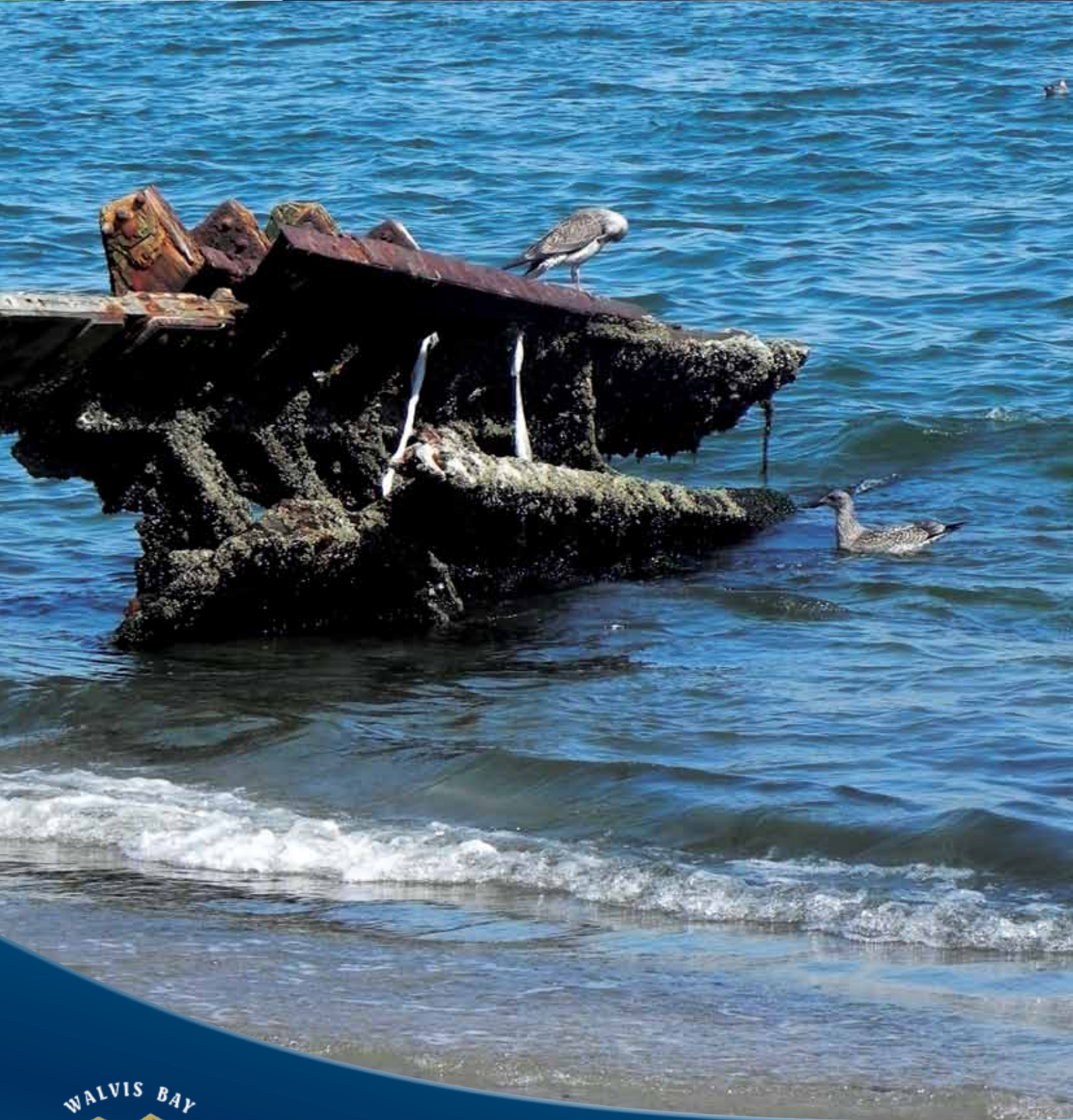




BAY NEWS

FREE publication of the Municipality of Walvis Bay



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February / March 2012

! Emergency Numbers

Municipal Services (After hours)

■ Customer Service	081 124 0726
■ Credit Control	081 122 0850
■ Hazardous Waste	081 129 5017
■ Librarian	081 388 3902
■ Parks & Cemeteries	081 124 3200
■ Public Health Services	081 124 1009
■ Public Relations	081 124 8999
■ Refuse Removal	081 129 9316
■ Resorts & Tourism	081 124 3537
■ Sewerage System	081 128 8324
■ Water Disruptions / leaks	081 128 8328
■ Environment	081 122 0814

Erongo RED Services (After hours)

■ Electricity	081 129 3875 or 217 600
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Other Emergency Services

■ Ambulance	216300
■ St. Gabriel Ambulance	085955 / 0811 296 280
■ ISOS	200 200 or 081 707
■ E-Med Rescue	081 924
■ Police	219 048 or 10111
■ NAMPOL Traffic	081 202 8391
■ Municipal Traffic	201 3241 / 081 1272662 081 122 0821 / 081 1220822
■ Fire Brigade	081 122 0833 or 081 122 0888
■ G4S	213 922 or 081 922
■ Sea Rescue	081 2420 506
■ Walvis Bay Airport	200 077 or 200 143
■ Namport Fire & Port Control	208 2221 or 208 2265
■ Namibia Defence Force	219 411(Rooikop)
■ Tourism Info Centre	081 128 6713 / 200606
■ Life Guards	081 1220888 / 081 1220833

Do not allow children to abuse these emergency numbers. A life may depend on the rapid response of these services.

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Ports and Maritime *conference a huge success*

Close to 200 delegates attended last year's African Ports and Maritime Conference 2011 organised by PMAESA in conjunction with Namibian Ports Authority (Namport) in Swakopmund, Namibia. The two day event which brought together high profile presenters from across Africa, Europe, Asia and America was followed by a Port Planning Workshop, an initiative the PMAESA chairman Mr. Tau Morwe, who is also the CEO Transnet National Ports Authority of South Africa.

"The Port Planning Workshop," said Mr. Morwe, "was "The Port Planning Workshop," said Mr. Morwe, "was to look at the challenges facing African Ports, Capacity issues within various African ports." The colourful opening ceremony presided over by Namibia's Minister for Works and Transport Mr. Erkki Nghitima and several dignitaries from the country's political landscape.

The Minister thanked PMAESA for spearheading the dialogue amongst Port managers at the conference noting that international trade fostered the economic well-being of countries. The Minister revealed that the Namibian government will invest N\$ 3 billion in the Targeted intervention Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) at NAMPORT creating 3000 jobs. He informed the delegates that Namibia, through the Port of Walvis Bay, had established Dry ports for Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana thereby fostering regional economic integration.

Mr. Morwe, in his key note remarks told delegates that the Conference was

taking place against the backdrop of economic turmoil in Europe. He said that European economies were still in dire straits and struggled to survive. He noted that PMAESA was an association of different African countries with different economies. "These countries must work together for integration to take place". He stressed that job creation was pivotal in all PMAESA countries. He said the Conference had attracted speakers from across the globe and there was going to be sharing of wide experience and expertise. He added that there should be a draft of action that would make regional integration a reality.

"This was a well prepared, well organized conference. I have seen enthusiasm written all over the faces of all delegates," Mr. Morwe told the ePMAESA Newsletter in an interview.

"Papers that were delivered were excellent and there is quite a lot to follow up in terms of the subjected matters that were presented on the floor, for instance issues around the single window, security and so forth." Mr. Bisey Uirab, CEO, Namibian Ports Authority and the second Vice Chairman PMAESA gave a warm welcome to the delegates and expressed confidence that conference discussions would come up with solutions to many challenges that affect the operations of ports and related activities. He told delegates to feel at home throughout their stay in Namibia.

Mr. Jerome Ntibarekerwa, Secretary General of PMAESA on his part thanked the Government of the Republic of



Hon. Mr. Erkki Nghitima, Minister for Works & Transport, Namibia, giving his opening speech at the conference.

Namibia, through NAMPORT, for hosting the AFRICAN PORTS AND MARITIME CONFERENCE 2011. He thanked PMAESA Board members for nominating Namibia as the venue for last year's theme "Ports and Logistics A Vision for the Future conference under the Integration". He paid tribute to "PMAESA AMBASSADORS" for organising the conference.

He told conference participants that PMAESA believed in regional integrations and therefore, participated actively in regional integration programmes of transport infrastructure which are promoted by African Development Bank (ADB), African Union (AU), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Mr. Snowden Mmadi, SADC Representative, pledged SADC's full support to PMAESA and the Conference in particular. (Conference documents, report and gallery at <http://www.pmaesa.org/apmc2011>)

***From PMAESA Newsletter**

Many businesses impressed with *sales*

Despite the global recession's devastating effects on some economies, businesses in Walvis Bay are claiming that the 2011-2012 festive season resulted in better sales than the previous year.

Bay News visited several prominent businesses in the CBD, in order to gain some insight into their performance during the past festive season.

The market has a tendency to inflate prices over the festive season, but this has however not deterred people from spending their hard earned cash. Some businesses offer specials during this period in order to take advantage of the high number of individuals who receive their bonuses, while some extend their operation hours.

Shops such as Spar, Shoprite, Top Liquors, OK furniture, Ackermans and others all claimed that the past festive season was better than that of the previous year.

According to Admin Manager at Shoprite, Cheryl Bester, the past

holiday season was one of the best ever, "In my fifteen years as Admin Manager not only in Walvis Bay but also in Swakopmund, I have never seen such an outstanding profit".

Floor Manager at Spar Supermarket Hubert Ciljeur, said "The holiday season started slow, then picked up around Christmas time, but then again slowed down again very quickly," Ciljeur said although they reached their target he expected to exceed it with a significant amount, but this was not the case. "We reached our target, but we expected more seeing that it was the festive season."

According to some of these managers, the majority of the customers were locals/Namibians and a small percentage of tourists, mainly from South Africa and Germany.

None of the businesses interviewed experienced any cases of theft or break-ins over the festive season.



Meanwhile small traders such as those who sell arts and crafts at the Walvis Bay Waterfront reported that business was significantly slow this past holiday season.

"December business was very slow, we did not get a lot of customers at all," said Joseph Immanuel, who sells handmade arts and crafts at the waterfront. "Usually our only customers are tourists, but we would also like to call on locals to buy our products as well and support us."

Secillie Haindongo, who sells artwork crafted by her husband and traditional dresses that she makes herself, said: "Although this year was better than the previous year, I believe that it could have been better."



Better marketing of Walvis Bay proposed

It has become a norm that all roads lead to the coast come December and 2011 was no different. As usual, Walvis Bay had an influx of people from all corners of Namibia and abroad. With this in mind, Bay News approached prominent tour operators to find out more about their operations during the holiday season.

"It was a great time, better than the previous year, we had more bookings especially from South Africa and Botswana; it's interesting how many direct bookings and enquiries we received from Botswana. It was a first, and I believe there is huge potential to attract visitors from Botswana to Walvis Bay, but we need to explore that market with the help of the Municipality," Pieter Pretorius from Mola Mola said.

"Walvis Bay is an under recognised tourism destination and has the potential to rival with leading tourist destinations in the country such as Sossusvlei and Etosha National Park if marketed correctly by the Municipality, government and affiliated associations and bodies. We need to embrace and value our natural resources of space, friendly people and wealth of marine biodiversity," he said.

However, for Walvis Bay Tour Guides business has been a bit slow, according to Elizabeth Bonifatius, who said it could be as a result of foreign currency fluctuations. "We expected more than the previous year especially from overseas but we had limited bookings. Our tourists were mostly from South Africa and Botswana with a few from Namibia."

Tour operators in general are of the opinion that the town needs branding and aggressive marketing as a tourist destination. Says Bonifatius: 'Walvis Bay needs to be promoted more as a tourist destination and not only as an industrial town; we need aggressive marketing especially locally and bring prices down to accommodate our local people. You will be surprised how many residents of Walvis Bay are not aware of the waterfront and all its activities, people only know about Dune 7, quad biking and Kuisebmond Beach.' Being in the tourism industry for a while now, she is confident that if local people are attracted and accommodated then it will have great spin offs especially at the Waterfront area.

"The Municipality must assist the tour operators in strategising and also consider opening a municipal tourism office or even just a counter at the Customer Care centre to market tourism activities in the town. We must find ways to attract our local people and not only target international tourists, people must invest in Walvis Bay and stay here as opposed to a day visit," she said. She also felt strongly that the focus should not just be on Walvis Bay as an industrial hub, but also as a haven for tourists.

Pretorius shared the same sentiments and noted they are looking at strategies to attract



local people to the waterfront, which must be marketed as a destination with a unique character. "We must nurture our beautiful environment and eliminate those who want to destroy it." Pretorius complimented the municipal Traffic Officer who appeared in the newspapers during the festive season for making the quad biker sweep the dunes that he had damaged with his bike. "That Traffic Officer needs to be recognised; we need law enforcement officers like him because quad bikes and jet skis are a big concern and we need whatever help we can get from the municipality to deal with them," Pretorius said.

He further noted that local entrepreneurs and smes must be supported and empowered instead of allowing large-scale developers to kill the smaller businesses at the water front. The road block at the Walvis Bay

entrance is also regarded as a serious threat to the economy of the city especially during the festive season. "Swakopmund attracts more people because of the road block; people prefer to do their shopping and spend the day there, to avoid the road block. Walvis Bay residents staying at Langstrand and Dolphin Beach rather invest in Swakopmund to avoid the road block and it is very bad for our industry, businesses, local tour operators and accommodation establishments who are losing out on revenue. We call on the authorities to consider moving the road block half way between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay," Pretorius said.

He also feels that both the tourism and industrial potential of Walvis Bay should be promoted equally.



Residents urged to renew their dog licences

Dog licences are issued by the Municipality of Walvis Bay on an annual basis. Each property owner may only have a maximum of **two** dogs on his/her property. Dogs need to be licensed as from six months of age. These licences are renewable annually between 1 January and 31 March and expire on 31 December of every year, meaning licences that were issued last year expired on 31 December 2011.

Residents are also reminded that it is an offence under the Municipal Dog Tax Ordinance to keep unlicensed dogs. Upon conviction, offenders can be fined a maximum of N\$200 or be imprisoned for six months.

Council also cautions dog owners not to allow their dogs to leave their premises without a leash and unsupervised. Stray dogs will be impounded and owners of the impounded dogs will not be able to reclaim the animals before proof is submitted that dogs will be kept under control in the future to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer.

Dog licences are available from cashier desks at any of the municipality's three offices. For further information please call the Animal Control Officer of the Municipality of Walvis Bay at Tel 201 3286/8.



Landscape level assessment of biodiversity vulnerability in the CENTRAL NAMIB



Lahja Tjilumbu from Gobabeb gives her perspective of a project which also concerns Walvis Bay.

The Central Namib, confined by the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the escarpment to the east, and sandwiched between the Kuiseb River in the south and the Ugab River in the north; is a hot spot for unique biodiversity, particularly reptiles and insects, with many endemic species.

The area is blessed by having such remarkable features as Welwitschia, Inara, and spectacular landscapes, which attract many tourists. The region is also rich in minerals such as uranium, and this has caused a flurry of exploration and mining activities in the region, which has contributed to the expansion of the coastal towns and other developments.

All of these developments are boosting business opportunities in the Erongo Region, good for economics, but it begs answers to some important questions. Is the Namib developing in a sustainable way? Are the authorities aware of the biodiversity in our region? Do developers know what and how much biodiversity and stunning landscape will be lost if these are not considered in planning?

The Landscape Level Assessment Project (LLA) is geared towards creating awareness in an effort to protect our key biodiversity areas and ultimately our environment. Based at the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre in the Namib at the shore of the Kuiseb River, the project endeavours to open eyes concerning key biodiversity areas and to provide tools to make better decisions that take biodiversity and ecological processes into consideration.

The aim of the project is to develop decision support tools for biodiversity and conservation planning in the face of new developments. It will also provide guidance for environmental management plans for mines, industry, and related infrastructure. With its focus on the Uranium Province of the Central Namib, including all municipalities located here.

According to *Lahja Tjilumbu*, appointed as intern to the project, underground aquifers are important sources of fresh water for many cities and towns in the world.

Walvis Bay is supplied with water

from the Kuiseb aquifer. Significant components of biodiversity and ecosystem services are driven by the ground water ecosystem. The bulk of the Erongo Region's groundwater is associated with ephemeral rivers such as the Kuiseb and Omaruru, which can only be recharged from floods coming from distant rainfalls.

If increased abstraction leads to the lowering of groundwater below the reach of Inara or trees, these plants may die and other associated biodiversity features would be lost. For instance, without their nesting trees, lappet-faced vultures would lose the Central Namib as their only safe haven to reproduce, and this important species could disappear from Namibia. It is therefore important to know where the key biodiversity areas are which are connected with groundwater, and also to have a planning framework to decide what to do about conflicting requirements from natural resources.

"It just feels good to be part of the team that is trying to give biodiversity greater



Lahja Tjilumbu (l) and Bright Sanzila examining a Husab Sand Lizard endemic to a small area of the Central Namib

"I would also like to encourage fellow youth in the Erongo Region to get involved in biodiversity conservation and to further sustainable development. After all, as future leaders, we want to live in a viable world. The LLA project is enabling me to play a promising role in promoting this, what can we do as residents of Erongo, not only mining and urban development impact the biodiversity? Many things you and I do can be threatening. We therefore need to keep our fragile environment in mind all the time.

We can begin by reducing driving speed and keeping only to designated roads and tracks when driving in the Namib, and dumping rubbish only in bins. Even if the desert may look empty, it is actually quite alive with special organisms", she said.

consideration in decision-making. When I was appointed as intern to the landscape level assessment project (LLA), a huge window of learning opportunity opened for me. Not only did I participate in the LLA project, but I was also involved in a range of different related activities such as assisting with research on ecological restoration which should ultimately enable mines and other industries to rehabilitate the desert ecosystems when they have

finished. I am also involved in long-term research projects such as monitoring weather and populations of tenebrionid beetles, and with the nomination of the Namib Sand Sea as World Heritage Site. I also helped with a study concerning habitat use by the Husab sand lizard (*Pedioplanis husabensis*) to better understand this vulnerable species, which is endemic to the core of Namibia's Uranium Province", Lahja said.

The LLA project is being undertaken by a group of organisations led by Fauna & Flora International (FFI), in cooperation with the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, Anchor Environmental, University of Hamburg, Business and Biodiversity Offset Programme at Forest Trends, and EnviroMEND. The project is carried out for MET (Ministry of Environment and Tourism), and is being overseen by SPAN (Strengthening the Protected Area Network).

Scenes from the Namib





Keeping the culture alive

The Ovaherero Traditional Authority Walvis Bay Branch is a group that was formed with the objective of educating members of the community about the Ovaherero culture, traditions and Herero dialects in Walvis Bay.

Bay News spoke to Adam Katjitae who is the chairperson of the group to find out more.

According Katjitae, the group holds informative workshops that teach the youth how to behave and perform certain traditional rituals. They are also taught about the different clans, and much more.

Some of the activities include teaching young girls how to make 'otjikaiva', which is the traditional head scarf worn by Otjiherero speaking women, as well as how rituals and traditional practices are performed at weddings and funerals.

"We live in an ever changing world and it is with this in mind that we have to teach our youth where they come from so that they do not lose their morals,"

Katjitae said. "Many people move to Walvis Bay in search of job opportunities and become part of a highly diverse community, which is wonderful, but it is important to preserve your tradition because it is often a tourist attraction as well," he added.

Apart from cultural activities, the group also aims to keep the youth away from drug and alcohol abuse by organizing charitable events, clean-up campaigns and sports activities.

Probed as to whether the group is only for the Otjiherero speaking community, Katjitae responded "No not at all, anyone and everyone who is interested in learning about the Otjiherero traditions, history and general way of life is more than welcome to join and take part in our workshops and we to hope that other similar groups invite us so that we all learn about each other's way of life, leading us to respecting and understanding each other better".

"Part of not forgetting where we come from is respecting our elders and giving back to our community," Katjitae said. In December the group held a clean-up

campaign at Kuisebmond Beach with the aim to prepare the beach for holiday makers flocking to the coast. The group also hosted an early Christmas lunch for the old age home in Kuisebmond on 12 November 2011, spoiling the senior citizens with gift hampers and a meal. "In an ever-changing world we cannot only focus on tradition but we also have to address other issues affecting our community as whole."

Katjitae said that the group get its funds from donations from the members themselves who make contributions according to what they can afford, but the business community is welcome to assist where possible.

Members of the public who wish to join, make contributions or be invited to any of the workshops can contact Mr. Tjitua (coordinator) on 0816296303 or Mr. Haukambe (Vice Chairperson) on 0811400502.

Culture is how people do things; tradition is a demonstration of how they do it.



Illegal dumping of building material



The municipality has received numerous complaints about building rubble and other refuse that is dumped in public places, notably between Narraville and the main road to Swakopmund. Not only do these practices leave a bad impression about the cleanliness of Walvis Bay, but may pose a health and environmental hazard.

In terms of the bylaw relating to the cleanliness of premises *“no waste shall be dumped, dropped, spilled or thrown in a public place, street that may cause untidiness or danger.”*

Similarly, the Standard Building Regulations (Act 3 of 1962) as amended prohibits the dumping of building rubble or other refuse on a public place, street or sidewalk.

Pertaining to building rubble and refuse at construction sites, the act states that the construction company or person erecting the

building must remove all debris, rubble and refuse on completion of the building or when called upon by a municipal official (the Engineer).

It is prohibited to place such building rubble or material on the street where it may cause damage to sidewalks or a traffic obstruction. If it is unavoidable that building material will be placed on the street due to the nature of the construction work, permission must be obtained from the local authority.

Any contravention of these building regulations and related bylaws is regarded as an offense and carries a hefty fine, if a person is found guilty. For more information contact Adri Louw at 201 3289.

Help keep our city clean by not dumping refuse in places other than the municipal landfill site. Not only is it unsightly but it creates an unhealthy environment.

Refuse Removal Tips

- Place your refuse bin on the pavement on the collection date before 08:00.
- Do not throw hot ash, sand, sharp objects (broken glass etc), garden refuse or liquids (oil, chemicals etc) in the bins.
- Once the bin has been emptied place the bin back in your erf. Municipal workers will not fetch or place the bin in your erf.
- It is a good habit to wash and keep your refuse bin clean. This will avoid any bad odours or pests like flies from breeding.
- If you haven't received a new bin, use standard black refuse bags.
- Building rubble or garden refuse should be taken to the refuse dump or landfill site.

Landfill Site

- Refuse may be disposed off only between the hours of 06:00 till 18:00 (summer) and 07:00 till 19:00 (winter).
- All refuse should be covered by a net or other suitable covering to prevent littering during transportation.
- All refuse must be weighed on the weigh bridge.

Littering

- Do not litter. Keep public open spaces and beach areas clean.
- Dumping refuse on public open spaces, the Lagoon, beaches, dunes, empty erven or outskirts of town is strictly forbidden.
- Report people who dump refuse in open spaces, empty erven or on the outskirts of town.
- People found dumping refuse illegally will be fined.
- Please note it is the responsibility of property owners (including empty erven) to clean and keep their properties clean and tidy.
- Remove debris, garden refuse, building rubble or any unsightly refuse from your erf regularly

Unmatched *tourism potential*

The natural environment around Walvis Bay is certainly unique in many respects, brimming with untapped potential to attract premium and sensible tourists.

There are many ways in which the local tourism industry can be promoted and expanded, without having to spend vast amounts of money. This could start with upgrading some public facilities or providing more information; it's never too late to unleash the blossoming tourism industry.

We have all the resources and attractions that can turn Walvis Bay into the tourism and adventure mecca of Namibia, even the fishing industry or the port can become a tourism attraction on their own since industrial tourism is also becoming a tourism phenomenon abroad.

These are the sentiments of Agostinho Victor, General Manager: Community and Economic Development.

"One of the main challenges facing the town is a lack of ownership and entrepreneurial spirit, residents as well as industries are working in isolation. We must all commit ourselves to make the benefits of living in Walvis Bay real and

tangible. Walvis Bay can be the tourism mecca that we want it to be if we all cooperate, instead of breaking down public facilities and destroying our resources. Residents can cooperate with the Municipality even if it is the smallest gesture like keeping Dune 7 and Kuisebmond Beach clean. We owe it to our city to join forces to promote Walvis Bay and protect our environment," according to Victor.

He points out that the hospitality industry is in need of properly trained staff for hotels and guest houses. "This is a big problem for accommodation establishments. Although there are institutions that provide training, there is still a shortage of trained staff at the coast. I feel we should look into short courses on hospitality training, tourism and entrepreneurship, that not only keep students interested in this field but also sharpen their skills to become job creators instead of just flocking to the coast in search of jobs," he adds.

The municipality and businesses could look into upgrading and maintaining some of the popular tourist areas in and around town, but vandalism and breaking down of public facilities is a huge concern.

"Our aim is to educate people

about the uniqueness of our environment, the importance of protecting, to nurture and embracing the unique potential of our city and to involve the local community to help us achieve our goal," says Gert Kruger, the municipality's manager for economic development. "We could only market Walvis Bay as a tourist destination successfully if all the industries and stakeholders establish good cooperation links amongst themselves, especially the local tourism operators," he explains.

An example indicating a distinct lack of cooperation from sections of the community is the dumping of refuse and building rubble in public places and breaking down of public facilities at the resorts and other public places like Kuisebmond Beach. Not only do these practices leave a bad impression about the cleanliness of Walvis Bay, but may pose a health and environmental hazard and are also costly to repair. "If we all take pride in our city and take care of our environment we can indeed unleash the tourism potential of Walvis Bay as the most sought after destination of choice," Kruger reminds.



a source of income for many



It is obvious when roaming the streets of Kuisebmond that the majority of street vendors mainly sell roasted meat, also known as Kapana. The roasted meat, mostly beef chopped into small pieces and dipped into a bowl of barbeque or peri-peri spice, is a delicacy for many locals and even tourists visiting Walvis Bay flock to these vendors to have a taste of this local favourite.

Samuel Hamwele aka Ndombolo, who sells Kapana in Kuisebmond, originally came to Walvis Bay in search of a job as welder. "I learned how to weld in the north and I came here in the hope of finding relevant employment, but I did not," he said.

Finding himself in a difficult situation, Ndombolo had to make money in order to support himself and his family. "I got two big empty bottles of Mayonnaise from a neighbour, filled them up with sweets and started selling the sweets on the street

corner." Ndombolo said he found the going tough because of the harsh weather at times and often other men would mock him.

"I saved the money that I made and started selling some kapana and realised that I can make more money this way," he said. He says the bulk of his customers come and buy kapana at month end, especially during the evenings and weekends. According to Ndombolo, selling Kapana is difficult and requires dedication just like any other job, adding that he often has to work until the wee hours of the morning.

Most of the Kapana vendors buy their meat in Swakopmund, where they claim to get it at a cheaper price and then sell their delicacies in Walvis Bay.

Ndombolo now owns his own stand which provides shelter from the wind and sun known as "Ndombolo Kapana" and also owns a little cuca

shop selling basic items such as sweets, soup, bread, potato chips, eggs and soap. He uses his income to pay for his two children's school fees, and pays for all his expenses.

"Life is not always easy, you always have to struggle and struggle and it is better to make an honest living rather than stealing," he stressed.





Sebastian Karagozian, Nicole Karagozian and Emilio Karagozian from Argentina, after an impressive dolphin cruise.



Edson of Brazil experiencing tranquility while playing the bagpipes along the lagoon.



Early Christmas Party held for Seniors in Kuisebmond, organised by local youth group.



Joseph Immanuel selling his hand made crafts at the waterfront.



Walvis Bay Spar's Floor Manager Hubert Ciljeur on duty.



Ambassador Daniel Smith and his spouse during an informal visit to the Mayor in December last year. The Smiths are based in Stockholm, Sweden and spent part of their holiday in Walvis Bay, Mrs Smith's hometown.



Traditional "Waltz" or journeymen chose Walvis Bay as one of the stops on their journey around the world.



Mayor Klazen with some of the councilors at the ground breaking ceremony of Kuisebmond's Secondary School's hall. They are joined by Stakeholders of the school.



Tom introducing his 7-week old puppy to the wonders of the lagoon.



Senior citizens raising their concerns at a meeting held in the community hall last month.

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