

Great Kunene Leadership Training

01 to 05 June 2021

Claudia Gossow, Programme Manager

The Great Kunene Leadership training has for the past 3 years focused on capacitating and empowering the marginalized youth across the 7 constituencies in the Kunene region to engage in local and regional initiatives with the objective to develop themselves and improve their future and most essentially, to think differently about tackling developmental challenges in their region and the betterment of the community and region at large.

This year 25 participants once again benefitted from the 5-day training intervention hosted at the Opuwo Country Lodge and facilitated by Mr Roelof Kerkhof. Most of the beneficiaries, whilst unemployed, demonstrated visible commitment to effect change in their communities with the aim to uplift and empower through knowledge transferral. Whilst some of the beneficiaries' focus was on start-up campaigns and entrepreneurship and community gardening projects, others represented conservancy committees, or youth leagues and a broad spectrum of community upliftment projects. Overall the participants highlighted that the training content played a noteworthy role in their personal development as young leaders striving for the betterment of themselves and their respective communities. From the onset of the training, the participants and especially the female beneficiaries were grateful for the opportunity displaying great interest in the subject matter covered with eager engagement in discussions, small group work and practical assignments.

Opened by Resident Representative, Mrs Natalie Russmann of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and Mr Uautua Uarije, founder of the Great Kunene Regional and Rural Development Organisation, this year's training introduced a fully translated Manual in Oshihherero wherein the training focused on tools to enhance participants' leadership skills and guide them in effectively addressing relevant issues, challenges and solutions in their communities at large. Other topics that complimented the leadership training were monitoring and evaluation, project management, project cycle, team development, community mapping, building synergies and networking, as well as time management, decision making and presentation skills. Practical gap analysis tools were also introduced, including SWOT, PESTEL, Force Field and Root Cause analyses, aimed to guide participants to better understand and identify gaps existing within their unique region whilst gearing toward planning and implementing desired outcomes and enriching existing projects.

Through joint deliberation, each of the participants set for themselves clearly defined pathways to aid them in setting realistic short and long term obtainable visions for themselves. Vision casting was further strengthened on the second and third training days with special guest

presentations on community mobilization and promotion of sustainable gardening and food security, by Ms Marelise Serfontein, representative of Good Foods, a sustainable initiative of the Food Namibia venture, and their implementation partner, Mr Corné Thalwitzer, founder of Joel Parks. Their special message was to strengthen the linkage between the local fresh produce farmer all the way up to the Namibian and international market with the aid of Namibia's leadership and the private sector to support families and Namibia's nation at large to become more self-reliant through innovation and sustainability. The training was also graced with special visits by Hon Tjimutambo Kuuoko, Epupa Constituency Councilor, on behalf of the Kunene Regional Council as well as Mrs Uatjivisa Uarije, on behalf of the Mayor of Opuwo, Hon Rosa Tjeundo who KAS also paid a special visit to at the Okondaunue Primary School to distribute various publications including the Constitution of Namibia translated in English, Oshierero and Oshiwambo. The proceedings were recorded and interviews with the beneficiaries, facilitator, KAS Resident Representative and special guests were aired live across the region via Opuwo Community Radio.

Despite some pessimism about the future in light of the challenges exposed during the week, participants highlighted the value brought forth by this indigenous customised training initiative to further enhance their dreams and aspirations leaving the beneficiaries equipped with a new set of skills to continue aspiring toward greatness and develop their communities on a regional and perhaps even national scale whilst continuing to strengthen partnerships with the regional council and national leadership.

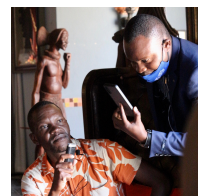


(Left) Resident Representative, Natalie Russmann, KAS
(Right) Hon Tjimutambo Kuuoko, Epupa Constituency Councilor



(Left) Tjizumaue Undari, Kunene Community Radio
(Middle) Bonna Werivera Kasaona, Alumni -Great Kunene Leadership Training 2019-2020
(Right) Resident Representative, Natalie Russmann, KAS

(Left) Roelof Kerkhof, Facilitator
(Right) Uautua Uarije, Cooperation Partner, Great Kunene Regional and Rural Development Organisation



Courtesy Visit and distribution of Publications to Hon Rosa Tjeundo, Mayor of Opuwo

Okondaunue Primary School



2021 Beneficiaries

