advantage to have electricity produced locally, as it will see a positive socio-economic spin-off effect that will enable greater economic opportunities. “The importance of the electricity sector in a thriving economy cannot be overstated, as it is common cause that uninterrupted power supply will form part of our industrialisation efforts,” Mbumba added.

Ferdinand Nghiyolwa, who is the managing director of the company Camelthorn Business Venture (Pty) Ltd which built the solar plant, said Namibia is ideal for renewable energy projects, mainly solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power (CSP), and solar thermal. He noted that the project’s energy generation contributes to the improvement of the livelihoods of Outapi residents through the 10% shares granted to the Outapi Community Trust. “Revenue generated through the shares will be used to build classrooms for rural children, medicine supply, elderly care and any projects as proposed by the board of trustees, in consultation with the Outapi community,” he said. Nghiyolwa further stated that there would be zero national load-shedding as there will be an increase in local electricity generation capacity from 400MW to 600MW by 2020, and the provision of electricity to all schools and health facilities by 2020. “It is, therefore, our desire to keep complementing government efforts to meet not only the objectives as per the Harambee Prosperity Plan, but to assist other national policies such as Vision 2030 and the National Development Plans,” he continued. Omusati governor Erginus Endjala said another solar plant is planned for Outapi and Oshikuku. The aim is for the region to produce its own electricity. The region currently utilises about 12MW for both its household and business use, of which 5MW per annum will now be generated locally at this newly commissioned photovoltaic plant. So far, 566 920 kWh (units) of clean energy has been generated from this local plant and consumed by local customers. Camelthorn BV has signed a long-term power purchase agreement with NamPower for 25 years.
3 Livelihoods and Urban Economy

3.1 Petition calls for refurbishment of Katutura Community Hall

The New Era | 02/08/2018

Television presenter Leonard Witbeen is spearheading a community initiative that requests the City of Windhoek to revamp the Katutura Community Hall. So far the initiative has collected 2,253 signatures. The community hall is covered in graffiti, has broken windows and is vandalised. The community wants the City of Windhoek to help make the hall attractive so that it can be used to host community events on a regular basis. Witbeen said he has had countless meetings with the municipality’s Social Welfare and Youth Division since last year, but there has not been any favourable response from them. “I had a meeting with them last year January, and up to now, but nothing has happened, as you can see behind me,” he pointed out. However, the City of Windhoek spokesperson, Lydia Amutenya, said that at the meetings with Witbeen it was agreed that a memorandum of understanding would be drafted to pave the way for the refurbishment of the community hall. Amutenya added that the community hall is on the municipality’s priority list for the 2018/19 financial year, which started on July 1. In the photo are Leonard Witbeen and volunteers with signed the petition for the refurbishment of the Katutura Community Hall.

3.2 Hond en baas kry tweede kans

Republikein | 07/08/2018


3.3 Father resorts to begging to feed daughter

The New Era | 07/08/2018

A 33-year-old unemployed father has been struggling to make ends meet, as he single-handedly raises his daughter, who suffers from a chronic illness. The father, Johannes Kasera, and his daughter, 11, live in a matchbox, one-roomed shack in the sprawling informal settlement of Babylon, on the outskirts of Windhoek. To augment his government grant, which only lasts about two weeks, Kasera goes on the
streets to beg for food or money. He emphasised that it is difficult for his daughter to take her medication if there is no food at home. Saddened by his predicament, Kasera said he does not have a choice but to beg. If there is nothing at home, Kasera takes his daughter along on the streets. “It’s like I am teaching my daughter bad manners by begging. But it is not what I want to do,” remarked the poverty-stricken Babylon resident. On dry days, Kasera depends on his neighbours to provide him with food. During a visit to his shack, he only had a plastic full of rice that he got from the Tobias Hainyeko councillor’s office. He had no relish or anything to eat the rice with. He also showed the reporter bread that he bought three days ago for his daughter to take to school. “I try to take care of her. I go struggle (beg) for money in town. She got the jersey from one woman and she doesn’t have a school trouser. Her shoes are broken. Last month, I bought a tight [for her] to wear under her school dress and a school bag,” narrated the father. Kasera invited this journalist into his shack and showed the two thin blankets they cover themselves with. “My daughter complains that it’s cold but I tell her, ‘don’t worry’. It will get better one day,” said the Babylon resident with an agony written on his face. Kasera said he was once employed, but things changed one evening in 2015 when the shack he was sleeping in was gutted by fire. He had left the candle burning before he fell asleep. Three years on, Kasera has visible scars from the fire in his face, arms and back. It has become difficult to find employment, as the doctor told him the scars on his arms make it difficult to carry heavy loads. At the time of the incident, the mother of his children, with whom he had the two children, decided to break up with him stating that he would not get a job post the fire incident. The mother of his children is in hospital, where she is critically ill. Kasera neighbour, Loide Nambundunga, has been helping him where she can. Nambundunga, who cooks porridge at a neighbouring school, has been sparing Kasera a plate of food.

3.4 No donkey abattoirs in Nam

The New Era | 08/08/2018

Plans for a donkey abattoir at Okahandja with a slaughter rate of 100 animals a day were quashed after the environment ministry rejected an environmental clearance application, citing concerns for the species' survival if exposed to commercial slaughter. This follows the cancellation in February of a planned donkey abattoir at Outjo, where around 70 donkeys were planned to be killed each day. That project folded after a study indicated a high risk that Namibia's donkey population could be obliterated at the proposed off-take rates. Following a review of the proposed Okahandja abattoir, the ministry of environment and tourism in April informed Agrinature Investment and Trade that that commercial slaughter of donkeys would result in significant risks to the species' ecological existence and socio-economic value. The ministry said the review uncovered “numerous uncertainties relating to the species' existence, which in turn limits the proposed project's sustainability.” The ministry's concerns are similar to findings from a scoping study undertaken by Quivertree Consulting last year on behalf of Fu Hai Trading Enterprises, the company that had planned to start a donkey abattoir at Outjo. That study found that “the resource is limited and there is no accurate census data or research on their natural breeding rates and population changes. This indicates a risk that the project could lead to the unsustainable off-take of donkeys, which would decimate the natural population,” Quivertree Consulting’s Svenja Garrard informed the public in February. Wiping out the species would in turn have a “detrimental impact on the livelihoods of poor communities, in particular those of women and children,” Quivertree Consulting found. Quivertree Consulting concluded “that it would be negligent to recommend that the project receive approval until more accurate data had been obtained.”
Mayers of the Donkey Sanctuary in the United Kingdom, who visited Namibia last year to warn against the risks of the donkey skin trade, yesterday told Namibian Sun that the ministry should be applauded for its “responsible, evidence-based and professional response to the issue, and for resolutely closing the door to this trade before any damage is done.” He added that the Donkey Sanctuary had seen “the horrendous effects of the donkey skin trade, including issues of animal welfare, livelihoods, pollution, biosecurity, unsustainable utilisation, thefts, high water use and links to illegal wildlife crime, and we were gravely concerned that Namibia would face the same issues.” In February, Quivertree Consulting issued a list of recommendations that could address concerns around the trade in Namibia. They emphasised the need for an independent donkey census before commercial slaughter was allowed. Secondly, research should be conducted into prices to incentivise the breeding of donkeys for slaughter. Lastly, the data from these studies should be used to determine whether the socio-economic risks could be mitigated. It was also proposed that the government should consider issuing an annual quota similar to the fishing industry. News about the planned donkey abattoirs last year created widespread debate on the issue and intensified focus on the high demand for donkey skins in China, which has led to a thriving donkey skin market. Some have warned that “donkey skins are the new ivory”. Donkey skins are processed in China to produce ‘ejiao’, which is used as a traditional medicine. The meat is also considered a delicacy. Critics of the trade have warned that due to low availability of donkeys in China, demand has fuelled international trade, and in turn, a thriving black market. The global trade has raised serious concerns about donkey welfare and the livelihood of rural communities. Namibian Sun was informed that no other donkey abattoir proposals have been submitted.

3.5 No debt write-off for Gobabis pensioners

The Namibian | 13/08/2018

The Gobabis municipality will not be writing off the N$9,5 million it is owed by pensioners and people with disabilities because the urban and rural development ministry has declined its request. Municipal spokesperson Frederick Ueitele said the Gobabis council had sought approval for the pensioners' debt cancellation from the urban and rural development ministry for two to three years now, without success. “The line ministry informed us it was a national problem, and that President Hage Geingob must look into the matter before it is being dealt with,” he explained. Ueitele's remarks were in response to criticism from community activist Wallace Finnie that the Gobabis council had not cancelled pensioners' outstanding debts. Finnie told The Namibian that he recently submitted an appeal for debt relief for pensioners who have been unable to settle their accounts. News of the N$191 million debt cancellation by the City of Windhoek triggered his debt relief appeal to the Gobabis council, he said. In a letter dated 20 June, addressed to Finnie, the municipality informed him that it had an amnesty programme for all pensioners, through which interest on their outstanding accounts has been waived since 1 January 2018. “An agreement is entered into between the parties to pay the capital amount over a period of time. Interest is also suspended on their accounts until December 2019, to give them time to settle their accounts,” the letter reads. Dissatisfied by the council's response, Finnie said residents were not even aware of the amnesty programme. “They are using our tax money, but are reluctant to grant debt relief to our pensioners,” he fumed, saying it was impossible for the elderly to pay off their debts with the paltry social grant of N1 200 they receive monthly. “That money is not even enough for the pensioners to put food on their table throughout the month. Some of them even look after grandchildren,” he added. Ueitele dismissed the claim that the Gobabis council had not communicated the amnesty programme to residents, saying the information was disseminated widely during public meetings. He said the council planned to submit another debt write-off application to the line ministry, based on a proposal recently tabled in council by the Gobabis mayor. “We will continue seeking ministerial approval for the cancellation of the pensioners' debts,” he stressed.
3.6 *Huis vir Ananias*

*Republiek* | 14/08/2018


3.7 *Windhoek, Walvis swim in foreign money*

*The Namibian Sun* | 16/08/2018

A global report has ranked Windhoek and Walvis Bay among the cities in Africa attracting the highest foreign direct investment (FDI), with the capital ranked 40th in terms of attracting FDI in Africa. Windhoek received US$958 million in foreign funds between 2013 and 2016, which is approximately N$14 billion at today’s exchange rate. The State of African Cities report also placed Windhoek at 460th globally in terms of attracting FDI. The rankings showed which African cities - out of 558 - received the most FDI in US dollars between 2003 and 2016, as well as their ranking among roughly 10 000 cities worldwide. It ranked Namibia among the top 20 African destinations for Chinese FDI. The report said from 2003 to 2014, Chinese FDI increased from 0.15% to 3.27%. Algeria, Zambia and Kenya, at that stage, were the countries that received the lion’s share. According to the report, Chinese capital prefers democratic countries since additional transaction costs may be demanded in countries with low levels of democracy, because of issues such as corruption. “Chinese capital does not enter Africa to merely exploit its resources and then leave. Rather, most Chinese investments in Africa are long-term. As some have pointed out, China has a clear strategy for Africa, but Africa has no strategy for China,” the report states. The report raises the issue of working conditions in Chinese-established factories in Africa, saying they are generally not satisfactory. It also says Walvis was ranked 42nd among the African cities attracting FDI, with US$401 million. There has been a 9.11% growth in FDI in Windhoek, while FDI in Walvis has seen a decline of 6.1% over the years. In total, FDI in Africa amounted to US$582 789 during the period under review, with the top-ranked cities being Cairo, Johannesburg and Tangier. Cairo received US$1.37 billion in FDI, while Johannesburg received US$1.32 billion and Tangier slightly more than US$1 billion. “The global rankings reveal that Cairo (64th) and Johannesburg (69th) are doing quite well in the global investment arena. However, no African city is found within the top 10 FDI recipient cities of the world.” According to the report most FDI in Africa has been in manufacturing. This is the most anchored and stable FDI sector with substantial scale, albeit with moderate investment growth (5%). Resources FDI, although at a significant scale, has shown strong negative growth (-17%) over the period 2003-2016. Going into the impact that FDI has on income inequality, it says at country level, Ethiopia has the fastest-growing economy in Africa, while also having the lowest level of income inequality (0.300), followed by Mali (0.307), Burundi (0.313), Egypt (0.314) and Namibia (0.333). “Zimbabwe, one the most unequal countries in Africa, has shown the largest decline in income inequality, followed by Namibia.” The report found that the impact of FDI on countries is determined by local conditions. It says that FDI leads to an increase in income inequality.
in host countries, but when controlled by other local factors such as absorptive capacity, human capital, the level of technology and the quality of institutions, FDI reduces income inequality.

3.8 Workers struggle with slave wages

_The Namibian | 17/08/2018_

Bertha Ananias (31) has been working as a shop assistant in Windhoek for two years and earning N$1 000 per month. She rents a shack for N$550 in Havana, one of the many informal settlements in Katutura. After paying rent, Ananias pays anything between N$100 and N$120 for water a month. There is no electricity where Ananias stays, so she uses gas. She needs about N$400 for basics such as sugar, maize meal, bathing soap, roll-on and body lotion per month. For transport to work, Ananias spends N$60 per month, while her sister, who is in Grade 11, needs N$400 per month. “My sister sometimes gets a lift from school friends, and that N$10 is then saved for another day,” Ananias said. Sometimes, Ananias said she borrows from other people since her needs outstrip her salary. “I only get Sunday off. If it is tough that month, I’ll do people’s hair for much cheaper than what saloons charge. That helps a lot,” she explained. If she could get anything between N$3 500 and N$4 000, she could be better off, she added. She recalled when she worked as a teller, and served people spending more than N$2 000 on food items. “I am not saying I want to be eating hotel food all the time, but at least I should not go a whole two months without buying chicken,” she observed. Another shop attendant, who wanted to be known only as Ndina, said she also earns N$1 000 per month. Ndina (36), said she commutes from the Havana informal settlement to the city centre, and then walks to Maerua Mall, where she works. From the N$1 000, she pays N$600 rent for her shack, and N$300 for her daughter’s school and transport fare. The remaining N$100 is not enough for food, and Ndina said she either has to turn to friends or loan sharks. Ananias and Ndina, who earn N$1 000 per month, can be considered better off because other shop attendants earn less. One such shop attendant, who did not want to be named, is a mother of four who just got a job which pays N$800 a month. The 40-year-old said she took up the job after losing another which paid her N$1 500 when the Chinese owner closed down and returned to his country. The attendant said she sends the whole N$800 to the village in the north, where her children are staying. Fortunately for her, her husband provides N$300 for her transport to work. “My husband at least pays the caretaker N$1 200,” she said, adding that in the past, she would buy toiletries for the caretaker. With the N$800 now, she does not know how she will manage to do this. “The N$800 is very little. I don’t even think I will continue working here after the end of this month,” she lamented. These women are among 33% of workers who, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) 2017 Namibia Financial Inclusion Survey (NFIS), earn N$1 000 a month. However, the report stated that the 33% is slightly less than the 36% recorded during the 2011 survey. The report, which was launched on Monday in Windhoek in collaboration with the Bank of Namibia and FinMark Trust, showed that 9.7% of Namibians earned more than N$11 000 a month. The survey recorded total primary sampling units of 151 from all the 14 regions, and 2 114 households were drawn from them, constituting the sample size. The total eligible population is estimated to be 573 932 households, comprising 1.46 million people. According to the survey, about 47% find it very difficult to manage their finances, while 40.2% never make their monthly income last to the next payday. Statistician general Alex Shimuafeni said according to the survey, 78% of Namibians were financially included, while 22% were excluded in 2017. He added that the NFIS shows that 62.5% of income-earners receive their income as hard cash, while 37.1% receive income through a bank account, and only 1.4% (20 568) reported receiving income through bank wallets. “As reported in 2011, the majority of the eligible population (525 185) earn up to N$1 000 per month,” he stated. Regarding being in debt, the survey showed that a vast majority of the respondents, roughly 82% of the eligible population, avoid getting into debt if they can. Bank of Namibia governor Ipumbu Shiimi explained that this is because the majority of Namibians earn less than N$1 000 or close to that figure, hence their access to loans or borrowing is low. He said this is because they have no access to credit because their salaries cannot allow it, unlike those who earn higher salaries. Roughly 58% of Namibians surveyed said they do not
borrow money, while approximately 13% borrowed from banks, and 18% from friends and relatives. The 95,1% of Namibians who don't borrow money claimed that they fear debt, and thus avoid borrowing. According to the survey, debt levels in the country are low. Figures provided by the NSA’s Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) 2015/2016 report show that although poverty further decreased during the last five years, inequality in Namibia is high, although illustrating a mild downward trend. The report added that the overall poverty levels were reduced significantly with 10,7 percentage points (from 28,7% to 18%), while inequality in income distribution remains high, with a slight reduction of 2,5% points from the 2009/10 survey to the 2015/16 survey. Labour expert Herbert Jauch called for the introduction of a basic living wage, whereby households are paid a wage that allows them to live a decent life. He further stressed that many households cannot live off one wage alone and should work on acquiring other sources of income, otherwise many households would be stuck in poverty. He stressed that many sectors in the country are still paying their workers low wages, which makes it impossible for people to survive a full month without being drawn in a web of debts. “A labour force survey conducted in 2016 revealed that 80% of Namibians earn less than N$5 000 a month and now we see the 33% figure of Namibians who earn less than N$1 000 a month, telling us that many Namibians are still earning these low wages. These low wages spread across all sectors in Namibia, with the exception of a select few such as the public sector. However, we cannot call for a minimum wage because some companies paying their employees more than a minimum wage may decide to decrease the salaries of these workers, hence putting more financial pressure on them,” he said. Lawyer Uno Katjipuka-Sibolile told The Namibian yesterday that people working Sunday to Sunday for N$1 000, N$800 and N$600, respectively, can only amount to slavery. “The little they get, they have to spend on transport to and from work, and to pay for a roof over their head,” she said. She added that looking at overtime regulations in the Labour Act, it is evident that there are a lot of labour law violations happening to people paid those amounts. It is a violation of a person's right to dignity, Katjipuka-Sibolile stressed, and urged those working under such conditions to organise themselves and collectively demand better pay from their employers. If that does not work, they should complain to the labour commissioner, she advised.

3.9 Ongwediva focuses on community development

The Namibian Sun | 24/08/2018

Over the last three financial years, the Ongwediva Constituency in the Oshana Region has spent N$4 million on community development projects. The money was used to finance rural job-creation schemes, youth empowerment, women empowerment and educational initiatives for the rural poor. Constituency councillor Andreas Uutoni told Namibian Sun that the regional budget was heavily affected by the global economic downturn, but they used the little income they received to implement a number of projects aimed at empowering rural communities. “Many of our people in the villages are trying by all means to earn themselves a living but they are faced with many challenges. Our constituency development committee (CDC) members are hard at work identifying those challenges our people are faced with and make recommendation on how to improve these people's living conditions. The little we get from the regional council is making a difference in these people's lives,” Uutoni said. “All these were made possible by well-coordinated efforts between the constituency office, the regional council office, the office of the governor, the communities and other stakeholders.” Of the N$4 million, N$256 000 was used for the construction of 32 toilets, N$150 000 was used for educational purposes, N$135 576 for rural empowerment schemes, N$78 300 for women's empowerment projects and N$51 500 for youth empowerment. “Our major projects include the construction of agricultural development projects at Ohambungu village to the tune of N$2 million, the formalisation of Omatando in Ongwediva town to the tune of N$900 000, construction of staff accommodation for the constituency office at Ohambungu village, electrification of the Omugongo gwaNamutayi growth point and Oikango village to the tune of N$595 752,” he said. The constituency also spent N$286 986 on a cash-for-work project during the construction of Ounonge village.
community hall. Uutoni said there is a good relationship between the constituency office, regional council and the community, but there is a need for more institutions to come on board to assist the communities. “If all government ministries, offices and agencies, including the state-owned enterprises, were committed to the improvement of rural people then development would be going on well in our communities. There are many initiatives out there to eradicate poverty and create employment opportunities, but due to lack of funds they are not materialising,” Uutoni said. He said only one businessperson was assisting the constituency office in helping the poor.

3.10 Family desperately needs help after fire disaster

The Namibian Sun | 24/08/2018

A Katutura family of 19 was left destitute after they lost everything in the fire that gutted down their home last week. The home in Single Quarters belong to 62-year-old widow Justine Murangi who lives with her unemployed five children, grandchildren and family members children that she is raising. Without money, Murangi is unable to renovate her home of 38 years but wish that someone help her renovate her two-bedroom home. With no windows, doors and ceiling, the debris is just a bitter reminder of her home she lived in for many years. Luckily, no one sustained injuries in the fire that occurred last week Thursday afternoon. The family is only left with the clothes they were wearing on the day of the fire. “I want someone to help me renovate the house. I will appreciate any kind of assistance rendered to me as I am left with nothing. Uniforms, school bags and shoes of school going children are all burnt inside,” said the pensioner with her grandchildren surrounding her. Only one of Murangi’s children is employed as a cleaner while her older son gets a social grant from government, this is the only income at the home. Among the 19 people who live in the house is Murangi’s daughter who has a three-weeks old baby who was inside the house when the fire started. Murangi said they saw from outside the bed in the sitting room on fire, and they suspect the fire might have started from the electrical box. “In the room was my daughter with her three weeks baby, after noticing smoke, she bumped the baby against the wall as she stormed out,” stated the pensioner. The lactating mother is accommodated by the neighbours in their shack. Other family members are sleeping in the neighbour’s broken cars that are in the yard while others sleep outside. The municipality gave the family five mattresses and blankets after the fire.

3.11 Ongwediva market good for business

The Namibian Sun | 29/08/2018

Poppy ‘Mee Poppy’ Heita used to be the lone trader at the Ongwediva Open Market, and started selling her traditional food from the facility when it was established in 2000. Today the market has 59 tenants, selling fruit and vegetables, wood, arts and crafts, traditional and other foods and beauty products, while some offer tailoring services, beauty treatments and many other services. Mee Poppy said before the market was established, they used to sell their wares around town, and when it opened many shunned the facility, saying there were no customers. “My customers were already used to me and I knew they would follow me wherever I go. I decided to operate at the open market and my customers followed me. Because the place was neat and quiet, I started getting new customers and it was only then that others also started coming to operate from the open market,” she said. “This open market is at the centre of Ongwediva and is easily accessible. It really supports local entrepreneurs.” According to Mee Poppy, although the majority of vendors sell traditional food, she always makes sure she has unique traditional delights, which others do stock. “In the entire open market you will only find traditional sorghum brew (omalovu giilya), mahangu traditional bread (oshingome) and mopane worms at my stand. This is what attracts more customers to my stand and is also what makes me unique.” Mee Poppy, who now has two employees, said she does not spend much time at the stand anymore, but her customers always support her because of their past experiences. The employees
now operate the stand, while she only manages it and makes sure there are quality products. She said the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair (OATF) always brings many customers. Even though many people sell the same products inside the trade fair centre, this does not affect her business. “During OATF there are many people in the area visiting the trade fair, but not all these people eat inside the trade fair centre, due to the overpricing of products. Many prefer to come to the open market to eat for less. We do not increase our prices for the trade fair,” she said. Mee Poppy said she thanks God, because she has managed to pay her children’s university tuition fees and they are now working and helping her. She said the only thing the government needs to do is to make it easy for SMEs to acquire financial support, in order to boost their businesses. “We are working hard, but we have many problems to take care. Business is not always easy. At least we must get financial support to grow our businesses.”

### 3.12 Pendelaars hóés van môre af vir vervoer

*Republikein* / 31/08/2018

Taxiritte en busvervoer kos van môre af 20 persent méér. Dit beteken ’n taxirit van Katutura af na Windhoek se sentrale gebied sal voortaan nie meer N$10 nie, maar N$12 kos. Hoe verder weg ’n woonbuurt van Katutura af is, hoe hoër is die tarief. Pendelaars na Klein Windhoek sal voortaan N$24 betaal, na Cimbebasia N$42 en na Klein Kuppe N$45,60. Die aankondiging oor dié lank verwagte verhoging is gistermiddag deur die voorsitter van die Padvervoerraad, mnr. Percy McNally, gemaak. Hy het joernaliste en belanghebbendes in die bus- en taxibedryf meegedeel dat tariewe ná deegelike oorweging op 1 September met 20 persent sal styg. Die Namibiese Bus- en Taxivereniging (Nabta) het ’n 20%-verhoging gevra en die Namibiese Openbare Passasiervervoervereniging (NPPTA) ’n 10%-verhoging. Albei verteenwoordig eienaars van taxi-onderneemings. Die Namibië Vervoer- en Taxivakbond (NTTU), wat taxidrywers verteenwoordig, het aangedring op ’n 50%-verhoging. McNally sê die raad het met die onderskeie instansies sowel as met pendelaars gesprekke gevoer. Hy het hulle vir hul waardevolle insette bedank. Volgens hom het die raad die swak ekonomie en hoë lewenskoste in aanmerking geneem, tesame met die feit dat tariewe in 2014 laas aangepas is en brandstofpryse intussen skerp gestyg het. Mnr. John Mutorwa, minister van werke en vervoer, het vroeër verduidelik die Padvervoerraad, wat ingevolge die Wet op Padvervoer, nr. 74 van 1977, ingestel is, het alleenreg op die goedkeuring van prysverhogings. Die wet beperk verhogings tot 10% op ’n slag, en koppel goedkeurings aan die brandstofprys, het hy gesê.

### 3.13 Taxi fare increase received with mixed feelings

*The Namibian* / 31/08/2018

The taxi fare increase has evoked mixed reactions as some drivers feel the N$2 rise did not mean much, while others said it was fair. The Road Transportation Board yesterday announced that taxi and bus fares would increase by 20% as from tomorrow, below the 50% requested by a taxi union. Passengers will now pay N$12 for Windhoek trips between taxi ranks, and N$24 for other trips. Fernard Kaulinge (27), who has been a taxi driver for seven years, said the increase was not adequate as other costs have increased by more than 20%. He explained that he takes home about N$300 per day. “I don’t know what that N$2 on the N$10 will do,” he said. Another taxi driver, Tuhafeni Sheyavali, said he was fine with the increase, but also said it was not enough. Mathias Silas (26), who has been in the business for just over two years, rated the increase as good and bad. “It is bad for us because it is not enough, but I feel more than that would be too much for students and those who earn little, like the Shoprite workers,” he said. Two passengers The Namibian spoke to said they would feel the increase, but that it was fair as taxi drivers also have to survive. Mathew Kashamba (22), who lives in Acadamia, said he has to prepare himself for the N$24 he has to pay if he wants to be dropped off at home. “It is N$20 if you are dropped off at home, so this means N$24. I will have to start selling sweets,” the student said.
Sophie Pieters, a mother of two who lives in Wanaheda and works in the city, said she has been considering taking the bus, and the taxi fare increase has hastened her decision. “I cannot complain, they also have to survive. Both my children go to primary school, but they get a lift from the neighbours. I will have to start taking the bus.” The Namibia Transport and Taxi Union (NTTU) welcomed the 20% increase. NTTU president Werner Januarie said yesterday’s announcement was a win for them as they had initially requested a 20% increase. “We initially wanted something in the region of 30%, but then we decided on 20%, which we got yesterday, so it is actually a win for us,” he noted. January said the 50% increase they had requested during negotiations was in protest at the board involving other associations, such as the Namibia Bus and Taxi Association (Nabta). He stressed that some associations did not have the interests of the taxi drivers at heart, and therefore should not have been involved in consultations. At yesterday’s media conference, the transport board’s chairperson, Percy McNally, said they considered the state of the economy, the cost of living, fuel price increases, and the fact that the last increase was in 2014, before deciding on the 20% increase. Nabta secretary general Pendapala Nakathingo told The Namibian yesterday that they agreed with the 20% increase. “We are the ones who advised the ministry that it was the only reasonable increment currently, considering other factors on the ground,” he said. The works ministry’s director of transportation and regulation, Cedric Limbo, warned all taxi and bus operators against charging more than what was announced, as those who overcharge passengers risked losing their permits. The last taxi increase was in 2014 when the fare went up by 10% from N$9 to N$10. The involved union reportedly wanted an increase of N$4 that year.
4 Environment and Human Health

4.1 Clean up campaigns bear fruit

*The Namibian Sun* | 02/08/2018

The national clean-up campaign that motivated thousands of Namibians to help clean their towns in May has inspired a renewed commitment by southern residents to keep their towns clean. Catherine Boois, a senior manager at the Mariental municipality, says although an annual clean-up campaign was part of the town’s schedule before President Hage Geingob’s call for a national clean-up, his backing of the campaign helped spur on more residents to help. “In past clean-up campaigns, it was difficult to get sufficient numbers of people to participate. That changed this year, because we exceeded our previous number of participants and I believe it was mainly because the call-up came from the president,” she told Namibian Sun. She says since the national clean-up day the town has been noticeably cleaner and there are fewer cases of illegal rubbish dumping. Boois says it appears the national campaign has led to a “definite change in attitude with regard to littering”. But she warns that it remains important to educate communities on the dangers posed by littering and illegal rubbish dumping. Keetmanshoop authorities described the 25 May clean-up day as a huge success. More than 1 500 bags of litter were collected by the community and all neighbourhoods were cleared of litter. All illegal dumping sites were cleared within two days. Dawn Kruger of the Keetmanshoop municipality told Namibian Sun that the campaign had a “noticeable impact” on the town’s overall cleanliness and resident attitudes towards littering. Both Boois and Kruger emphasise that the problem of littering has not been resolved entirely. “Littering and illegal dumping remain major problems in Keetmanshoop, and the municipality is using various measures to curb this unfortunate practice,” Kruger said. Boois from Mariental added that the problem was confined to the informal areas in the town. “That would be mainly because the formal areas as well as the semi-formal areas are provided with refuse bins, whereas informal settlement residents are given black bags and access to skip containers for their refuse removal,” she explained. Not all the bags are used as intended for refuse collection, and the refuse is instead dumped illegally. She said the municipality was looking at ways to address the problem. At Keetmanshoop, areas outside the town are most often used for illegal dumping of building rubble and garden refuse, Kruger said.

4.2 Informal settlements pose a challenge to Hepatitis E fight: Councillor

*The New Era* | 07/08/2018

The overcrowded nature of informal settlements makes it difficult to curb Hepatitis E, the councillor of the Moses Garoëb Constituency in Windhoek, Martin David has said. Speaking at a public lecture by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on viral Hepatitis here on Friday, David said as long as people live in informal settlements without proper sanitation facilities, the fight against the virus is futile. Viral Hepatitis is liver inflammation caused by a viral infection. It is transmitted through the faecal-oral route. David said the infection rate keeps increasing because people have to share public toilets and communal taps, while in some areas there are no toilets at all. He said one of the solutions to eliminating Hepatitis by 2030 as per the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is to demarcate land for residents. If land is demarcated in informal settlements it will make provision for land servicing in order to provide basic services. People can build their corrugated iron houses with toilets inside, he said. The councillor further stated that toilets provided by the City of Windhoek are not functioning due to vandalism by members of the community. People also do not know who should clean the toilets. Up to 20 people are sharing one toilet, David said. At the same occasion, Dr Lilliane Kahuika of the Ministry of Health and Social Services epidemiology division confirmed that new cases of Hepatitis E have been recorded, the majority in informal settlements. She said since 2013, 2 465 cases have been recorded, with the highest number recorded in the Khomas Region (1 967) and of this
number, 118 were laboratory confirmed. Hepatitis E is not a Ministry of Health issue alone, everyone should take part in the fight, from community members to different stakeholders, Kahuika said. The public lecture was held in observance of World Hepatitis Day, which was commemorated on 28 July.

4.3 Iipumbu unhappy with unhygienic conditions at Oluno SME Park

*The New Era* | 08/08/2018

Deputy Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, Lucia Iipumbu yesterday urged traders operating at the SME Park at Oluno in Ondangwa to keep their stalls clean so that they can retain customers. During a consultative meeting with traders to share ideas on opportunities and challenges in business, she bemoaned the lack of hygiene at the Namibia Development Corporation SME Park and said traders refuse to clean their stalls. “It is unhygienic. No customers want to buy products from a dirty place,” Iipumbu said. She added that the government has done its part by providing the parks and it is now up to the traders to keep them clean, but they do not want to use the money they make from the stalls to buy cleaning materials. Iipumdu further said five stalls are not in use at the moment as some of the traders are not willing to pay the monthly rental fee. The rental fee ranges from N$200 to N$ 450. Oshana Regional Councillor for the Ondangwa Urban Constituency, Elia Irimari convened the meeting. One of the participants, Willem Amutenya said the meeting was the first of its kind to be held in Ondangwa.

4.4 Skips go unused in Otjiwarongo informal settlement

*The New Era* | 09/08/2018

Residents of the New Ombili informal settlement at Otjiwarongo on Wednesday spoke out against people who throw rubbish on the ground instead of disposing of it in skips provided by the municipality. During a public meeting organised by the Otjiwarongo Municipality, a disgruntled Edgar Ganxab said some residents of New Ombili even dump dead pets on the ground, yet the skip put there by the municipality is empty. “I don't understand some of our people,” said another resident, Marcelius Awarab. Awarab said he has seen children who live nearby play amongst the rubbish. Some of the aggrieved residents felt parents are partly to blame as they let their children take rubbish to the skip in wheelbarrows, but the children are then unable to reach the top of the skip and just dump it on the ground. Otjiwarongo Mayor Bennes Haimbondi, who chaired the meeting, said they could provide the residents with garbage bags which the municipality will then collect in addition to the routine weekly refuse collection. Haimbondi also said informal settlements could be divided into sections and each household in the cleanest section could be rewarded with N.dollars 100 worth of water units or electricity by the municipality. The residents agreed to the mayor’s proposal, saying it will promote cleanliness. Haimbondi said the idea will also be shared with residents in the Tsaraxa-Aibes, DRC and Old Ombili informal settlements.

4.5 Bees descend on Katima Mulilo town

*The Namibian* | 17/08/2018

Swarms of bees have invaded the town of Katima Mulilo, and residents have been advised not to panic when they see them but to report to the ministry of agriculture's offices. According to senior forestry technician Joseph Simataa, 147 houses have so far been invaded by swarms of bees, and between 10 and 12 cases are being reported at the office every day. “The invasion of houses and some businesses by bees started in January this year, but then it was not as serious as the situation is now. It seems the number of cases is increasing, based on reports registered hourly,” he explained yesterday, adding that up to four cases have been registered in an hour. “We are very responsive to such reports, as we have
trained staff who do the capturing of the bees and release them in the forest. Some are put in beehives at offices at Katima Mulilo, and given to communities trained in honey production in the region,” he said. Simataa said the leading cause of the increase in bee invasions at the town could be because of deforestation as the forests are being cleared to make way for green schemes, and people also cut down mopane trees for firewood. “Deforestation is real in the region. The harvesting of fresh mopane trees is one issue we assume to be a factor as they provide hives for bees. There are green scheme projects such as the Katima/Liselo project, where 1 800 hectares of land was cleared mostly of mopane trees which accommodated large swarms of honeybees. “Some people, especially those living in rural areas, depend on wood for cooking, and they also sell some to people at Katima Mulilo town. They target mopane trees, which make better firewood than most tree species because they burn slowly. This year, we also had floods in the region, which forced bees to abandon their ground hives in floodplains and land anywhere in search of new homes,” he added. Simataa said large swarms of bees recently also migrated from the Zambian side, where they are smoked out of their hives during the traditional harvesting of honey. The bees would then nestle at any place, including in people’s homes, to rest. He furthermore advised people to keep rubbish bins closed at all times, especially when they throw away food and some open tins of jam and peanut butter as the smell attracts the bees. “Old vehicle tyres can be used to contain resting swarms of bees. The tyres should thus be covered to calm the insects. Parents should warn children against playing near the bees or throwing objects at the swarms as this could agitate them and result in them being stung,” he advised. Zambezi regional health director Agnes Mwilima told The Namibian yesterday that so far, no case of a person stung by bees has been reported at the Katima Mulilo State Hospital and clinics in the region. She gave the assurance that if such an incident occurs, they have the medication and competent staff to treat patients.

4.6 KMTC ordered to close dumpsite

*The New Era|20/08/2018*

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has ordered the Katima Mulilo Town Council (KMTC) to close its waste disposal site with immediate effect after the town council failed to enforce a mandatory compliance order dating back to August 2016. The environment ministry issued a compliance order in 2016 for council to relocate the dumpsite due to environmental and health risks. The town council at the time asked for an extension of six months, however two years down the line the town council is yet to comply with the order. In a letter addressed to Katima CEO Raphael Liswaniso (seen by New Era) the environmental ministry ordered council to “permanently close the Katima Mulilo Waste Site by the 17th of August 2018”. Council has also been ordered to “immediately submit the decommissioning plan to this office (environment ministry) for approval within 21 days of receiving this compliance order; and implement the decommissioning plan and rehabilitate the site on or before the 26th of October 2018”. The ministry further threatened to take legal action against the town council if it failed to comply with the order and this action could see the town council being hit with a fine of N$500,000 according to section 20 of the Environmental Act of 2007. Contacted for comment Liswaniso confirmed he received the compliance order from the environment ministry, he however explained they have appealed to Minister Pohamba Shifeta because at the moment they do not have an alternative but to continue dumping at the current dumpsite. “We have appealed and we are waiting for the minister to pronounce himself. We had identified a dumpsite in Liselo area, but things did not work out, and since we do not have an alternative will continue dumping at the current dumpsite, because we cannot dump in town,” said Liswaniso. The Katima Mulilo Town Council took a resolution to relocate the dumpsite, which is situated in close proximity to the Katima Mulilo Unam Campus and the Zambezi Vocational Centre, back in 2014. However, four years down the line nothing has been done and the dumpsite continues to pose a serious health hazard. Students from the two institutions have on several occasions held peaceful demonstrations but all has been in vain.