

Regional

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establishment of Regional Councils. The country has adopted a Decentralization policy, to promote participatory democracy, empowering people at the grassroots levels to actively participate in the affairs affecting their livelihood.

2. DEFINING EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is one of the building blocks of development. It is all about the expansion of freedom of choice and action. Article 21 of the Namibian Constitution makes provision for fundamental freedom.

The Decentralization Enabling Act, (Act No. 33 of 2000) was enacted with the aim of enabling the transfer or delegated legal and political authority, to plan, make decisions and manage public functions

from the central government to the field organizations.

In addition, the government has introduced the Adult Education System, it has also adopted the Beijing Declaration on empowering women. This implies that, the government has committed itself to empower its people at all levels.

3. DEFINING PARTICIPATION

Participation in the Namibian context means participatory democracy which has come as a result of the decentralization policy. This is a strategy through which government can measure the public participation in their own decision making and choices. Namibia is divided into regions and local authorities (Chapter 12 of the Namibian Constitution) for the purpose of ensuring that, all people have access to information and are included in the decision making process

for the betterment of the country's development.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE OSHANA REGION

Oshana Region is the smallest region in Namibia with (8653 km²) and a population of 161 916 according to the 2001 Population and Housing Census. The region is situated in the north of the country and is bordered by Omusati region to the west, Ohangwena region to the north, Oshikoto region to the East and shares the Etosha National Park with Kunene region in the south.

The region is a semi-arid area with generally sandy soils and has an average annual rainfall ranging between 400–500 mm. The high evaporation in the water pans called Oshanas tend to reduce the effectiveness of saline and dry land agriculture and fertility is low and crop production potential is limited. Large scale irrigation is not suitable as it increases salinity.

The food security is one of the basic human needs in the region and is achieved when people have reliable access to safe and nutrition food necessary to lead an active and productive life.

The majority of the people are dependent on subsistence farming and produce up to 13% of the total intake in the whole region.

Household and individual food insecurity seems to be a chronic problem amongst the poor and affects 40.12% of the households who spend more than 60% of their total income on food. This implies that, 5% of the regions' households are regarded as extreme poor as they spend more than 80% of their income on food.

Unemployment and social problems such as alcohol and drug abuse are at a very high rate. The movement of women into managerial positions or into business and entrepreneurial positions is still at a very low rate. Many of the trained young adults leave the region in search of better employment opportunities elsewhere in the country, as employment opportunities within the region are limited. This is because there are only three main urban centres mainly, Oshakati, Ondangwa and Ongwediva where job op-

portunities within the non-trading sector are being created.

The Oshana region has a homogeneous population of Oshiwambo speaking origin with the highest population density found in the three urban centres mentioned above. In the past, the development of this region was neglected especially in-terms of rural infrastructure, education, health and institutional facilities. However, after independence, the government has systematically addressed this issue targeting rural development programmes especially the provision of portable water and rural electrification.

The infrastructure sector of the rural areas has largely been neglected in the past, for example; access to roads which are needed to facilitate the linkage with the neighbouring regions. The absence of land ownership within the rural settlements hampers economic development while the available urban services such as sewage, electricity and water need to be expanded.

Oshana region has limited mining potential. The salt pans available in the southern part of the region, the Lake Oponono and the Etosha Pan are the largest. There is a very limited amount of clay which is suitable for pottery and is found in

the south-western part of the region.

In an attempt to address some of the regional problems, the government through the Ministry of Regional Local Government, Housing and Rural Development introduced the decentralization policy with the main purpose of taking the government services closer to the grass-root level. With this, the region is relatively moving towards development in comparison with the other regions, for example; the construction of a High Court, the Bank of Namibia, the Industrial Park, Oyetu and Etango shopping complex, Ongwediva Medical Clinic and Ongwediva Recreational Park to mention but a few.

The Regional Council which is coordinating the development of the region has so far constructed ten constituency offices, thereby having offices in all of its 10 constituencies. In addition, the council has two proclaimed settlement areas, Eheke in Ondangwa Constituency and Uukwangula in Okatana Constituency. Other available facilities are line Ministry offices and private buildings which indicate the government's commitments in the implementation of the decentralization policy.

5. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Oshana Region comprises of ten (10) constituencies, namely; Okatana, Okaku, Okatjali, Ompundja, Uukuyuushona, Uuvudhiya, Ondangwa, Ongwediva, Oshakati-West and Oshakati-East.

About 69% of the total population lives in the rural communities and 31% in the towns of Oshakati, Ongwediva and Ondangwa. The female population is comprises of 54.3% while the male population stands at 45.7%.

The population distribution for each constituency is as follows:

No.	Constituency	Female	Male	Total
1.	Okatana	8481	6871	20354
2.	Okaku	11245	9109	15354
3.	Okatjali	1542	1270	2812
4.	Ompudja	2448	2000	4448
5.	Endanger	16607	15057	31694
6.	Ongwediva	14973	11726	26700
7.	Oshakati-East	12955	11314	24269
8.	Oshakati-West	10914	8948	19864
9.	Uukwiyuushona	6551	5496	12042
10.	Uuvudhuya	2242	2136	4378
	TOTAL:	87958	73957	161 961

Source: Population and Housing Census (2001)

6. CONCLUSION
Regional development planning is regarded as a tool designed to identify problems at both regional and local levels. The cause of the identified problems are established and discussed with interested groups of people for seeking of solutions. These problems are turned into projects or programs in order to physically address them.

Empowerment and public participations are both building blocks of development. These concepts allow the people to exercise freedom and make decisions of their choices. The decentralization policy has made a provision for all Namibians to benefit from the available resources. The division of regions and local authorities has made it possible for people to have access to infor-

mation and also to participate in development and most importantly to have their voices heard.

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Gunshots heard in northern Abidjan's district of Yopougon

ABIDJAN, — Gunshots were heard on Thursday morning in northern Abidjan's district of Yopougon, causing panic among the residents.

The exchange of fire started after 10 a.m. (GMT) in Port-Bouet 2 region, which is a

stronghold of Alassane Ouattara within a district that largely supports his presidential rival Laurent Gbagbo.

The streets were immediately deserted with shops shut down.

Xinhua witnessed young men wearing uniforms and car-

rying kalachnikov rifles in the streets of Ananeraie area bordering Port-Bouet 2.

Calm was later restored in this densely populated district of Cote d'Ivoire's economic capital, which has been disturbed by the sporadic shots from kalachnikov rifles. (Xinhua)



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

REGISTRATION FOR OCT/NOV 2011 NSSC ORDINARY AND HIGHER LEVEL EXAMINATIONS NOTICE TO PART-TIME CANDIDATES

Date of registration **01 February 2011 - 08 April 2011.**

Examination fee for first-time takers - **NS90-00 per subject.**

Examination fee for re-sit candidates - **NS108-00 per subject.**

Registration for the examination can only take place at registered examination centres. Please contact your Regional Education Office for the names of such centres.

Part-time candidates will be registered for the examination only if they receive tuition at a tuition centre registered with the Ministry. The following tuition centres for part-time candidates are registered with the Ministry,

- NAMCOL
- TUCSIN Windhoek Campus
- IOL (Institute for Open Learning)
- TUCSIN Northern Campus
- National Academic Training College
- Rundu Achiever's Educational Centre
- Kleine Kuppe Academic Tutorial College

Part-time candidates will have to submit proof that they are registered for tuition with one of the abovementioned centres before they will be registered for the examination.

Candidates are kindly requested to start registering early to prevent a rush on the closing date. Please note that as from 2011 no late registration will be allowed.

DIRECTORATE NATIONAL EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT

REGISTRATION FOR OCT/NOV2011 JSC EXAMINATIONS NOTICE TO PART-TIME CANDIDATES

Date of registration **01 February 2011 - 08 April 2011.**

Examination fee for first-time takers - **NS38-00 per subject.**

Examination fee for re-sit candidates - **NS45-50 per subject.**

Registration for the examination can only take place at registered examination centres. Please contact your Regional Education Office for the names of such centres.

- NAMCOL (including NAMDEB)
- * National Academic Training College

Part-time candidates will have to submit proof that they are registered for tuition with one of the abovementioned centres before they will be registered for the examination,

Candidates are kindly requested to start registering early to prevent a rush on the closing date. Please note that as from 2011 no late registration will be allowed.

DIRECTORATE NATIONAL EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT