

OAG's 8th Stakeholder Briefing Session with Regional Councils and Local Authorities of Hardap and //Karas Region



Deputy Auditor-General, together with the Honourable Governor of the //Karas region joined by political and management members of local authorities from Hardap and //Karas region.

The Office of the Auditor-General conducted stakeholder briefing sessions from 10-14 October 2021 at Keetmanshoop, with all Regional Councils and Local Authority Officials, CEO's and financial managers as well members of management councils. The Deputy Auditor-General (DAG), Mr. Goms Menettè, briefed the participants about the aim that the office was trying to achieve through this engagement. He said that through dialogues, the Office of the Auditor-General, executives and senior management of Village Councils and Town Councils of the //Karas and Hardap regions would perform better and ensure service delivery to the people.

In order for the system to thrive across diagonals in corporate governance, the DAG believes that accountability must be shared in order to achieve good service delivery. The Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Hon. Peter Chance K. R. Kazongominja gave an overview of the functions of the Public Accounts Committee and its functional mandate. He also indicated to politicians present, that they cannot interfere in administrative affairs, however, they can intervene.

The 8th Stakeholder's engagement was centered around the theme of Working Together Towards Shared Accountability. In order to ensure effective service delivery, accountability needs to be shared for the system to flourish across diagonals in corporate governance. The governor of the //Karas' region, Aletta Fredericks who was also present at the engagement encouraged local authorities to take accountability in ensuring unqualified audit reports.

The Office decided to focus on //Karas and Hardap regions respectively for 2021 and the DAG was happy to indicate to the workshop attendees that the region is doing good on submission of financial statement. The region is also showing improvements every year as indicated in the latest Special Report of the Auditor-General on the submission of financial statement 5 for local authorities and regional councils.

Stakeholder engagements allow transparent communication between the administrative management of council and political leadership to harness shared accountability, especially on the accounts of Council. It is through these annual tiers of engagement that the Office of the Auditor-General is able to continuously engage and help capacitate institutions of government in order to improve service delivery to the people.