

DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 3

# NEWSLETTER

**OMD 2030 is an independent Community Association and the Citizenry Partner of the Oranjemund Town Transformation Programme. Our role within this project is to encourage and facilitate active citizenry involvement in co-creating a sustainable, economically diverse, and culturally rich town.**

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## EACH ISSUE CONTAINS

- **Highlights and news about our most recent activities.**
- **A glimpse into our upcoming events.**
- **Important contact information**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

## Creating space for growth



**Cindi-Lee Kisting**  
CHAIRPERSON – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Reader,

We often resist the change that comes with endings, because when they happen, we are forced into discomfort and the unknown. When I was going through divorce 4 years ago, my brother said: "endings are meant to be celebrated", at the time it felt like those smart things people say whenever we go through something ridiculously hard, but it stayed with me during my time in Oranjemund as I navigated relocation to create a new home and life.

Now, 4.5 years later, as I prepare to relocate once again 😊 and the time for me to hand over the baton looms, I find myself nostalgic as I reflect on my tenure as Chairperson of the OMD 2030 Board of Directors. I feel immense pride and gratitude, pride to have been afforded the honour to lead an incredibly capable and talented team for 2 years, and gratitude for the growth that came with being a volunteer in support of Oranjemund's transformation strategy.

OMD2030 was created to drive citizenry activation and behaviour change when Oranjemund was proclaimed and became an open town. Debbie Ashipala (current GM) along with Sue Cooper (previous GM) and Andy Garrison started operations with 2 employees (Debbie and Sue) working 2 mornings a week. That team has grown to 6 permanent and several temporary and volunteer staff working tirelessly to keep the citizens of Oranjemund engaged.

I remember texting Sue when I first saw the ad on a WA group, advertising the nomination and election of the Board at the AGM, to express my interest in serving and being rather adamant that it was for the Chairperson position 😊, obviously I would have to be nominated and elected still, but I had an internal knowing that I wanted to lead this team.

Little did I know how much this directorship would change me. It was the start of ploughing back into a community who welcomed and supported me while going through a personal valley.

The Board was elected at an AGM and appointed in May 2023.

Some of our selected focus areas were:

- Board Training (Thanks to Libertha Kapere for making the time to train us)
- Review of the Articles of Association (thanks to Andy Garrison and Sue Cooper for supporting and advising us).
- The development and execution of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to introduce ourselves as the "New Kids on the Block"
- Establishing ourselves as Facilitator of the Town Strategic Collaboration Plan Meetings (Nominated).
- Identifying & appointing an external Auditor (only unqualified audit opinions issued thus far, thanks to Sue Cooper and Francois Karsten for cementing the foundation).
- Review of Management Reporting.
- Recruit a General Manager (One of my proudest moments as a leader – Thank you Debbie for the dedication and creativity with which you lead).
- Implement a performance management structure (Thanks to Namdeb HR for your support with this initiative)

Often, it's not that we don't want things to end/change, but the behaviour change required from ourselves to see through the ending (sometimes unwillingly too) and begin afresh, is so unfamiliar it causes overwhelm and resistance and we subconsciously feel threatened, hence the reluctance to change.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRPERSON cont...

We cannot start something new, get through the discomfort and elevate ourselves, without creating space, by the ending of another equally important thing, because “growth and comfort don’t co-exist”. In a world where everything is about time and money, and how little time you can spend to make as much money as possible, living in Oranjemund brings you back to the basics and it sometimes feels like time slows down. If you allow yourself to become vulnerable and surrender to it, you get to notice the little things that sometimes pass us by but make life so much more worth living, because the magic is in the small insignificant moments!

I'm excited about the next phase of my journey and the prospect of appointing a new board of directors for OMD2030 (I've started canvassing 😊, so looking forward to the election planned for Q1 2026).

### To the town stakeholders:

- The Regional Councilor 2023, Lasarus Nangolo and his team, mainly Johanna Nangolo,
- The Mayor 2023 (HW Elias Kasemba), Councilors, CEO (Charkes Kakuru and Festus Negayi) and the Oranjemund Town Council Operations and Technical teams,
- The Namdeb Executive team led by Riaan Burger who have dual responsibility as the OMDIs Board including GM Tony Bessinger and Aunie Gideon supported by Ronel van der Merwe; and then last but not at all in the least,
- The OMD2030 Operations team led by GM Debbie Ashipala.

Thank you for your commitment to Oranjemund's transformation, the long hours and the collaboration efforts. Congratulations to the newly appointed mayor HW Pankratius Kondjamba and the Council, wishing you all the best in your new assignment!

I am forever grateful to God for the experience of being part of the OMD2030 team and serving on a board where the directors are responsive, involved, willing to pull together as a team, for extended hours without compensation... that's what I call commitment!

Learning from some of the best in government and corporate and giving my time as we worked to progress towards achieving the vision of transforming our little oasis in the desert, has been nothing short of rewarding. Because when time is well spent with like-minded people, which is what this service has been to me, it doesn't quite feel like you're giving it away, it feels like a contribution!

Grateful for life's valleys because without them, there would be no growth, no elevation, no expansion and no making space for the new.

Wishing you All a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous 2026!

Best Wishes,  
 Cindi-Lee Kisting  
 CHAIRPERSON – BOARD OF DIRECTORS OMD2030

***“When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change”. - Wayne Dyer***  
**#PeopleMakePlaces#BehaviourChange #ThinkDifferent #Slayyyy**



Image : The OMD2030 Operations Team & Board of Directors (2023)

## THE HUB DESK

### PEOPLE MAKE PLACES



Image: Some OMD 2030 staff during Namibian Heritage week

### Our 2025 Highlights

Some Highlights from Our 2025 Journey  
We are grateful to share a few of the measurable outcomes made possible through collaboration, commitment, and community support:

- **2,478 visitors welcomed at the Jasper House Museum.**
- **2,612.6 kg of recyclable material collected.**
- **We have secured Berronnies Building as an inclusive space to support and accommodate children with different abilities.**
- **71 km of organized community fun runs and walks completed.**
- **Over 140 children assessed by a registered educational psychologist.**
- **18 social events were held, attracting 3,337 participants.**
- **Growth in new partnership interest and collaborations with local companies.**

### Welcoming new team members

**The welcoming of four new OMD 2030 members, strengthening organisational capacity and community representation**

**We are encouraged by the trust placed in us by the community. Below are a few reflections shared by our new members:**

“Sometimes I think about how many stories a place holds, and how a clean, calm space quietly supports all of them. Being part of OMD 2030 makes me feel like I’m helping the community breathe a little easier. It’s simple work, but it matters, and I’m glad to do it with people who care just as much.” — **Olivia Shipundi**

“I’ve always enjoyed ideas that stretch beyond the usual boxes, so joining OMD 2030 feels like stepping into the right kind of challenge. Every project has its own rhythm, its own surprise, and I love that. I’m excited to shape things that make Oranjemund feel a little more alive, one creative step at a time.” — **Sofia Chiete**

“I think I’ve always been drawn to work that brings people together around a goal. Being part of OMD 2030 gives me that energy every day. It’s meaningful, sometimes messy, always rewarding. I’m grateful to help guide projects that strengthen our community in real, practical ways.” — **Rachel Erickson**

“Stepping into the OMD 2030 team feels a bit like opening a well loved exhibit; familiar, but full of possibility. Caring for our town’s history has taught me how important it is to honor the past while shaping the future. I’m proud to help tell Oranjemund’s story in a way that inspires the next chapter.” — **Eileen Jones**



**Backrow from L to R** - Cllr. Leopold Haihambo, Cllr. Roseline Carina Matthys, Cllr. Kaarin Ashikoto, Cllr. Elias Kasemba. **Frontrow from L to R** - Cllr. Engelberth Jonathan, Pankratius Akwenye Kondjamba, Cllr. McCrailly Walters.

We celebrate this important milestone in our town's journey and extend our best wishes to the newly sworn-in councillors as they step into leadership on behalf of the community. We look forward to working together with Council, partners, and residents to continue building a town rooted in belonging, participation, and shared responsibility, as we collectively shape a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for Oranjemund.

## Uniquely talented Children

**For children who are differently abled, many are unable to speak for themselves.**

If you know of a child who fits the description on this poster, please contact us on [debbie@omd2030.com](mailto:debbie@omd2030.com).

**Please note that this is not a school or a specialist facility.**

The Inclusive Space is being developed as a community-based support center for both parents and children.

**The space will:**

- Provide basic resources and supportive activities that may assist children's development
- Offer a safe place for parents to meet, share experiences, and find solutions together
- Serve as a supportive environment where families feel seen, heard, and included

When not in use for special needs activities, the space may also accommodate other school-related or community learning activities.

Further information about schedules, and services will be shared in the coming year.

## New Leadership

The Oranjemund Town Council convened a Special Council Meeting on Thursday, 11 December 2025, where newly elected councillors were officially sworn in under the supervision of Magistrate Stanley M. Tembwe. During the meeting, office bearers for the 2025–2026 term were also elected.

### **Key office bearers elected:**

Cllr. Pankratius Akwenye Kondjamba

- **Mayor and Chairperson of Council**

Cllr. McCrailly Walters

- **Deputy Mayor and Vice-Chairperson of Council**

Cllr. Engelberth Jonathan

- **Chairperson of the Management Committee**

### **Other councillors:**

Cllr. Kaarin Ashikoto

- **Member, Management Committee**

Cllr. Roseline Carina Matthys

- **Member, Management Committee**

Cllr. Elias Kasemba

- **Alternate Member, Management Committee**

Cllr. Leopold Haihambo

- **Ordinary Member of Council**

## LOOKING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Do you know a child in Oranjemund (age 4-13) with **special needs** who is **not in school**?

If yes, please provide the following information:

 **Child's name**

 **Date of birth**

 **Gender**

 **Diagnosis (optional)**

Help us gather this information. Because every child deserves to belong, to thrive, and to be included.



## The Power of Volunteerism: Building Skills, Community, and Connection at OMD 2030

### More Than Just Giving Time

Volunteerism has always been at the heart of OMD 2030. It is through the hands, energy, and creativity of volunteers that many of our initiatives come to life. But the benefits of volunteering stretch beyond the projects themselves. For the individuals who give their time, the experience often opens doors to personal growth, learning, and meaningful connections.

### A Volunteer's Voice

One of our volunteers, Olivia Mwoonde, shares her journey at the Jasper House Museum. Through her role, she has gained the opportunity to explore Oranjemund's history and share it with visitors. The story of the Bom Jesus shipwreck, in particular, sparked her fascination with how trade and exploration shaped the town's past. What makes her experience even more meaningful is the chance to meet people from across the world. By welcoming them to the museum, she not only shares local heritage but also learns from their cultures and perspectives. For Olivia, volunteerism has become a rewarding way to connect both with history and with people.

### Bridging Cultures and Communities

Volunteerism at OMD 2030 also creates space for cultural exchange. Daily interactions with visitors from diverse backgrounds spark conversations that broaden perspectives. Each encounter is a reminder of how much we can learn from one another, and how even small exchanges contribute to building a more connected and understanding community.

### An Invitation to Join

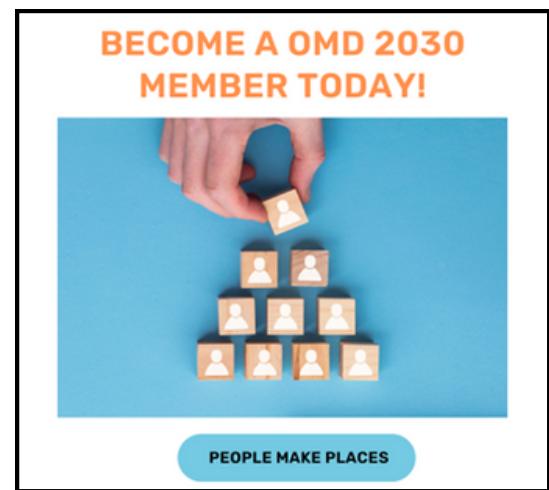
Olivia's experience reminds us that volunteering is not simply about filling a role; it is about growing, connecting, and being part of something meaningful. At OMD 2030, we celebrate the contributions of our volunteers and encourage more community members to take part. The future we build together is shaped not only by projects and policies, but by the everyday actions of people who choose to give their time.

## Become a member

Are you a resident of Oranjemund or have you lived here for more than six months? If so, you're eligible to become a member of OMD 2030.

Joining is easy, simply visit our office, provide your details, and become part of a movement dedicated to shaping the future of our town.

As a member, you'll have a say in the transformation of Oranjemund, ensuring it remains a thriving and inclusive community. Sign up today and be a voice for change!



## Running for Nature: OMD 2030 and Komatsu Celebrate Conservation with the Community

The OMD 2030 monthly Fun Run/Walk is a well-loved event in Oranjemund, bringing residents together through a 5 km run or walk that promotes both fitness and community spirit. In July, the event was held on 26 July in celebration of World Nature Conservation Day, giving the run a stronger focus on conservation, awareness, and collective action. The event also honoured Komatsu for their valued partnership and ongoing support of community initiatives. Their contribution went beyond sponsorship, promoting environmental stewardship and supporting youth creativity. As part of this commitment, Komatsu donated over 150 kg of boxes to the Ambrosius Amutenya Primary School art class, encouraging reuse and waste reduction.

Komatsu-sponsored arts competition highlighted young talent and the role of creativity in conservation. Winners included Jakonga Junias and Faith Kasemba from Awana Kids, and Joyce Mushiki from the AAPS Eco Club. Consolation prizes were awarded to Armando Gariseb and Samuel Shivolo from the Dare to Dream Boys Club, ensuring all participants' efforts were celebrated.



World Nature Conservation Day





## Street Festival strengthens Community Connections

OMD 2030 hosted a Three-day Community Festival in collaboration with the Oranjemund Town council.

Through this partnership, a three-day Community Street Festival was successfully hosted with the aim of connecting residents, supporting local SMEs, and celebrating culture and community spirit.

A pre-event 21 km run was held one week prior, with an impressive 60% of participants completing the full 21 km, a true reflection of community enthusiasm and commitment. The main event took place at Fifth Avenue, it kicked off with a vibrant street parade featuring festive floats led by bikers, drawing crowds and bringing sidewalks to a standstill. The official opening and town Christmas lighting were conducted by former Mayor, Cllr. Elias Kasemba, while Aunie Gideon, Acting General Manager of OMD 2030, shared insights on business potential and opportunities in Oranjemund.

On the day Santa arrived, approximately 350 children received Christmas gifts, generously sponsored by local companies, a heartwarming moment that highlighted the spirit of giving within the community.

A colourful photo frame became a popular attraction for picture lovers, capturing memories throughout the event.

Community members were entertained by talented local artists, with the highlight performance being the energetic Fire Drums show by MDU from Windhoek. The event was well managed, with visible police presence and security ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

**What an incredible way to kick-start the holiday season, a true celebration of people, place, and possibility.**



### RunOranjemund Marathon

At OMD 2030, we are committed to hosting inclusive events that align with our vision, inspiring connection and creating a strong sense of belonging for everyone in our community.

Stay tuned for more exciting events. Our full events calendar will be published in January for your convenience.

For now, mark your calendar for the **42 km Run Oranjemund Marathon, taking place in March 2026.**

More information will be shared early next year, should everything go according to plan.

Together, we continue to build a community where people make places. 



**EXPLORE, EXPERIENCE AND  
RUN THE JEWEL OF NAMIBIA**



**Debbie Virting Ashipala**  
OMD 2030 – GENERAL MANAGER

As the head of this beautiful organization and a proud community member of Oranjemund, I say with great humility that this has truly been a good year. My heart is full with gratitude for what we have achieved together, not only as an organization, but as a town.

Too often, progress is admired without acknowledging the people who make it possible. Today, I want to pause and sincerely thank every driver behind the wheel, those who give their time, their ideas, their energy, and their care to Oranjemund. Your contributions matter, and they are deeply valued.

I am incredibly proud of my team, our stakeholders, and every community member who continues to add value, heart, and purpose to this place we call home.

As we enter the festive season, I wish you and your loved ones warmth, rest, and joy. May this time be kind to you, and may the year ahead bring renewed hope, unity, and even greater things for all of us.



## Holiday Operating Hours

### TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE(HUB)

- 19 Dec 2025 - 5 Jan 2026: Office closed
- 6 Jan 2026: Office reopens

### JASPER HOUSE MUSEUM

- 22 Dec 2025 - 05 Jan 2026: 09h00 - 13h00
- 25 Dec 2025: Closed
- 26 Dec 2025: Closed
- 01 Jan 2026: Closed
- 6 Jan 2026: Normal operating hours

## And Finally

We hope you've enjoyed reading our newsletter! It's designed to give you a quick and easy update on some of our latest projects.

If you'd like to find out more about what we're working on, feel free to visit us at the Hub, follow us on social media, watch our latest videos on YouTube, or explore our websites:

 <https://omd2030.com/about-us/>

 <https://oranjemund-tourism.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@OMD2030>

We'd love to connect with you! 😊

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 Phone: Landline: 063 234 323  
Mobile: +264 81 625 5407

 Email: [reception@omd2030.com](mailto:reception@omd2030.com)

 Opening Hours: Monday to Friday  
09:00 – 16:00



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