



www.grootfonteinmun.com.na



GROOTFONTEIN MUNICIPALITY

February - April 2010

Otjiwanda News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Dr. Ngurare Launches Municipality Website**
- 2 **20th Anniversary Celebration**
- 3 **Red Cross Fun day**
- 4 **World TB Day**
- 5 **New Councillor Inauguration**
- 6 **Mio Kagaya went to Japan**
- 7 **New Start Mobile Team in Grootfontein**
- 8 **Interview with Cllr. Mandume Kawana**

Dr Elijah Ngurare Launches Municipality website



Dr. Elijah Ngurare launches the municipality website on the 9 April 2010. Dr. Ngurare said that the website should be an important tool to disseminate council information to the community. He also emphasized that the municipality dedication in strengthening its service base while utilizing advanced technologies such as this website in order to reaffirm the principles of partnership and clear communication with community, thus keeping them aware and up to date on all of the Municipality project's. The website has been developed to allow municipal staff members to update content and news on a regular basis in order to keep residents, tourists and potential investors informed of the latest developments in this important link town on the Trans Caprivi Highway. According to the Mayor of Grootfontein, R.R. Kamehozu, the creation on the Grootfontein Municipality website is part of the Council's communication strategy. "Today we are happy that our strategy has materialized. The website marks a distinct in the way institutions communicates and informs its target audience of the project we are implementing in line with Council's mission and Vision 2030, as well as areas of need." He noted that the project is a classic fine example of community co-operation involving the participation of many local groups, directly and indirectly as well as enhancing and promoting Grootfontein. The website is based on a powerful content management system which allows for rapid and user-friendly updating. Currently, the site provides general information about Grootfontein, its history, its infrastructure, tourist attractions, business ventures and municipal services. The site also reflects some of the main news and community events through its news pages, while visitors to the site and the town are welcome to share their thoughts and experiences of their time in Grootfontein. The website also serves as direct online contact between the Town Council, residents and businesses. Residents and visitors to the web suite have also been invited to give their comments on the site and suggestion on other issues and services that need to be reflected on the website. The Acting CEO of the Municipality Mr. Charles Kariko gives his sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the stakeholders involved to bring this project to its final stage. Mr. I. Hainghumbi who is the spear header of the project said that as a responsible department of information and technology, we have major responsibilities of creating new communication tool. We believe that the provision of such services will facilitate interactive, create two-way communications and feedback within and with the external audience. We believe information is power; therefore the launching of Grootfontein Municipality website is very much part of Council's process to share information with our residents, business community and all other stakeholders. Mr. I. Hainghumbi further noted that "We took a cost-effective approach because of the financial constraints, we have to be content with the approach taken, and taking into account that the Council does not have an information technology section on its own, but this work is mainly assigned to our two staff members who have thus far carried out this work diligently".

20th Independence Anniversary



An Independence Day is an annual celebration commemorating the anniversary of a nation's acceptance of independent statehood, usually after ceasing to be a colony or part of another state, more rarely after the end of a military occupation. Namibia gained independence from South Africa on 21 March 1990 and on this day each year the country celebrates with a series of feasts and carnivals. For a relatively 'young' country, the day still holds great significance. It is a day of national pride for many Namibians and as such has been made a public holiday. Independence Day is one of the highly observed public holidays in the country. Tunisia a country in North Africa also celebrates this event on the 20 March every year after it declared its independence from France on the 20 March 1956.

During this annual celebration, the event took place in many towns nationwide including Grootfontein. The event was well attended this year compared to the previous years. Inhabitants of Grootfontein packed in full capacity at the Omulunga stadium. Various cultural groups in the town also performed on this day. The Regional Cllr. of Grootfontein Hon. Peter Kawana presented the speech of the president at this historic day. The event was attended by various dignitaries of the town as well as the members of the public. Since 1990 Namibia enjoys peace and stability and justice for all guided by the supreme law of our Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. The parliament of the Republic of Namibia has endorsed various government strategies such as the Vision 2030, Millennium Development Goals etc. this should be the paramount principles of every Namibian citizen to work hard so that this can be achieved for the benefit of our future generation.

RED CROSS FUN DAY



The Grootfontein District office oversees all Red Cross operations for the entire district. These include home based care programs, community health education, a soup kitchen, a community garden, peer education and condom distribution in addition to acting as a community extension of local health facilities. Red Cross in Grootfontein hosted a fun day for children in Grootfontein. Gazza one of the popular Kwaito musicians also entertained the kids at the event. Gazza and some Red Cross staff distributed a parcel of gifts to the kids in hospital.

Currently Red Cross has 128 Home Based Care volunteers throughout Grootfontein District care for bedridden and most vulnerable and those who are unable to seek medical care themselves. The majority of these patients are on antiretroviral treatment for AIDS and TB treatment. Volunteers offer basic nursing skills to the patients while training family members to properly care for the relative who is suffering all with the ultimate aim of alleviating excessive burden these two diseases represent to the healthcare system. They also perhaps most crucially provide a measure of psychosocial support and basic counselling to patients. When patients become too ill to remain at home the HBC volunteers follow a protocol of referrals to the local hospital or clinic to assure that they get the necessary medical attention. Whenever possible, Red Cross goes so far to transport these patients to the medical facilities. Additionally, the home based care approach allows volunteers to take particular notice of OVC's, to register them for benefits through the Red Cross structure at large and to refer them to social workers.

NRCS volunteers also willingly and without recompense deliver awareness campaigns periodically to the vulnerable communities in the location and to the surrounding farms. Setting out on foot volunteers go door to door passing out literature in local language with messages about best health practices, answering questions, distributing condoms and encouraging the community to talk openly about relevant but traditionally taboo subjects like HIV/AIDS, transactional sex and family planning.

A health education program at the Grootfontein prison is conducting on the monthly basis by the Red Cross volunteers. Red Cross is also a dedicated presence and organizing member of community health events like World Aids Day, Clean up Campaign and NID.

World TB Day



The year 2010 has marked the halfway point for the Global Plan to Stop TB (2006-2015). It is clearer than ever that we must scale up efforts and continue to seek new and innovative ways to stop TB if we are to achieve our targets. We have made considerable progress. But the evidence points to an urgent need to do more, do it better and do it faster. The theme of Innovation speaks to the need for a new way forward. The slogan on the move against tuberculosis reflects this theme through a simple, flexible and easily translatable phrase. This year's campaign will focus on individuals around the world who have found new ways to stop TB and can serve as an inspiration to others. The idea is to recognize people who have introduced a variety of innovations in a variety of settings. The day was celebrated at various towns of the country including Grootfontein. The day was celebrated with a variety of songs and traditional dances from various cultural groups in Otjozondjupa region. Hon. Deputy Minister. Petrina Haingura presented a speech on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services Dr. Richard Kamwi. The Deputy Minister handed gift to the san people from Tsumkwe Constituency.

New Councillor Inaugurated



Cllr. Stanislaus /Uiseb was recently inaugurated as the new councillor who replaces Cllr. Henk Botha. Cllr. /Uiseb said that his paramount principle is to help the council to achieve its strategic plans as well as the vision and mission of the council. He further emphasizes that devolution should be our priority in order to meet the masses demands. Cllr. /Uiseb noted that we should implement and devolve the local economic development as well as town planning thus will foster development in the town. He further emphasized that community participation should be the council priority to promote development in the town and Namibia as a whole. Cllr. /Uiseb further said that the council is the mayor's agency responsible for driving Grootfontein sustainable economic growth. It's our job to ensure that Grootfontein remains a global success story. To help us deliver this we should work with partners from industry, and the public and voluntary sectors. I am also glad that the council launches its new website recently this will be a platform where Grootfontein will be known to the world day by day. I would like to give my sincere gratitude to the council for endorsing this electronic marketing of our town.

New Start Mobile Team in Grootfontein



The new start centre directors pay a courtesy call to various stakeholders in Grootfontein. The stakeholders caucus on various aspects to implement a mobile testing team in Grootfontein. Currently the mobile team is in Grootfontein at Red Cross Centre for two weeks. The entire community of Grootfontein is edged to utilise these facilities. The piloting will of testing will be done on a free basis. Based on the samples and statistics New Start Centre will move on to implement a fixed testing centre in Grootfontein. The main purpose of the centre is to increase access to voluntary counselling and testing services to the community. Furthermore it is an entry point to HIV/AIDS prevention and referrals for care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. The centre will also avail itself to test other diseases such as diabetes, TB etc. The community will be informed on any latest development regarding the New Start Centre.

A Token of appreciation to Mio Kagaya



Mio Kagaya has been a volunteer for two years at the Municipality as a Community Activist. Mio implemented a new project for the kids and it was a very successful project. The Mayor of the Town Rapama Kamehozu handed over a prize of appreciation to Ms. Mio Kagaya. The council on behalf of the residents of Grootfontein wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to JICA and the Japan Embassy to send volunteers to Grootfontein. Her work at the municipality will be memorable. JICA in recent years has been increasing its commitment, opening new offices and participating in a wide range of projects. They include such 'traditional' areas as improving health and education systems, developing vital infrastructure, strengthening agriculture and training key personnel to tackling more recent problems such as climate change and its devastating effect on the environment and vulnerable populations.

Interview with Cllr. Mandume Kawana (Chairperson of the Management Committee)



1. ON: Tell us what are the council strategic plans towards promoting local economic development?

MK: Council is working tirelessly in addressing the issue of promoting local businesses by engaging them regularly in organizing workshops for local businesses. The council needs to introduce a local economic development expert at a later stage depending on our financial implication that will mostly work with the LCD in the town.

2. ON: What are the challenges that are in Grootfontein and how should they be overcome?

MK: The challenges are so many firstly it is the land problem, we have enough land for investors to come here but the land is not surveyed. In the same content, I blame the office of the surveyor general who takes more than a year or two to survey the land and eventually to register the land to be ready for the market, I strongly call on government to intervene urgently and review or amend the policies of this office, as they deprive the people of Grootfontein an opportunity to development. We are facing unemployment challenges, as a council we are working tirelessly towards addressing this pressing problem by inviting and aggressively market our town, the launch of the town website is testimony to this and it's just the beginning of good things to come. We also have a challenge of accommodation (housing), Council has service land that will be on auction soon for people to build their houses.

3. ON: When can the community of Grootfontein expect development? What delays development to take place in the town?

MK: Very soon as I said previously. We are delayed by the surveyor general's office that takes long to survey land.

4. ON: What are the council objectives towards improving the standard of housing and improving the informal settlement in terms of the basic services and infrastructures?

MK: Council has service land where people are building their houses, the provision of potable water and the service of sanitation is accessible in the new extension. Council has built toilets in the informal settlement and has provided clean and potable water in that area. Council will also establish a playground very soon in the informal settlement.

5. ON: According to one personal observation the buying power of Grootfontein is growing day by day. When are we going to have big retail shops such as Shoprite and Pick 'n Pay?

MK: Negotiations are now at an advance stage with Trans Namib to sell that piece of land to the Council, I'm spearheading this project as I want it to be done before I leave the office. The sooner we get this piece of land, the sooner we will see Pick 'n Pay or Shoprite in Grootfontein, because investors who are interested to construct the shopping mall are eager and want to start as soon as possible.

6. ON: Devolutions and deconcentration are one of the types of decentralization. Tell us the hiccups that slow down the process of devolution, and what are the Council objectives towards implementation?

MK: Whatever has to be done with the availability of money and the decentralization policy will not achieve its goals if funds are not available, council cannot implement its capital project due to a lack of funds. We say the government should give money to local authorities to fulfil the wishes of our people in our respective locality.

7. ON: What is your future of becoming a political office bearer?

MK: I haven't made a decision yet, whether I will be available for another term, but at the right time people will know of my position regard politics.

8. ON: As a chairperson of the management committee, can you highlight any achievement the council has achieved over the last few years.

MK: We manage to construct 62 low cost housing for the single quarter residence and build together houses, as we are talking now people will be soon relocated to the new houses. The council has requested some more funds to the ministry as soon as this has been endorsed the project will be expanded. The tiring of the road to Luiperdheuvel has commenced and shall be completed soon. Council with the help of Japanese friends revamped the playground. I manage to engage all stakeholders and discuss issues pertaining to the development of our town. When I joined council three years ago, I found elderly people working in the municipality and I manage to convince council to withdraw that policy and give those jobs to the youths. If you go around you will see youths engaged in various work of the council known as Public Private Partnership (PPP). I regard it as an achievement. Finally I would like to edge to the people of Grootfontein not only to rely on council with regard to the eradication of unemployment but they should try to create income generating activities for themselves, especially by joining the entrepreneurship industry. The council has engaged itself with various stakeholders to bring development to the town. Recently the council launches its new website; the website will be used as communicating tools to make Grootfontein to be known to the world. All new developments and latest news in the town will be placed on our website. The website will also be used as a platform to disseminate council activities.

Design and Written By: Mr. Jackpelins Muundjua (PRO)

E-mail: jvmuundjua@grootfonteinmun.com.na

Printed by: John Meinert Printing (Pty) Ltd

Website: www.grootfonteinmun.com.na (Please add your comments on our website)

Fax: 067-243101 Tel: 067-243101