

Ruacana

Economic Profile

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Our credibility as asset managers is tightly governed by the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA). We are a Namibian-based investment team and focus exclusively on the Namibian market and we add value to portfolios by offering specialized Namibian mandates.

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FOREWORD

Welcome to our 10th economic profile report focusing on Ruacana Town Council. First Capital Namibia through rigorous economic analysis aims to generate knowledge and insights on the workings and performance of Namibia's national, regional, and local authority economies. Through these research publications, we hope to provide inputs and guidance to policymakers and those holding the political instruments of power on strategic priorities and the most pressing economic development issues facing Namibia's towns and regional economies. Economic history teaches us that unless a country has well-connected and integrated national, regional, and local authority economies, sustainable economic growth and economic prosperity cannot be realized and sustained irrespective of how much mineral resources the country is endowed with.

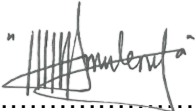
The Namibian economy is a sum of its fourteen regional economies. Every town and region therefore have a critical role to play in contributing to Namibia's economic growth and prosperity. The key to lifting Namibia's overall economic performance requires an understanding of the resource endowment, the comparative advantage, strengths, and challenges in each town and region. To build that understanding and inform policymakers at the Local, Regional and Central Government Levels, First Capital Namibia launched the first of a series of Regional Economic Profile Reports in 2018. These reports provide high-quality, consistent data that allows policymakers to make well-informed decisions. They also help analysts and the public to compare each town and region's economic performance and better understand the roles that different towns and regions play in contributing to the Namibian economy. We believe these reports will support decision-making at all levels and help generate discussion on how best to build a dynamic Village, Town, and regional economy.

The Ruacana report is the 9th economic report in the series. The previous reports include Omaruru, Outapi, Rundu, Mariental, Keetmanshoop, Opuwo, and Khorixas economic Profiles. These reports cover a wide range of topics including the town's population, economic structure and performance, employment, unemployment, education, health, standard of living, businesses, and tourism. The report will enable the reader and policymakers to answer questions about their town and region with confidence, and showcase their town and region to the world by [giving insights into](#):

- The town council and the region population and demographic trends.
- The town council employment rate and sources of income.
- The performance of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors in the constituency.
- The economic performance of the local economy relative to other constituencies in the region.
- How economic activity is spread geographically around the constituency and region.
- The business structure and the largest industries in the constituency, region and which industries are growing the fastest in terms of both GDP and job creation.
- Which occupations and qualifications have been growing in demand.

- The contribution of tourism to the constituency and the region's economy.
- The level of crime, safety, and wellbeing of your constituency.

Finally, we as First Capital Namibia, believe that a well-crafted Regional/Local Authority Economic Growth Strategy that recognizes and targets each region and town's growth points (centers), resource endowment and comparative advantage will unleash and unlock Namibia's economic potential and bring sustainable economic prosperity.

Signature.......... Date 28 February 2024.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank the Namibian Statistics Agency, Ruacana Town Council, Omona Health Centre, Ruacana constituency office, Schools in Ruacana and the AMTA office for their support in providing information which was useful in compiling this report. More so, we thank all who took the time to provide us with information on how they contribute to the economy of the town. Our gratitude is equally extended to all residents of Ruacana constituency Omusati region in general for taking the time to share their experiences. We also thank all offices that were consulted at the national level for providing us with information.

RUACANA ECONOMY BY NUMBERS

POPULATION



15,276 People

POPULATION DENSITY



3 people per square KM

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS



2 Secondary schools
2 Combined Schools
2 Private primary schools

NUMBER OF LEARNERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Secondary School: 1,037 learners
Combined Schools: 1,947 learners
Private schools: 161 learners

HEALTH STATISTICS

Number of health facilities

- 1 Health Centre
- 1 clinic
- 2 private health facilities

DISTRICT POPULATION

- Catering for 15, 051 patients

SANITATION

- No toilet facilities, invades bush: 53%
- Private flush connected to main sewer: 20%
- Bucket toilet, manually removed: 0.06%

MAIN SOURCE OF ENERGY FOR LIGHTING

Firewood: 70.4%
Electricity: 4.2%
Gas : 0.6%

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISKS

- Disasters and Climate Change
- Economic Downturn
- Drought

EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

AGRICULTURE

40.5%

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE

37.9%

OTHERS

21.6%

1. INTRODUCTION

Ruacana located in the Omusati Region of northern Namibia, is a town rich in geographical and cultural significance. It serves as the district capital of the Ruacana electoral constituency region's boundaries including the Republic of Angola to the north, the Ohangwena Region to the north-east, the Oshana Region to the east, and the Kunene Region to the west. The area is abundantly endowed with many beautiful sceneries, featuring diverse species of trees, wildlife, and conservancies that attract tourists.

The town's name Ruacana originated from one of its first settlers, Ruhakana, and over time, the spelling evolved to its current form. Ruacana is the native home of the Ovazemba and Ovahimba people. The town is geographically situated about 757 kilometers northwest of Windhoek, Namibia's capital. The town's location is strategic, lying on the border with Angola and serving as a route for travelers between Namibia and Angola, particularly through the Omahene and Swartbooidrift border posts, each approximately 20km from Ruacana.

A key feature of the town is the Ruacana Hydroelectric Power Station, established in 1978 and currently the largest electricity-generating hydroelectric power station in Namibia. This hydroelectric plant, operated by NamPower, was built around a dam across the border in Angola at Calueque. The town is also renowned for the picturesque Ruacana Waterfalls and its significance in energy production.

Ruacana's development over the years includes its elevation from a settlement to a village council in 2005, and later to a town in 2010. The town's population, according to the 2011 census, was 2,985, with the wider constituency having 14,857 inhabitants. As of 2023, the estimated population of the Ruacana constituency is around 15,276, as reported by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

This blend of cultural richness, strategic location, and natural beauty makes Ruacana a unique and important part of Namibia's landscape.

Report Structure

Section 2: Overview of Ruacana

This section provides a detailed overview of Ruacana, covering its demographic composition, social dynamics, economic status, and geographical characteristics. It aims to give readers a foundational understanding of the town in the context of its location in Namibia's Omusati Region.

Section 3: Primary Sector Activities

This section explores the primary sector activities in Ruacana. It will delve into the town's agricultural practices, resource extraction processes, and any other activities related to the natural extraction of raw materials. The focus will be on how these activities contribute to the local economy and their impact on the community.

Section 4: Secondary Sector Activities

In this section, the report will investigate the secondary sector activities in Ruacana, including manufacturing and industrial processes. It will examine the types of industries present, the scale of operations, and their role in the town's economic growth.

Section 5: Tertiary Sector Activities

This part highlights the tertiary sector activities within Ruacana. It will focus on the service industry, including areas like tourism (especially centered around the Ruacana Waterfalls and cultural heritage), retail, education, and healthcare services. The section aims to underscore the significance of these services in supporting the town's socio-economic fabric.

Section 6: Investment Opportunities in Ruacana

The final section outlines potential investment avenues in the beautiful town of Ruacana and its surroundings. It will discuss opportunities in sectors like renewable energy (given the presence of the Ruacana Hydroelectric Power Station), tourism, agriculture, and small-scale manufacturing. The goal is to present Ruacana as a viable location for both local and foreign investment, highlighting its strategic position, natural resources, and cultural heritage.

This comprehensive report structure is designed to offer readers an in-depth understanding of Ruacana's rich heritage, its contemporary socio-economic landscape, and the myriad opportunities it presents for future growth and development.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION OVERVIEW

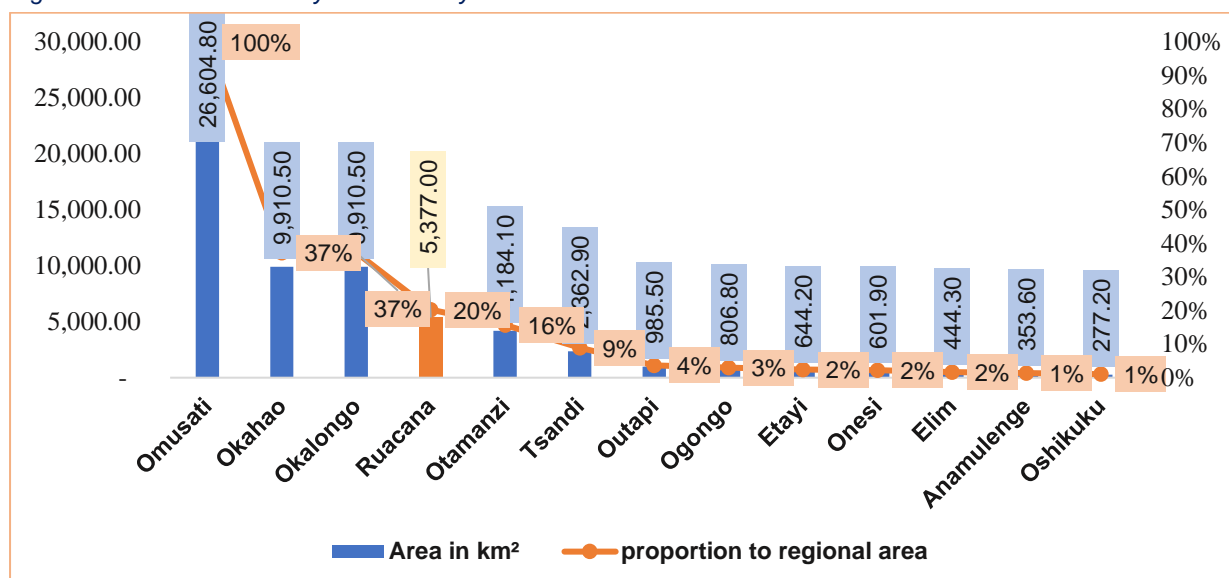
2.1. Land Size Comparison Among Constituencies in the Omusati Region

This section provides a comparative analysis of the land sizes of different constituencies within the Omusati Region. With the region spanning a total area of 26,604 square kilometers, this comparison gives an insightful perspective on how the land is distributed among the various constituencies, highlighting both larger and more compact territories.

- **Okahao** and **Okalongo** are the largest constituencies in the Omusati Region. Each of them accounts for a significant 37% of the total land area, indicating their extensive geographical footprint within the region.
- **Ruacana** and **Otamanzi** Following the two largest constituencies, Ruacana and Otamanzi cover 20% and 16% of the region's land area, respectively. This places them in the middle range in terms of size within the region.
- **Oshikuku** and **Anamulenge** are the smallest constituencies in the region. Each covers only about 1% of the total land area of the Omusati Region, making them the most compact constituencies.

This land size comparison not only reflects the physical dimensions of each constituency but also has implications for demographic density, resource allocation, and potential for development activities. Understanding these variations is crucial for regional planning, economic development, and the equitable distribution of resources and services across the Omusati Region.

Figure 1: Total Land Sizes By Constituency



Source: Namibia Census Mapping Report 2019-2021

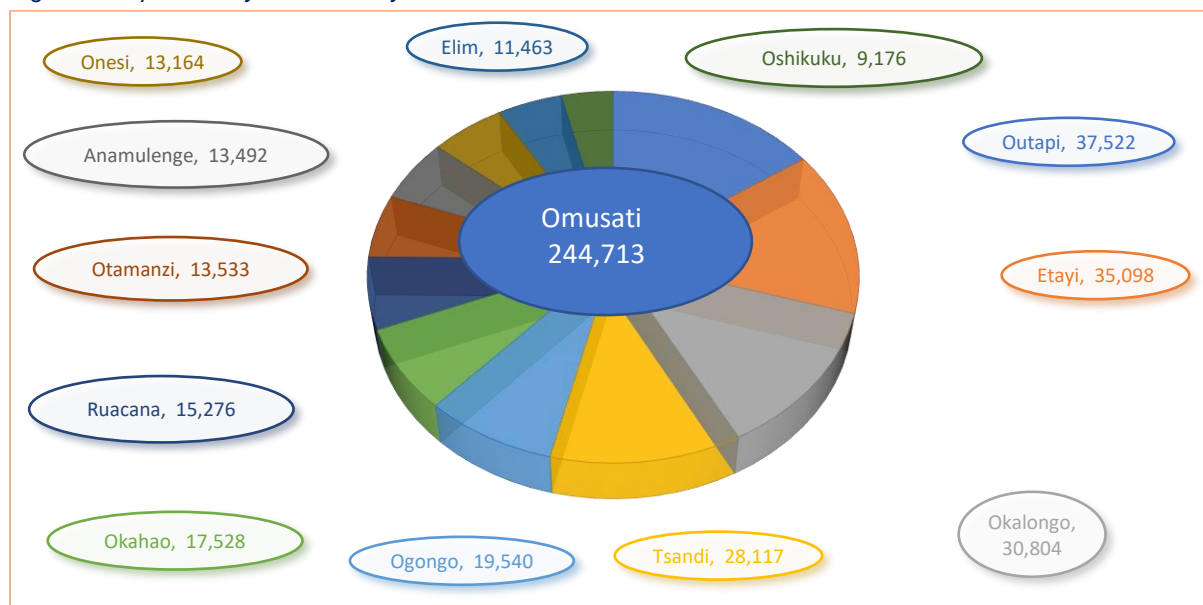
2.2. Population Distribution by Constituency in the Omusati Region

The Omusati Region has a total populace of 244,713 individuals, this makes it the 3rd most populated region in the country after Khomas and Ohangwena. The distribution of the population across the region's constituencies varies as follows:

- **Outapi, Etayi, Okalongo, and Tsandi** are among the most populous constituencies. Their respective population figures are as follows:
 - Outapi: 37,522
 - Etayi: 35,095
 - Okalongo: 30,095
 - Tsandi: 28,117
- On the flip side, **Anamulenge, Onesi, Elim, and Oshikuku** are the least populated constituencies in Omusati region. Their population counts are:
 - Anamulenge: 13,492
 - Onesi: 13,164
 - Elim: 11,463
 - Oshikuku: 9,176

The Ruacana constituency, with a population of 15,276, represents a significant segment of the Omusati Region's demographic landscape. For a more visual representation, please refer to figure 2 below. This data provides insight into the demographic distribution across the Omusati Region, highlighting areas within the region with higher populations and those that are least populated. Ruacana constituency accounts for 6% of the regional population.

Figure 2: Population by Constituency



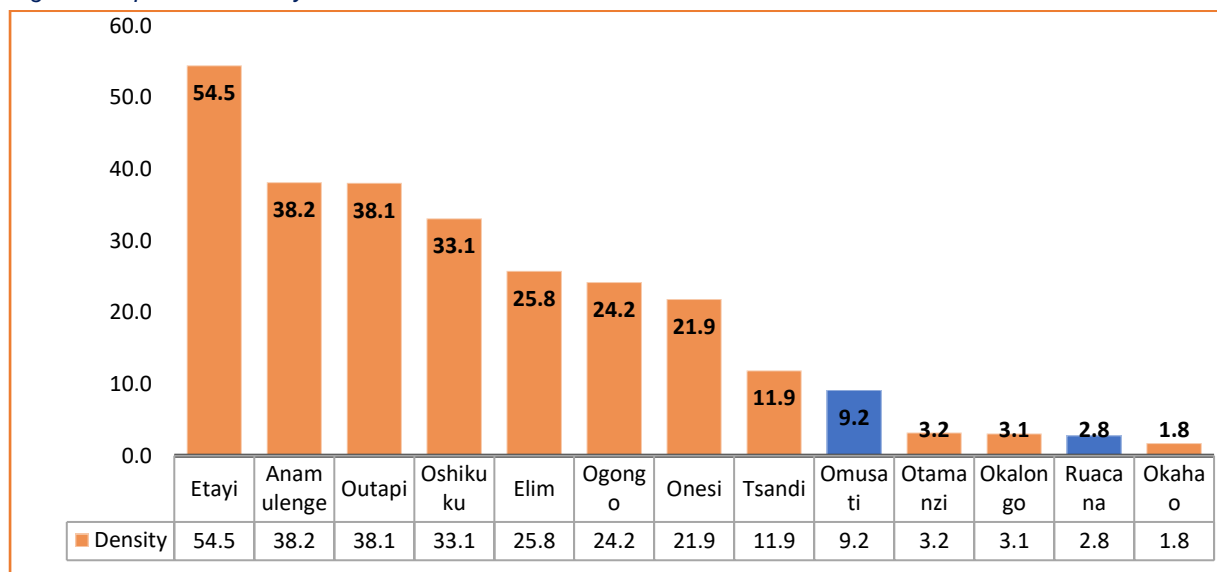
Source: Namibia Census Mapping Report 2019-2021

2.3. Population Density

The concept of population density is pivotal for a myriad of analytical purposes, ranging from research undertakings to informed policy formulation. Measuring population density is important as it provides valuable insights to governments, researchers, and planners in understanding a wide range of social, economic, and environmental issues, as well as addressing them. Furthermore, it helps researchers analyze demographic trends and helps policymakers make informed decisions, allocate resources equitably, and effectively respond to various challenges faced by societies.

Most importantly, population density provides a foundation for understanding the dynamics of human settlements and helps in creating better living conditions for people. In Omusati region, Etayi, Anamulenge and Outapi are the most densely populated constituencies with population densities of 54.5%, 38.2% and 38.1% people per square kilometer. Conversely, Okalongo, Ruacana, and Okahao record the lowest population densities, with population densities of 3.1%, 2.8%, and 1.8% respectively (see Figure 3). Thus, Ruacana constituency has a population density of 3 people per square kilometer which is below the average of 9 people per square kilometer.

Figure 3:Population Density



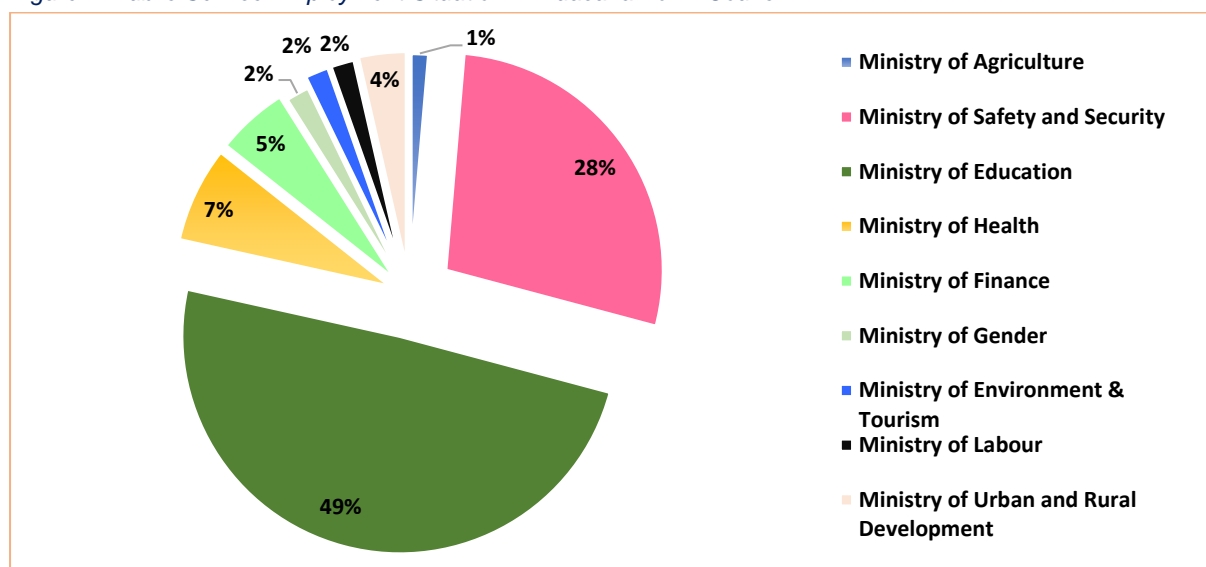
Source: Namibia Census Mapping Report 2019-2021

2.4. Overview of Employment Situation

2.4.1. Public Sector Employment Situation in Ruacana

The employment situation in Ruacana Town Council reflects a diversified landscape, with individuals finding opportunities in various sectors. This mixed employment structure not only reflects a balanced local economy but also underscores the role of both public and private sectors in providing livelihoods and contributing to the overall economic stability of the area.

Figure 4: Public Service Employment Situation In Ruacana Town Council



Source: Local Central Government Offices

Close to 50% of civil servants employed by public service are in the Ministry of Education, mostly teachers. They are followed by Ministry of Safety and Security civil servants, which is mainly constituted of police officers. In addition, public service is largely complemented by the private sector which also employs a large portion of people in the town.

2.4.2. Private Sector Employment

The employment distribution across various sectors reveals a diverse economic landscape. Agriculture stands out as a major contributor, employing 40.5% of the workforce, underscoring the significance of subsistence farming activities as a major source of income. Retail and wholesale sectors follow with 20.5%, emphasizing the importance of commerce in providing employment opportunities. While private health care, hospitality, tourism, and parastatals collectively represent a smaller percentage (1.3%), they contribute to the overall employment ecosystem. The informal sector emerges as a substantial player, employing 37.9% of the workforce, reflecting the prevalence of unregulated and small-scale activities. This comprehensive analysis highlights a balanced yet varied employment structure, with agriculture and the informal sector playing pivotal roles, and provides valuable insights for economic planning and development initiatives.

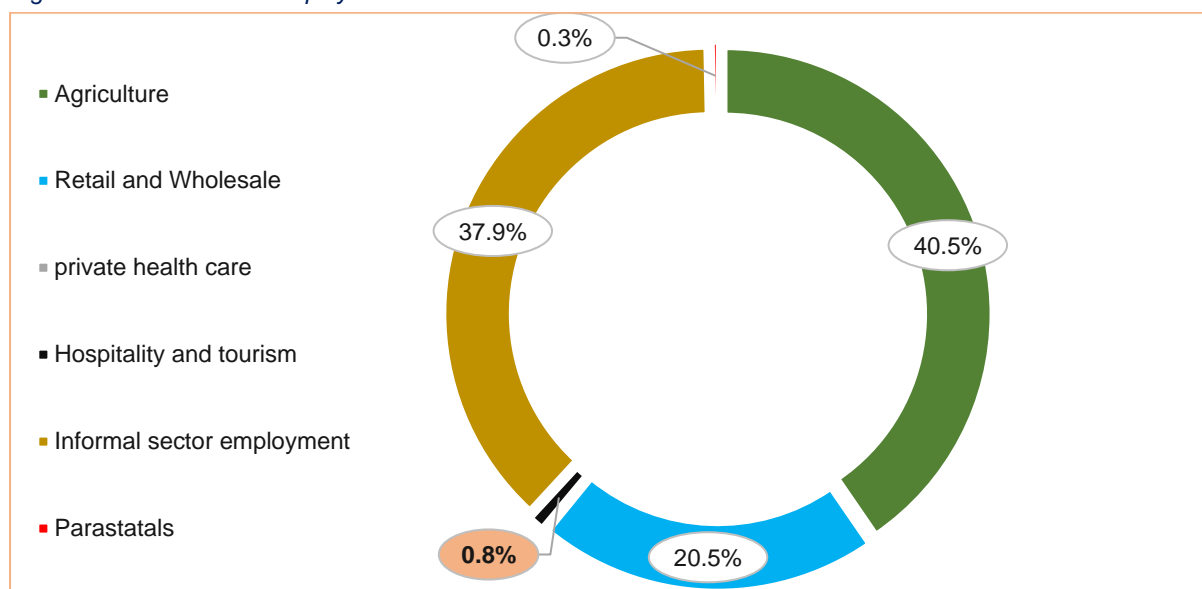
Overall Implications

The dominance of agriculture and the informal sector underlines the importance of these areas in sustaining employment, especially in regions where traditional and small-scale activities are prevalent.

The relatively lower percentages in private health care, hospitality, tourism, and parastatals indicate that while these sectors contribute to employment, they may not be the primary sources of jobs in the analyzed context.

Understanding this employment distribution is crucial for policymakers, businesses, and individuals seeking to comprehend the dynamics of the local economy and make informed decisions regarding workforce development and economic growth.

Figure 5: Private Sector Employment



Source: Local Business Establishments

2.5. Sources of Income

In the Omusati region, and particularly in Ruacana constituency, the diversity of income sources plays a pivotal role in ensuring financial stability and fostering a thriving economy. Different sources of income provide a safety net against economic uncertainties and contribute to the overall economic resilience of the area.

Primary Income Sources

Subsistence Farming: In both the Omusati region and Ruacana constituency, subsistence farming emerges as the predominant source of income. It accounts for 38.8% of residents' income in the Omusati region and 30% in Ruacana. This highlights the importance of agriculture in the local economy and its role in sustaining livelihoods.

Employment Income: Salaries and wages are the second major source of income, comprising 24.7% of the income in the Omusati region and approximately 21.3% in Ruacana. Employment income, particularly from formal sectors, provides financial security and stability, enabling individuals to meet their basic needs and contribute to the economy.

Pension Benefits: Pension benefits are also a significant source of income, supporting 18.1% of residents in the Omusati region and 14.5% in Ruacana. These benefits play a crucial role in supporting the elderly and contributing to household incomes.

Comparison with National Trends

While employment or wages are the primary source of income for many in Namibia (53.6%), followed by pensions (11.1%) and subsistence farming (10.6%), the trends in Omusati and Ruacana show a different pattern, with a greater reliance on subsistence farming and pensions.

Economic Implications

The reliance on subsistence farming in Omusati and Ruacana points to the significance of agriculture in these areas. However, it also underscores the need for diversifying income sources to enhance economic stability and growth.

The substantial role of pensions in the income structure reflects the demographic composition and the importance of social safety nets in supporting the population.

This overview of income sources in the Omusati region and Ruacana constituency, as detailed in Table 1, provides a comprehensive understanding of the economic underpinnings of the area. Recognizing the diversity of these income sources is essential for developing tailored economic strategies that cater to the unique needs and strengths of the region and its constituencies.

Table 1: Sources of Income Omusati Region and Ruacana Constituency

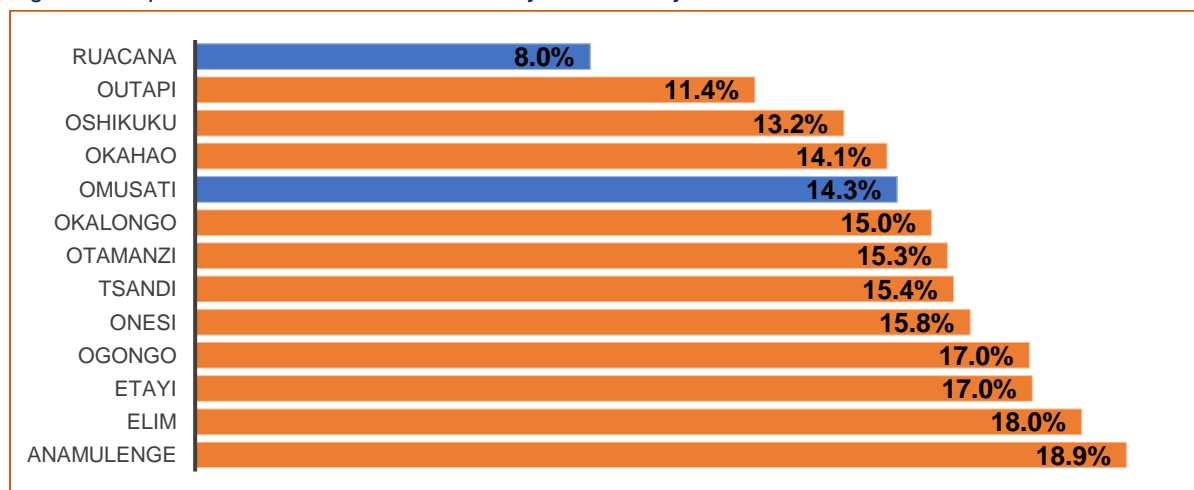
Main source of income, %								
Region	Salaries/wages	Pension	Subsistencefarming	Businessincome	Remittances/Grants	Drought/In-kindreceipts	Commercialfarming	Others
Namibia	53.6	11	10.6	9.1	9.6	2.7	0.3	3
Omusati	24.7	18.1	38.5	3.6	8	4.5	0.6	2.1
Ruacana	21.3	14.5	30	17.6	12.8	3.2	0	2.5

Source: NHIES 2015/16, Residents of Ruacana and Ruacana Town Council

2.6. Commercial Structure by Constituency

According to the NSA (2021), a commercial structure is a building a structure, or a complex of structures designed for retail and/or small-scale wholesale trade. The term encompasses stores, markets, shopping centres, stalls, arcades, and shops. Figure 5 below presents the proportion of commercial structures in each of the constituencies in Omusati region established by dividing the number of commercial structures in each of the constituencies by the total number of structures in that respective constituency. Simply put, the figure relates the number of commercial structures in each of the constituencies to the total number of structures in that constituency. Using that approach, we show that the proportion of commercial structures is the lowest in the Ruacana constituency (8%), and highest in Anamulemge (128.9%) of total structures in the constituency.

Figure 6: Proportion Of Commercial Structures By Constituency



Source: Namibia Census Mapping Report 2019-2021

2.7. Main Source of Energy for Lighting and Cooking in Ruacana

The 2021 census mapping report provides insightful data on the preferred sources of energy for cooking among residents of Ruacana. This information is crucial for understanding local energy consumption patterns and for planning relevant infrastructure and environmental policies.

Key Findings

Dominance of Firewood: A significant majority of the population in Ruacana, 54.6%, rely on firewood as their primary source of energy for cooking. This high dependence on firewood is indicative of traditional cooking methods and highlights potential areas for environmental and health-related interventions.

Use of Electricity: Electricity is the second most used energy source for cooking, utilized by 9.1% of the population. While less prevalent than firewood, its usage represents a shift towards modern and potentially more efficient cooking methods.

Gas Usage: A smaller proportion of the population, 1.7%, use gas for cooking. Although it is less widespread compared to firewood and electricity, gas is a cleaner alternative, and its usage could be indicative of varying socio-economic levels within the community.

The heavy reliance on firewood has implications for both environmental sustainability and the health of the community, considering the issues of deforestation and indoor air pollution. The data also underscores the need for developing infrastructure and policies that promote access to cleaner and more efficient sources of energy for cooking, such as electricity and gas.

The information presented in this section, detailed in the accompanying table, is vital for stakeholders involved in energy provision, environmental management, and public health in

Ruacana. It offers a basis for targeted interventions and policy development aimed at improving energy access and promoting sustainable and healthy cooking practices.

Table 2: Main Source of Energy For Cooking

	Animal dung	Charcoal coal	Electricity	Gas	paraffin	Paraffin	Solar energy	Firewood
Ruacana	0	4	645	120	0	3	3	3,876
Percentage	0.0%	0.1%	9.1%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	54.6%

Source: Namibia Census Mapping Report 2019-2021

2.8. Households by Constituency and Main Type of Toilet

The Namibian government has instituted a series of comprehensive programs and projects aimed at addressing sanitation concerns throughout the nation. These initiatives are designed to achieve several objectives, including the expansion of access to improved sanitation facilities, the promotion of proper hygiene practices, and the encouragement of the construction of contemporary and sustainable toilet facilities.

Despite these efforts, a substantial segment of the population still lacks access to adequate sanitation, and this challenge extends to the Omusati region as well. At the constituency level, the most notable deficiency in access to toilets is observed in Otamanzi, where 80.6% of the population lacks such facilities. Following closely are Ruacana, Onesi and Tsandi, both exhibiting 62% deficit. In contrast, Elim and Oshikuku boast the lowest percentage of people without access to toilets, with figures of 49.6%, and 41.8%, respectively (as indicated in Table 3).

Table 3: Households by Constituency and Main Type Of Toilet

	Bucket toilet manually removed	Covered pit latrine without ventilation pipe	No toilet facility bush, riverbed, fields	Pit latrine with ventilation pipe	Private flush connected to main sewer	Private flush connected to septic cesspool	Private flush not connected	Shared flush connected to septic cesspool	Shared flush connected to septic main sewer	Shared flush not connected	Uncovered pit latrine without ventilation pipe
Anamulenge	0.0%	5.4%	62.6%	23.0%	1.1%	3.6%	0.6%	1.6%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%
Elim	0.2%	11.5%	49.6%	24.9%	1.6%	5.8%	0.9%	1.4%	0.5%	0.5%	3.0%
Etayi	0.1%	11.6%	62.3%	17.2%	0.5%	2.9%	1.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.3%	2.3%
Ogongo	0.0%	8.0%	60.1%	22.7%	1.3%	3.2%	0.6%	1.6%	0.6%	0.1%	1.9%
Okahao	0.3%	6.7%	58.1%	12.7%	12.5%	2.6%	0.4%	1.0%	3.6%	0.6%	1.5%
Okalongo	0.2%	7.9%	62.3%	17.2%	1.2%	4.8%	1.2%	1.3%	1.9%	0.8%	1.2%
Onesi	0.1%	4.4%	72.0%	14.4%	1.6%	2.7%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%	0.5%	1.1%
Oshikuku	0.1%	8.3%	41.8%	19.1%	18.7%	5.4%	0.5%	2.8%	2.2%	0.2%	0.9%
Otamanzi	0.1%	4.0%	80.6%	11.9%	0.4%	1.3%	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%
Outapi	0.1%	5.0%	50.5%	20.5%	14.5%	3.0%	0.2%	1.0%	4.6%	0.2%	0.4%
Ruacana	0.0%	1.9%	70.9%	8.0%	12.0%	3.7%	0.2%	0.7%	2.1%	0.1%	0.4%
Tsandi	0.1%	5.5%	70.7%	15.0%	2.7%	2.3%	0.4%	0.9%	1.5%	0.3%	0.7%
Total	0.1%	6.5%	61.4%	17.0%	6.6%	3.3%	0.6%	1.2%	2.0%	0.4%	1.1%

Source: Namibia Census Mapping Report 2019-2021

3. THE LAND SITUATION IN RUACANA TOWN COUNCIL

3.1. Omusati Region's Status of Urban Land

3.1.1. Size of Urban Land in The Omusati Region

The land situation in Ruacana, particularly in terms of urban development, presents a unique scenario. Unlike many growing town councils grappling with the challenge of land acquisition, Ruacana Town Council faces relatively fewer difficulties in this regard. This is indicative of Ruacana's specific circumstances within the broader context of urban land use and development in the Omusati region. The Omusati region comprises five key urban localities, each with its own distinct land situation:

Ruacana Town Council: Exhibits a more manageable situation in terms of urban land availability and development.

Okahao Town Council: Has a slightly manageable land situation in terms of urban land availability and has the second largest area of urban land in the region.

Outapi Town Council: After Okahao, Outapi ranks prominently in terms of urban land sizes in the region. It is experiencing rapid development, placing considerable strain on the local authority to expedite the provision of essential services and infrastructure to meet the escalating demand for residential and institutional land. The accelerated pace of development underscores the imperative for strategic planning and efficient resource allocation to address the evolving requirements of the burgeoning community.

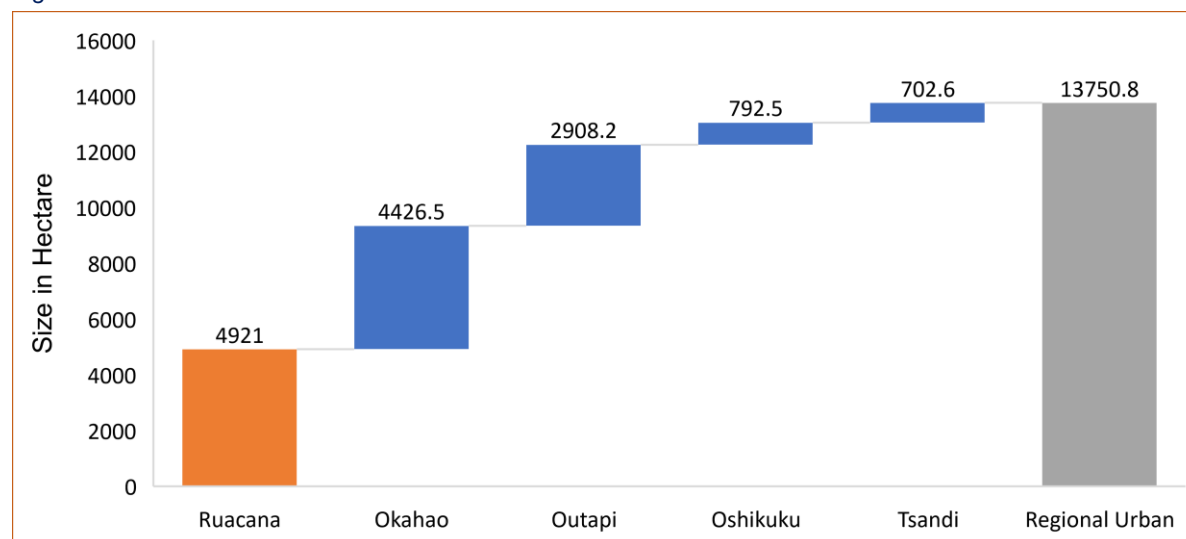
Oshikuku Town Council: Oshikuku follows after Outapi with a total land size of 793,107 hectares, Oshikuku was designated a Village Council in December 2005, and elevated to the status of a Town Council in September 2010. The land situation in the town is manageable.

Tsandi Village Council: Unique as a village council, with different land dynamics compared to the town councils.

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency's Namibia Urban Land Statistics Bulletin Preliminary 2022 (NULSBP), the data provides a comprehensive overview of urban land size and distribution within these localities. This information is crucial for understanding urban development patterns, planning for future growth, and addressing housing and infrastructure needs.

The section, as detailed in the accompanying data from the NULSBP, aims to shed light on the size and distribution of urban land in the Omusati region, with a particular focus on the situation in Ruacana. Understanding these dynamics is key to addressing the current and future urban development challenges in the region.

Figure 7: Urban Land Sizes



Source: NULSBP 2022

The total sizes of the urban localities in the Omusati region are shown in the figure below (in hectares). Ruacana Town Council is the most extensive urban locality in the region in terms of land size, according to NSA's Namibia Urban Land Statistics Bulletin Preliminary Study of 2022. Ruacana Town Council is the biggest urban locality in the Omusati region making up 35.2% of the urban land in the Omusati region. Okahao and Outapi then followed up with 32.2% and 22.2% respectively. The region of Omusati has a combined townland size of 13 750.8 hectares, with 3123.7 hectares of the area already zoned, representing 22.7% of urban land. About 77.3% of urban land in the Omusati region is still not zoned.

Table 4: Urban Land Sizes

Urban localities name	Town land size (Ha)	Townland size (%)	Size of Urban zoned land (Ha)
Okahao	4426.5	32.19	700.1
Oshikuku	792.5	5.76	356.8
Outapi	2908.2	21.15	1577.6
Ruacana	4921	35.79	298.1
Tsandi	702.6	5.11	191.1
Regional	13750.8	100	3123.7

Source: NULSBP 2022

3.2. Housing Characteristics in the Omusati Region

Housing characteristics in the Ruacana constituency, when compared to the broader region of Omusati, reveal some notable similarities and differences. In Omusati, the predominant

housing type is traditional dwellings, accounting for 50.0% of houses. Ruacana constituency, on the other hand, boasts an even higher proportion of traditional dwellings, at 50.7%. Both areas prioritize these structures, reflecting the cultural significance and historical architecture of traditional housing.

Additionally, detached houses are common in both regions accounting for 24.6% and 19.2% respectively, indicating a slight demand for free-standing houses. Equally worth noting, Ruacana has a higher percentage of shacks or impoverished units, with Omusati at 20.5% compared to the region's 12.8%. However, the key distinguishing factor is the prevalence of apartments, with Omusati showing a higher percentage at 3.1%, compared to Ruacana's lower figure of 1.3%. This data underscores the shared values in housing choices, but also the unique housing developments in Ruacana compared to the broader Omusati region.

Table 5: Housing Characteristics in Ruacana and Omusati Region

	Unknown	Apartment s/ Flats	Detache dhouse	Detache dhouse mixed	Impover ished unit shack	Mobile home, caravan or tent	Semi detached house town house	Single quarters	Traditional dwelling
Omusati	4.1%	3.1%	24.6%	1.9%	12.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	50.0%
Anamulen	4.6%	4.7%	30.7%	0.4%	15.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	39.7%
Elim	3.1%	1.1%	35.8%	0.0%	8.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47.8%
Etayi	2.3%	1.2%	14.1%	15.6%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	60.4%
Ogongo	2.0%	0.4%	29.7%	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	58.9%
Okahao	3.5%	2.3%	31.4%	0.2%	11.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	47.1%
Okalongo	3.7%	2.7%	30.4%	0.4%	14.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	44.4%
Onesi	5.3%	2.8%	18.9%	0.0%	14.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	55.2%
Oshikuku	7.1%	7.7%	37.9%	0.4%	10.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.2%
Otamanzi	1.2%	0.2%	18.5%	0.0%	11.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	64.0%
Outapi	6.4%	6.7%	21.2%	2.0%	16.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	43.3%
Ruacana	3.6%	1.3%	19.2%	0.5%	20.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	50.7%
Tsandi	3.1%	1.5%	22.1%	0.1%	11.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	58.6%

Source: Namibia 2019 To 2021 Census Mapping Report

3.2.1. Availability of Land in Ruacana

Ruacana Town Council, while abundant in the land, faces a unique challenge in terms of land zoning. Despite the availability of a considerable amount of land, only a small portion, 6.1% of the urban land within the Ruacana Township, is currently zoned. This figure is the lowest in the Omusati region, as evident from the data presented in the table below.

Unzoned Land: A significant 93.9% of Ruacana's local urban land remains unzoned, which is the highest percentage of unzoned land in the region. This is followed by Okahao at 84.2% and Tsandi at 72.8%. The high percentage of unzoned land in Ruacana indicates a vast potential for future development and classification based on planned land use.

The Importance of Land Classification

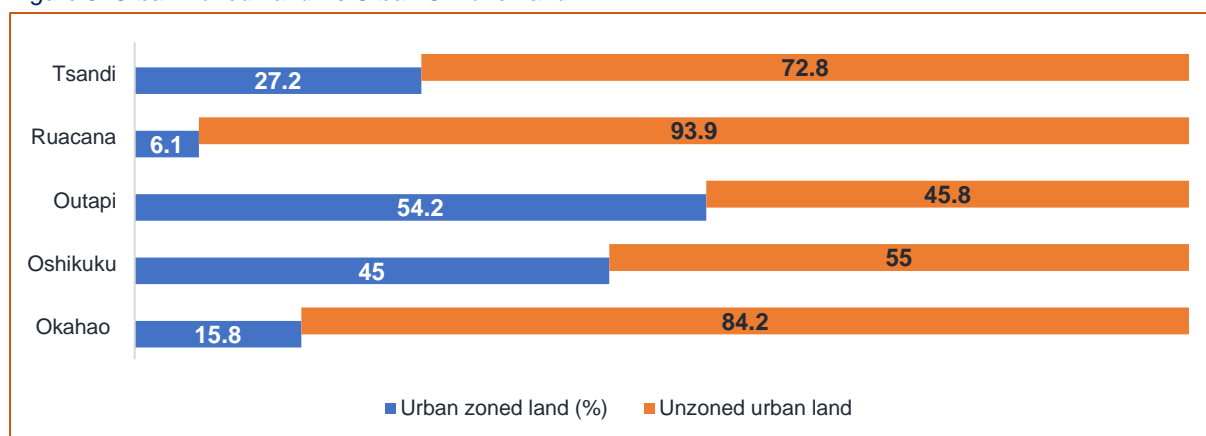
Future Planning: The availability of unzoned land within Ruacana's local authority boundary presents opportunities for future planning and development. It allows for flexibility in designating land for various uses as per the evolving needs of the community.

Accountability and Management: Every piece of land under the local authority must be accounted for in terms of land tenure, land use, value, size, and other basic characteristics. Proper management and classification of land are essential for effective urban planning and sustainable development.

Potential for Growth: The unzoned land in Ruacana represents untapped potential for growth and development, be it residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational. Strategic zoning can lead to enhanced land value and better urban infrastructure.

This section highlights the status and the potential for urban land development in Ruacana. The data underscores the need for comprehensive zoning strategies to optimize land use and cater to the future growth of the town.

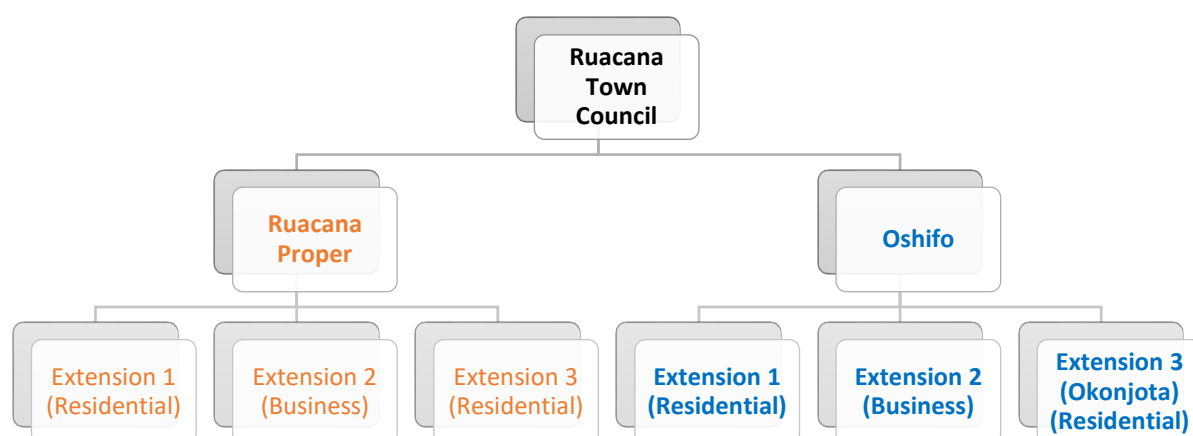
Figure 8: Urban Zoned Land Vs Urban Unzone Land



Source: NULSBP 2022

The Ruacana Town Council is made up of two segments, the old Ruacana which is now referred to as Ruacana Proper and Oshifo. Each segment (Ruacana proper and Oshifo) is made up of three extensions, which are extension 1, extension 2 and extension 3. Extension 2 in Ruacana proper and Oshifo are designated for business plots, while extension 1 and extension 2 in both are for Residential. However, extension 3 (Okonjota) of Ruacana proper is still under servicing.

Figure 9: Ruacana Urban Land Structure



Source: Ruacana Town Council

3.2.2. Housing Situation in Ruacana

The urban housing scenario in the Omusati region is characterized by complex challenges and diverse efforts to meet the increasing demand for shelter. With various stakeholders involved, including government entities, local organizations, and the private sector, there is a concerted effort to address these housing needs. A significant proportion, more than 70%, of the urban zoned land designated for residential plots in the Omusati region is located within Outapi and Okahao Town Councils. This reflects the concentration of residential development in these areas. In contrast, Ruacana Town Council has zoned 1,119 residential plots, which accounts for only 8.1% of the regional plots classified as residential. This comparatively lower percentage indicates a gap in residential zoning and development in Ruacana.

Implications and Need for Solutions

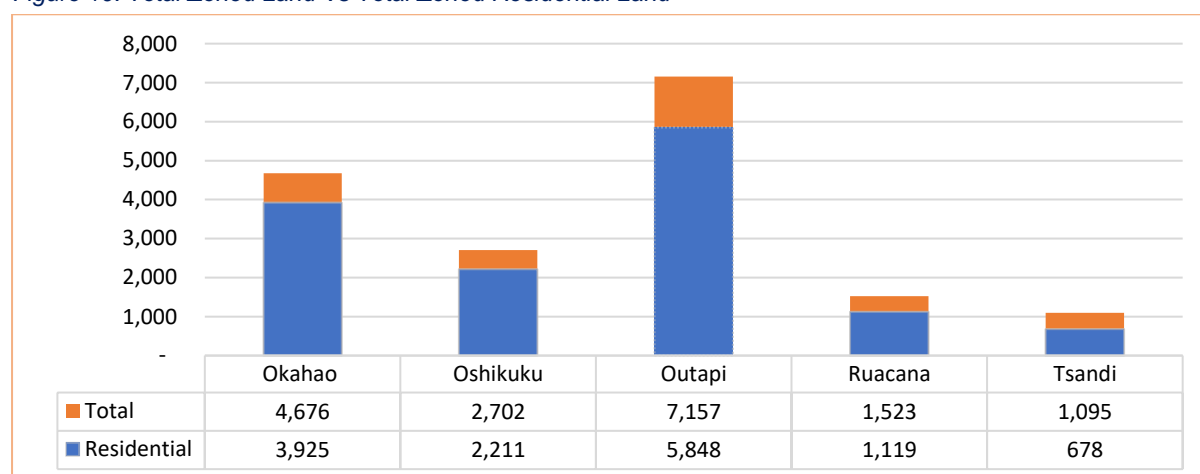
Housing Crisis and Living Conditions: The current data underscores a pressing need for more comprehensive housing solutions in Ruacana. The disparity in residential plot zoning highlights the challenges residents face in accessing adequate housing.

Collaborative Efforts for Improvement: Addressing the housing crisis in Ruacana requires collaborative efforts among various stakeholders. This includes government initiatives, local organization involvement, and private sector participation to develop and implement effective housing strategies.

Focus on Ruacana: Given the lower percentage of residential zoning in Ruacana, there is an evident need for targeted efforts to improve the housing situation in this area. This includes increasing the availability of residential plots and ensuring that development plans are in line with the needs of the community.

The urban housing situation in the Omusati region, particularly in Ruacana, presents significant challenges but also opportunities for development and improvement. Addressing these issues is essential for enhancing living conditions and meeting the housing needs of the region's growing population.

Figure 10: Total Zoned Land Vs Total Zoned Residential Land

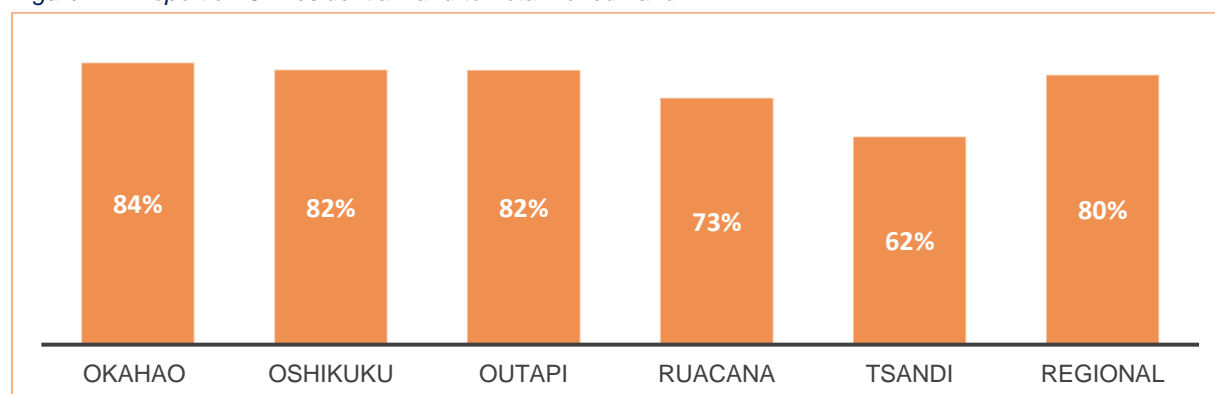


Source: NULSBP 2022

3.2.3. Residential Plots to Total Urban Plots

The graph below shows that about 72% of the plots are designated for residential purposes. This gives a balanced approach taken by the town to cater for businesses and other services. About 84% of Okahao's zoned land is classified as residential, this gives 16% of zoned land to other services.

Figure 11: Proportion Of Residential Land to Total Zoned Land



Source: NULSBP 2022

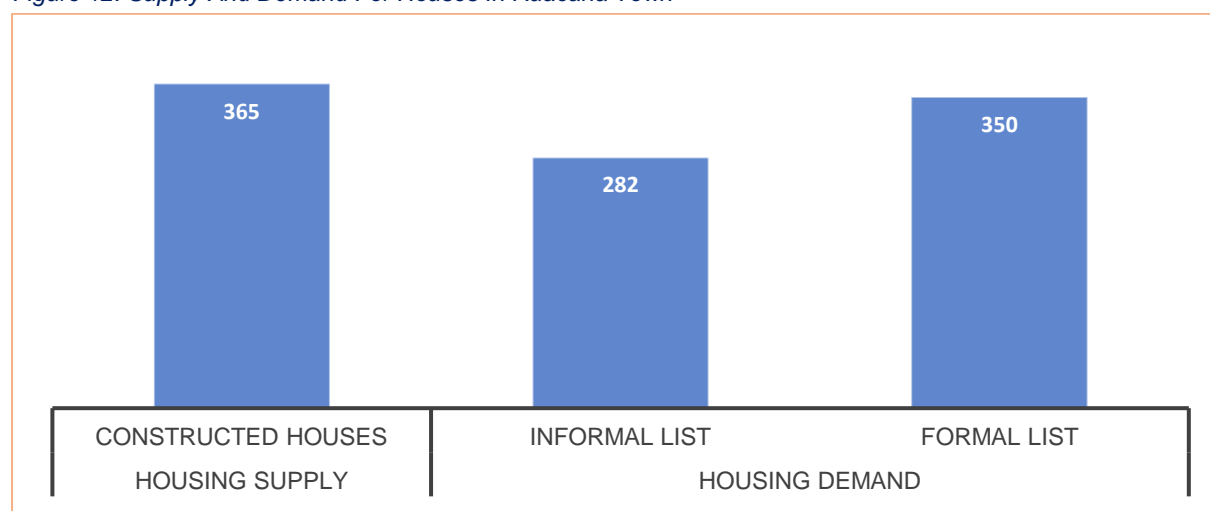
3.2.4. Supply and Demand for Houses In Ruacana Town

In 2022, the town of Ruacana witnessed the completion of 365 residential properties. This achievement marks a significant step forward in improving housing conditions and addressing the shelter needs of the community. Despite this progress, the challenge of meeting housing demand remains substantial. The Ruacana Village Council recorded a considerable number of applicants waiting for housing opportunities. Specifically, there were 350 applicants on the waiting list for housing in formal residential areas and 282 applicants for informal residential areas. These figures reflect the high demand for affordable housing in Ruacana, indicating that many residents are still in need of proper shelter.

Addressing the housing crisis in Ruacana requires a collaborative approach. This involves concerted efforts by the government, local organizations, and the private sector to develop and implement comprehensive housing solutions. Strategies may include increasing the availability of residential plots, providing support for affordable housing construction, and implementing policies that facilitate access to housing for low and middle-income families. Effective resolution of the housing challenge in Ruacana is crucial not only for providing shelter but also for enhancing the overall living conditions and well-being of the community.

The data on residential construction and the existing demand for housing in Ruacana underscore the pressing need for continued and expanded efforts to alleviate the housing crisis. Focusing on both the supply and accessibility of affordable housing is essential for meeting the needs of Ruacana's growing population.

Figure 12: Supply And Demand For Houses In Ruacana Town

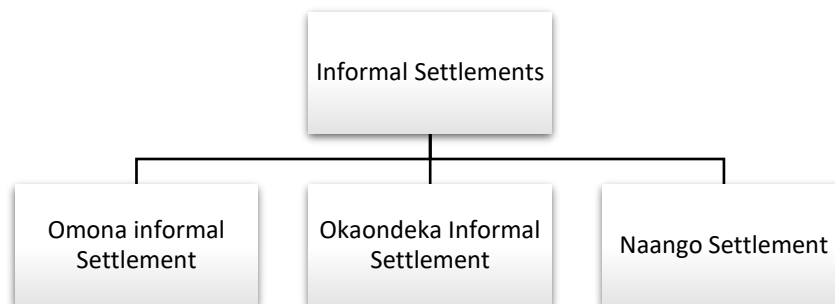


Source: Ruacana Town Council

3.2.5. Informal Settlement

The town council is faced with housing issues, and this has forced some residents of the town to stay in informal settlements. This is despite the town's efforts to address housing issues. Two of the informal settlements in Ruacana, namely: Omona informal settlement and Okaondeka informal settlement are being updated currently. An addition to these informal settlements is Naango informal settlement which became part of Ruacana after the town was upgraded.

Figure 53: Informal Settlements

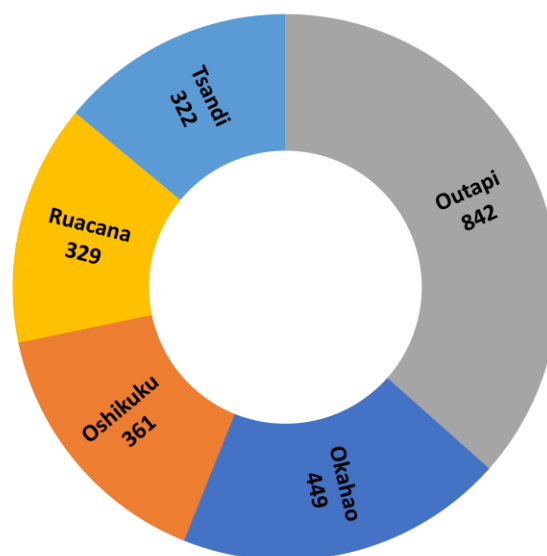


Source: Ruacana Town Council

3.2.6. Business Land

The urban locality of Omusati region has also allocated a portion of the zoned to businesses, with Outapi designated the highest number of plots to businesses followed by Okahao and Oshikuku with 449 and 361 respectively. Ruacana Town Council has classified 329 plots of the town's zoned plots to business.

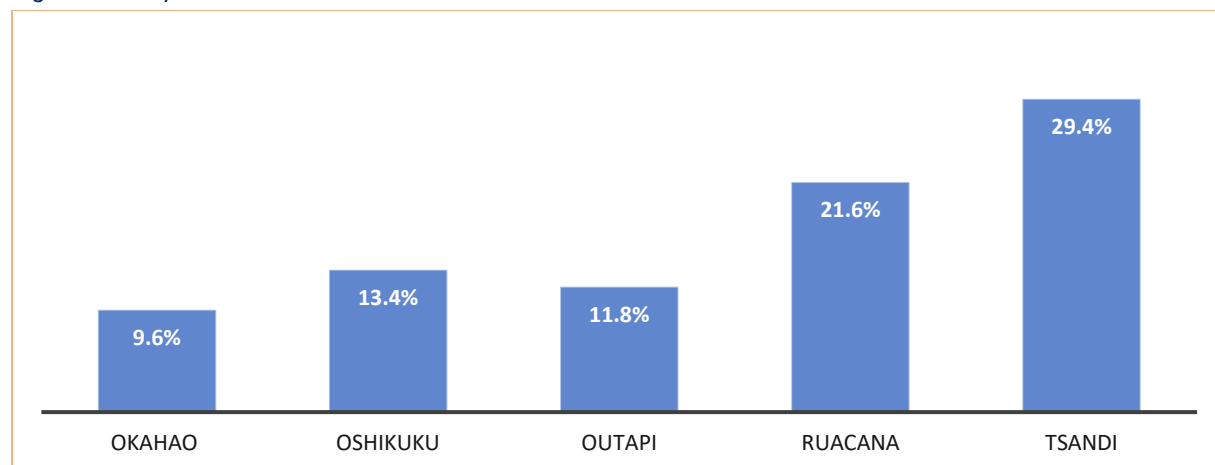
Figure 14: Number of zoned Business Land plots



Source: NULSBP 2022

About 21.6% of the urban zoned Plots are designated for business plots, this is to say that 94.6% of the zoned land plots in Ruacana are classified for residential and business which leaves only the town with 5.4% of the zoned plots for the rest of services.

Figure 15: Proportion of Business Zoned Land to Total Zoned Land



Source: NULSBP 2022

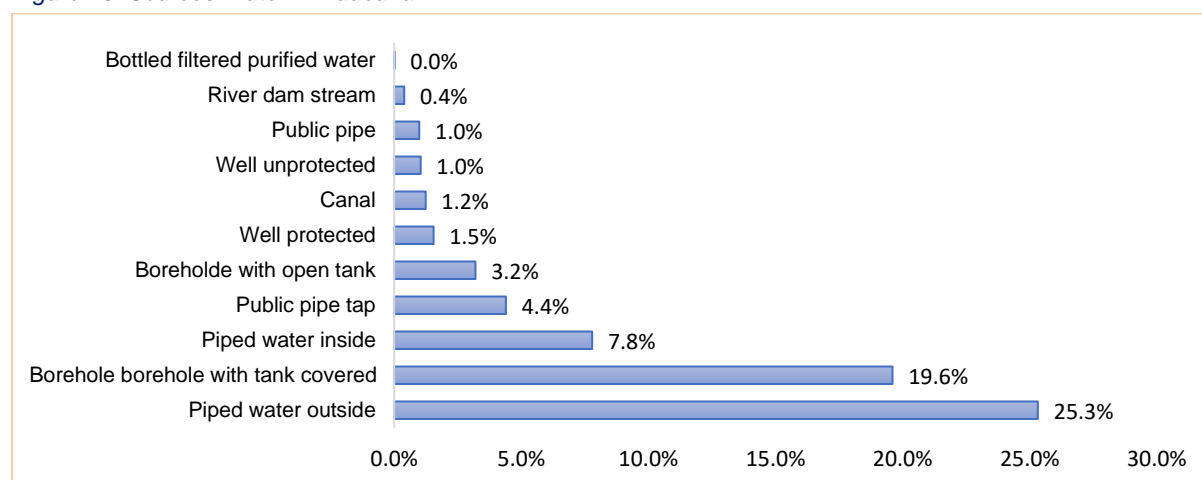
4. PRIMARY SECTOR ACTIVITIES IN RUACANA

4.1. Agricultural Sector Activities in Ruacana

4.1.1. Sources of Water in Ruacana

Ruacana primarily relies on several sources of water to meet its water needs. Some of the main sources of water in the Ruacana constituency include piped water outside (25.3%), boreholes with tank covered (19.6%), piped water inside (7.8%) and public pipe taps (4.4%). These constitute the highest sources of water in the constituency. Meanwhile, unprotected wells, river dam streams and public pipe taps account for 0.02, 0.4 and 1% respectively.

Figure 16: Sources Water in Ruacana

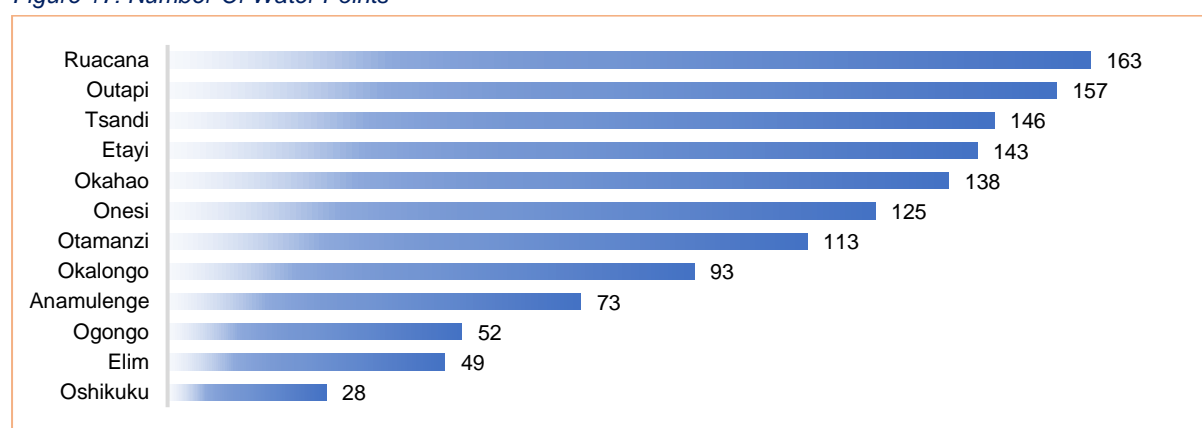


Source: Namibia Census Mapping Report 2019-2021

4.1.2. Number of Water Points in the Omusati Region

In the Omusati region, the distribution of water points varies significantly, with some areas boasting a higher number of water sources than others. At the top end of the spectrum, Omusati itself stands out with a substantial 1,268 water points, signifying a relatively robust infrastructure in the region's capital. Nearby, Ruacana and Outapi follow suit with 163 and 157 water points, respectively, indicating relatively good access to clean water in these areas. In contrast, Oshikuku, Elim, and Ogongo find themselves at the lower end of the scale with 28, 49, and 52 water points, respectively, revealing a potential need for increased investment and resources to improve water accessibility in these locations. These statistics underscore the regional disparities in water infrastructure, highlighting the importance of equitable water resource allocation and development.

Figure 17: Number Of Water Points



Source: 2019 Census Mapping Report

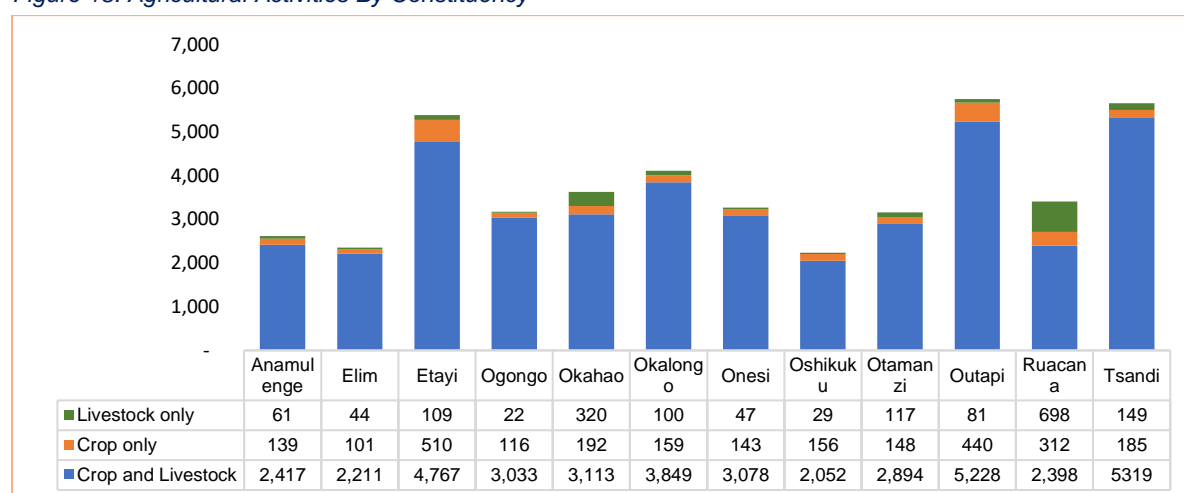
4.1.3. Agricultural Activities by Constituency

The Omusati Region is characterized by its strong agricultural focus, largely driven by favorable conditions for both crop and livestock farming. This agricultural predominance is supported by the region's fertile soil and the availability of water, crucial for sustaining various farming activities. A significant factor contributing to the region's agricultural success is the water canal that carries water from the Ruacana River to Oshakati, passing through Outapi Town to Tsandi. This canal plays a vital role in irrigating crops and providing water for livestock. Among various crops, omahangu is notably successful in the region and is a staple food for many residents. The cultivation of omahangu is a testament to the region's fertile land and effective use of water resources. The region supports diverse types of livestock, including cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys. This variety is present across all constituencies, underscoring the region's capacity for various forms of livestock farming.

Statistics from the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) provide insight into the scale of agricultural engagement across the region. Tsandi leads with the highest number of households engaged in crop and livestock production (5,319 households), followed closely by Outapi (5,228 households) and Etayi (4,767 households).

In contrast, Ruacana, Elim, and Anamulenge have the least number of households involved in agriculture, with 2,052, 2,211, and 2,398 households respectively. This variation reflects different levels of agricultural activity and resource availability across the constituencies. The agricultural landscape of the Omusati Region, as detailed by these statistics, highlights the region's dependency on farming as a key economic and sustenance activity. The differences in household involvement in agriculture across various constituencies offer insights into the region's diverse agricultural dynamics and resource distribution.

Figure 18: Agricultural Activities By Constituency



Source: NSA 2019-2021 Census Mapping Report

5. SECONDARY SECTOR ACTIVITIES

5.1. Ruacana Scheme Hydro-Power Station

The Ruacana Hydroelectric Power Station plays a pivotal role in Namibia's energy landscape, primarily driven by its three powerful 80 MW generating units. These units harness the energy of water from the surge headbay situated atop the station. The process of generating electricity begins with water dropping nearly 134 meters down vertical shafts into the heart of the mountain. Here, the water drives turbines before rejoining the Kunene River through a discharge tunnel. Electricity is initially generated at 11,000 volts, then transformed to a high voltage of 330,000 volts. This high voltage electricity is then conveyed up vertical tunnels to the surface-level switchgear, from where it is distributed across central areas of Namibia. When operating at full capacity, the Ruacana Power Station can generate approximately 330

Megawatts of electricity. This significant output is fed into the Namibia Power Grid at 330,000 volts, showcasing the station's critical role in the country's power supply.

The Ruacana Hydroelectric Power Station stands as the cornerstone of Namibia's power supply system. Its strategic location and capacity make it an essential component in meeting the country's energy demands. An integral part of the Ruacana hydraulic system is the Diversion Weir, uniquely situated in Angolan territory. This component plays a crucial role in regulating the flow of water that powers the hydroelectric station, thereby ensuring consistent electricity generation.

The Ruacana Hydroelectric Power Station, with its advanced technology and strategic location, continues to be a vital asset in Namibia's pursuit of energy security and sustainability. Its ability to generate substantial power and integrate seamlessly into the national grid underscores its importance in the broader context of Namibia's infrastructure and economic development.

5.2. Other Manufacturing Activities in Ruacana

Other manufacturing activities in Ruacana involve the production of intricately crafted bracelets and toys that capture the essence of the town's cultural and artistic heritage. Local artisans skillfully create these handmade items, infusing each piece with a unique charm that attracts tourists seeking authentic and locally produced items. The production of bracelets, traditional woven mats, and toys not only serves as a source of income for the artisans but also contributes to the town's growing tourism sector.

Visitors are drawn to these locally crafted treasures, appreciating the craftsmanship and cultural significance behind each item. This manufacturing niche not only adds economic value to the community but also showcases Ruacana's rich cultural identity, making it a memorable destination for those seeking genuine and meaningful mementos.

Figure 19: Other Manufacturing Activities



Source: Local Manufacturing Businesses

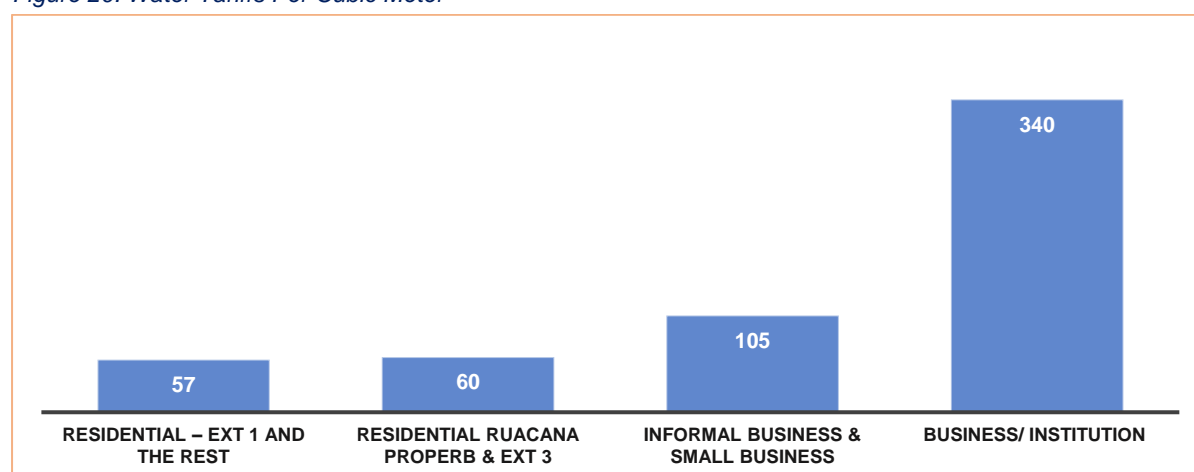
6. SERVICE SECTOR ACTIVITIES IN OMUSATI

6.1. Services Provided by The Town Council

6.1.1. Water Tariffs Per Cubic Meter

Water tariffs per cubic meter in Ruacana exhibit a tiered pricing structure that caters to different user categories. For Ruacana Extension 1 and the rest, the tariff stands at N\$57 per cubic meter, offering a specific rate for these areas. Residential areas in Ruacana proper and Extension 3 have a slightly higher tariff at N\$60 per cubic meter. Informal and small businesses face a higher rate, with water priced at N\$105 per cubic meter. In contrast, large businesses and institutions encounter the highest tariff, set at N\$340 per cubic meter. This tiered approach aims to address the diverse water usage patterns among different user groups while reflecting considerations for affordability, equitable access, and sustainable water management in Ruacana.

Figure 20: Water Tariffs Per Cubic Meter



Source: Government Gazette of The Republic of Namibia (15 June 2023)

This water pricing provides options for different areas of Ruacana Town Council. The rates are differentiated based on the purpose of the residential plot whether it falls under the category of residential land or business land. This tiered approach allows for flexibility and affordability in the water settlement town council.

6.1.2. Sewerage Services Connection Fees

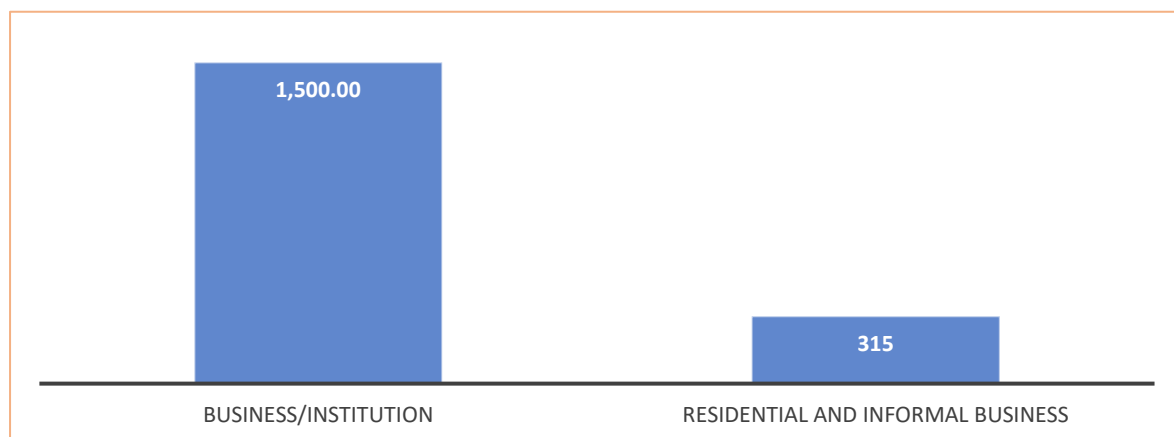
Sewer connection fees in Ruacana Town Council have been structured to cater to the diverse needs of the community and various business entities. These fees are designed to ensure equitable access to essential sewer services while considering the specific demands placed on the sewer system by different user categories. Here is an overview of the sewer connection fees in Ruacana Town Council:

- **Residential and Informal Business:** For residential properties and Informal Business, the sewer connection fee is reasonably set at N\$315. This fee ensures that homeowners as well as upcoming informal businesses can access sewer services without facing an undue financial burden.
- **Business/ Institutions:** Business and institutions, which typically have more extensive sewer requirements, are charged a slightly higher fee of N\$1,500. This fee reflects the increased demand placed on the sewer system by businesses with multiple locations.

This tiered fee system has been implemented to ensure that each category of sewer user contributes equitably to the maintenance and expansion of the sewage system in Ruacana Town Council. It also serves as an incentive for responsible urban development, encouraging developers and construction companies to consider the impact of their projects on the local sewer infrastructure.

By structuring sewer connection fees in this manner, Ruacana Town Council aims to balance the need for accessible sewer services with the responsibility of sustaining and improving the sewer system for the benefit of the entire community. This approach helps distribute the costs fairly among different user categories, considering their specific usage and financial capacities. (Refer to Figure 18 for additional details.

Figure 21: Sewer Connection Fees



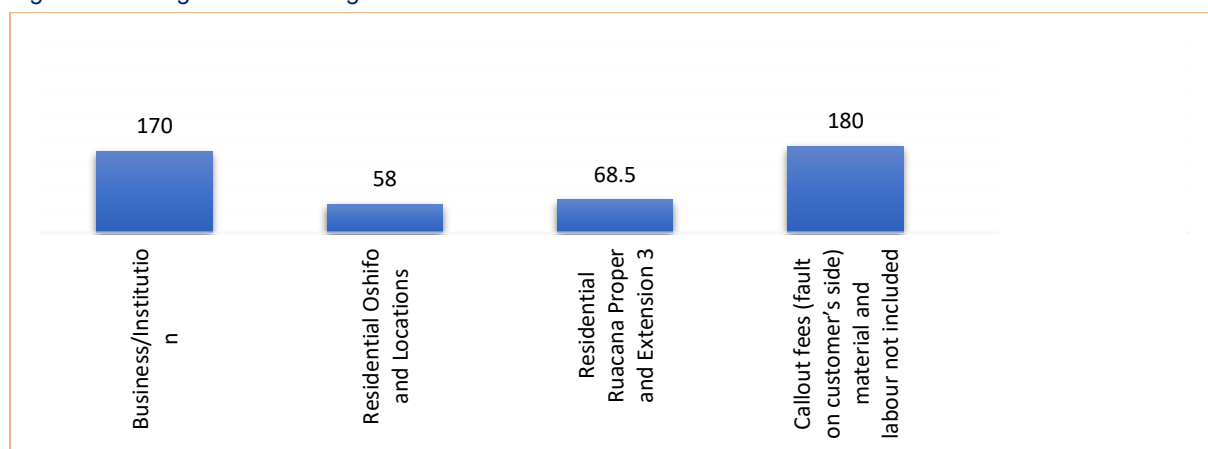
Source: Government Gazette of The Republic of Namibia (15 June 2023)

6.1.3. Sewerage Services by Ruacana Town Council

Sewerage services by the Town Council have been structured to cater to the diverse needs of the community and various business entities. Below is an overview of sewerage fees payable by residents and businesses monthly.

- **Business/Institution:** For Business and institutions properties, the sewerage monthly fee is reasonably set at N\$70.
- **Residential Oshifo and Locations:** For Oshifo residential properties, the sewerage monthly fee is N\$58, which way too low than Business/Institution.
- **Residential Ruacana Proper and Extension 3:** For Ruacana Proper and Extension 3's residential properties, the sewerage monthly fee is N\$68.50.
- **Callout fees (fault on customer's side) material and labour not included:** If there are faults on the sewerage caused by consumers, an additional monthly fee of N\$180 is payable.

Figure 22: Charges For Sewerage Services



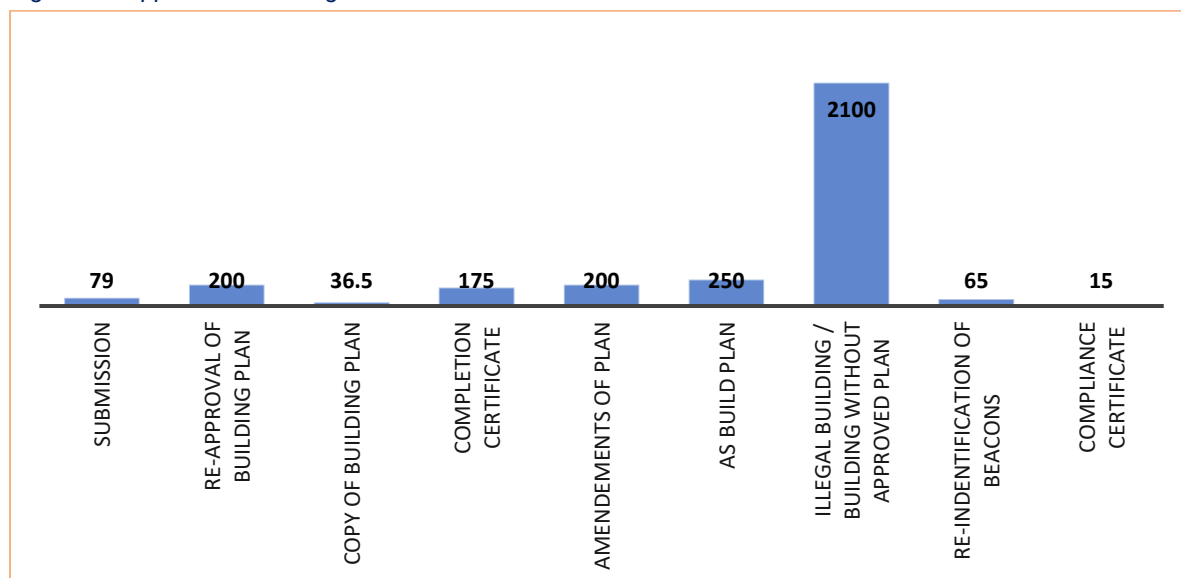
Source: Government Gazette of The Republic of Namibia (15 June 2023)

6.1.4. Approval of Building Plans by the Town Council

The Approval of Building Plans by Ruacana Town Council is charged differently at each stage of a building plan approval. For a building without an approved plan, the cost is N\$2100, while the amendment of a business plan, and approval of a building plan fees are N\$200 and N\$250 respectively.

This pricing structure recognizes the additional complexity and demands associated with the approval of building plans and ensures that buildings are charged appropriately for the evaluation and clearance services provided by the council. This approach enables the Ruacana Town Council to effectively manage and assess the various diverse properties within its jurisdiction while ensuring that the fee structure remains fair and transparent for all property owners.

Figure 23: Approval of Building Plans



Source: Government Gazette Of The Republic Of Namibia (15 June 2023)

6.2. Educational Services

6.2.1. Ombuumbu High School

Ombuumbu High School offers education for students from grade 8 to grade 12. The school is equipped with a total of 17 teachers and serves a total number of 369 learners. The distribution of students across grades at Ombuumbu High School is as follows:

Grade 8: 72 learners

Grade 9: 44 learners

Grade 10: 117 learners

Grade 11: 136 learners

The school has the highest number of classes dedicated to grade 11, with 4 classes, followed by grade 10 with 3 classes. While grade 8 and grade 9 have 1 and 2 classes respectively. The teacher-to-learner ratio at the school varies across grade levels as indicated below:

Grade 11: 34 learners per teacher

Grade 10: 39 learners per teacher

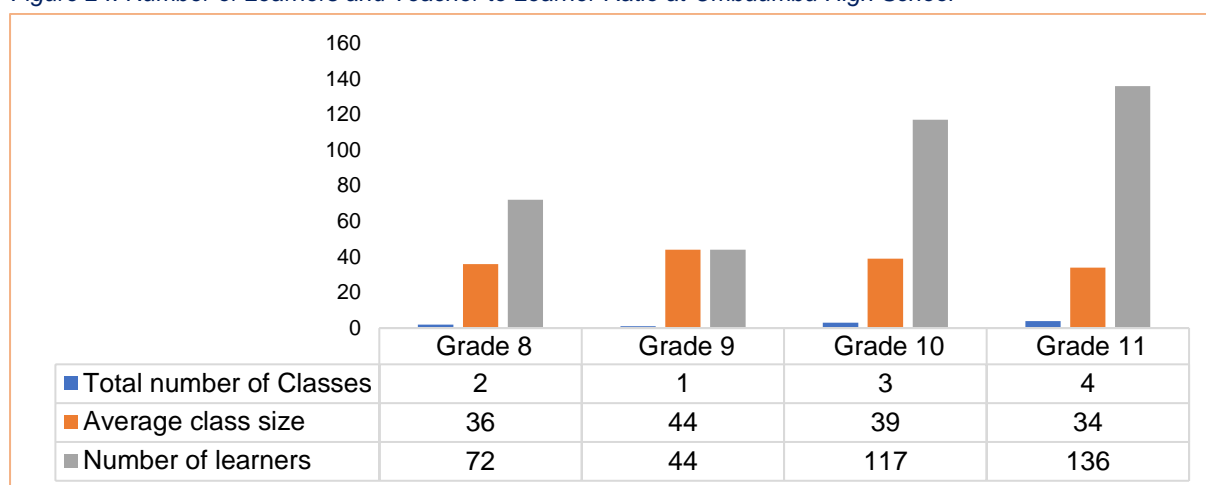
Grade 9: 44 learners per teacher

Grade 8: 36 learners per teacher

It's important to note that the appropriate teacher-to-learner ratio can depend on various factors, including the age of the learners, the subject matter being taught, and the teaching

methods used. Generally, smaller ratios tend to enhance individualized learning and student engagement.

Figure 24: Number of Learners and Teacher to Learner Ratio at Ombuumbu High School

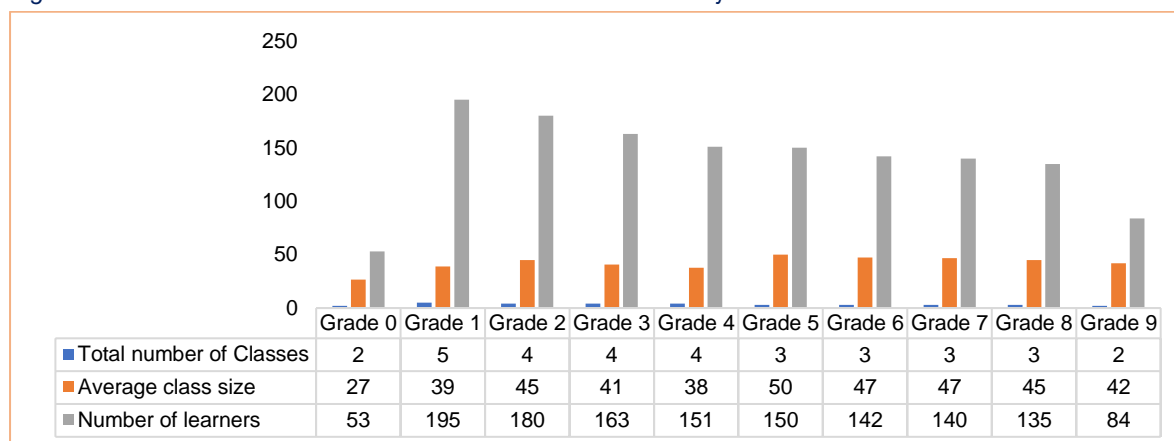


Source: Ombuumbu High School (Note *In this report the average class size is synonymous to the number of learners per teacher*)

6.2.2. Otjihozu Combined School

Otjihozu Combined School is another school located within Oshifo. The school serves students from grade 0 to grade 9 and employs a staff of 46 teachers. The highest teacher-to-learner ratio is observed in grade 5, with 50 learners per teacher. Grade 6 and 7 follow closely with a ratio of 47 learners per teacher, and then grade 8 with 45 learners per teacher.

Figure 25: Number of Learners and Teacher to Learner Ratio at Otjihozu Combined School



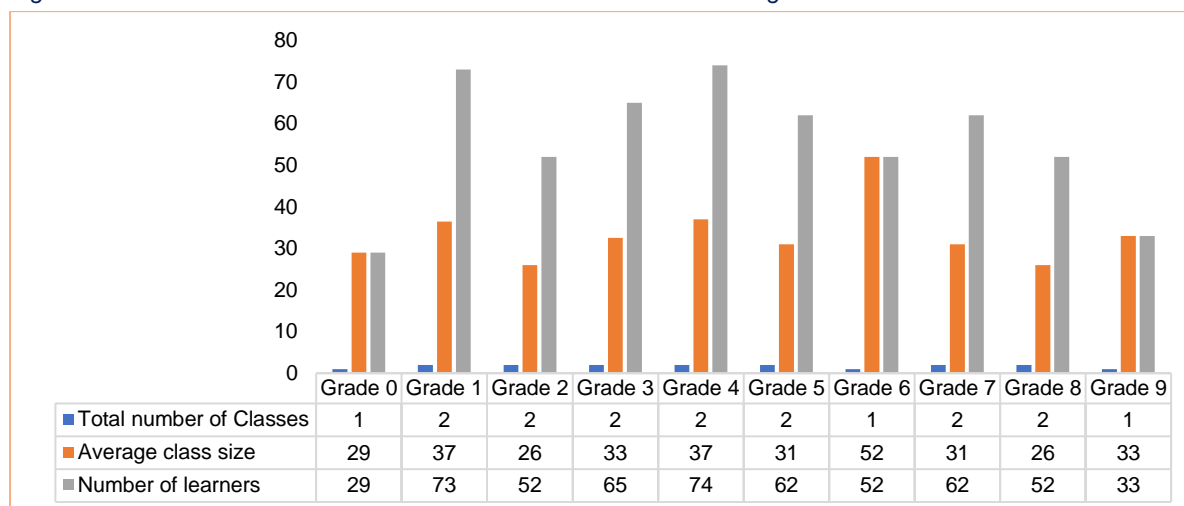
Source: Otjihozu Combined School

6.2.3. Ovikange Combined School

Ovikange Combined School is in Ruacana Proper, next to Ruacana Vocational High School. The school has learners from grade 0 to grade 9 and 18 teachers.

The school's highest enrollment is in grade 4, with 74 learners. Grade 1 follows closely with 73 learners. On the other hand, grade 0 has the lowest number of learners. These numbers provide an overview of the distribution of the learners' population at Ovikango Combined School, with the highest number being for learners in grade 6.

Figure 26: Number of Learners and Teacher to Learner Ratio at Ovikango Combined School



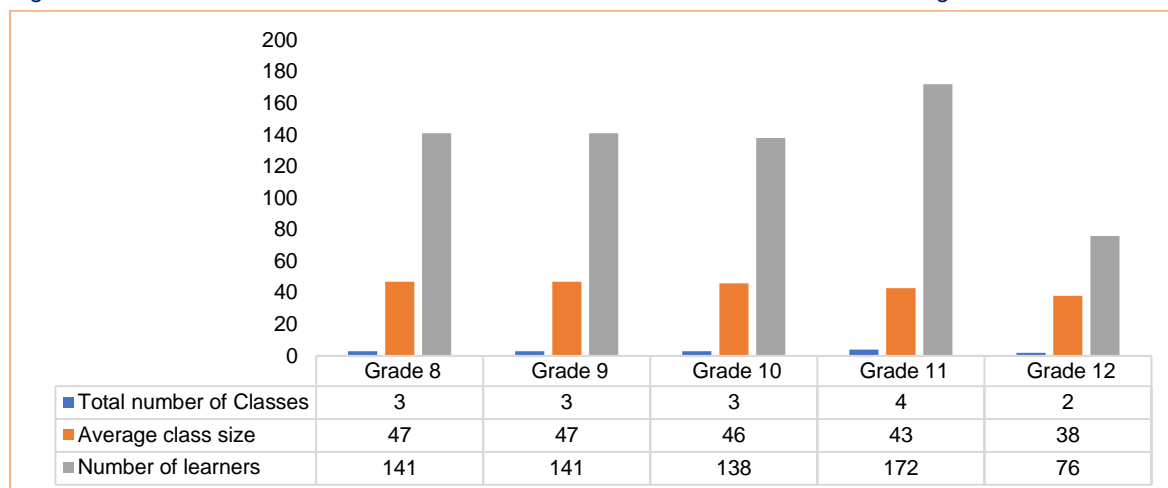
Source: Ovikango Combined School

6.2.4. Ruacana Vocational High School

Ruacana Vocational High School is the only public school in Ruacana that provides learners with vocational training. The school offers 8 vocational trades and has learners from grade 8 to 12. There are a total of 668 learners at the school among which most are in grade 11 (172 learners), followed by grades 9 and 10 with 141 learners each and then grades 12 and 8 with 138 and 76 learners respectively.

At the same time, the teacher-to-learner ratio at Ruacana Vocational High School is the highest for grades 8, 9 and 10 with 47, 46 and 43 learners per teacher and is the lowest for learners in grades 12 and 11 at 38 and 43 learners per teacher respectively.

Figure 27: Number of Learners and Teacher to Learner Ratio at Ruacana Vocational High School



Source: Ruacana Vocational High School

Vocational Trades with The Highest Number of Learners

Fashion and Fabrics (95 learners): This trade has the highest number of learners, indicating that it is likely one of the most popular or successful vocational trades at Ruacana Vocational High School.

Hospitality (80 learners): Hospitality also has a relatively high score, making it one of the top-rated vocational trades at the school.

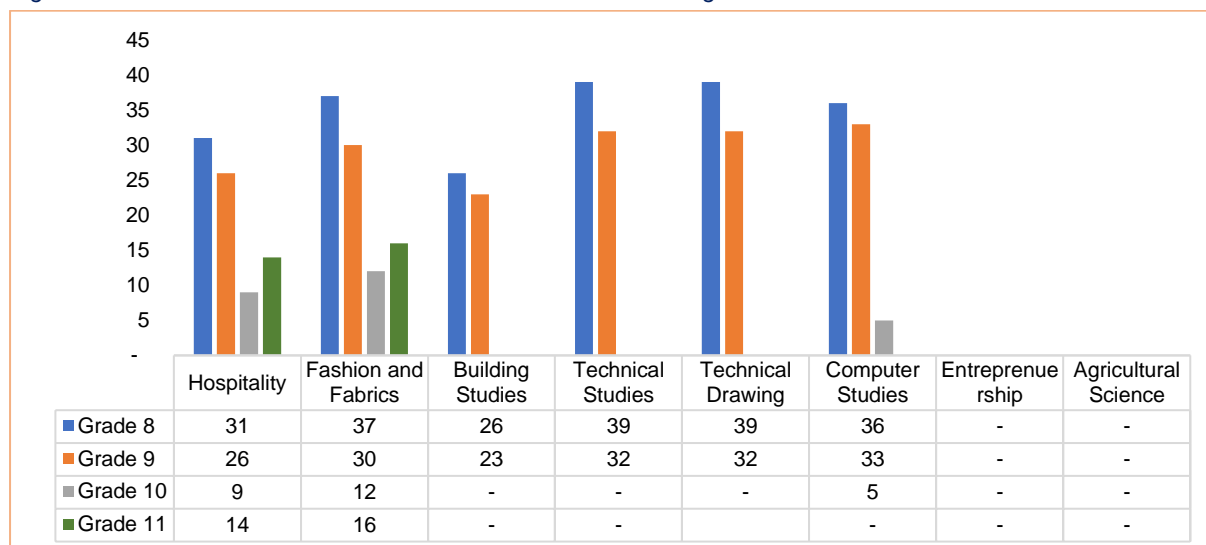
Computer Studies (74 learners): While not as high as Fashion and Fabrics, Computer Studies has the third highest number of learners.

Vocational Trades with The Lowest Number of Learners

Building Studies (49): Building Studies has the lowest number of learners among the trades listed, suggesting that it might be less popular, or face challenges compared to other vocational trades at the school.

Technical Services (71) and Technical Drawing (71): These two trades share the same number of learners, which is lower than the top-rated trades but still higher than Building Studies.

Figure 28: Number of Learners Per Trade Ruacana Vocational High School



Source: Ruacana Vocational High School

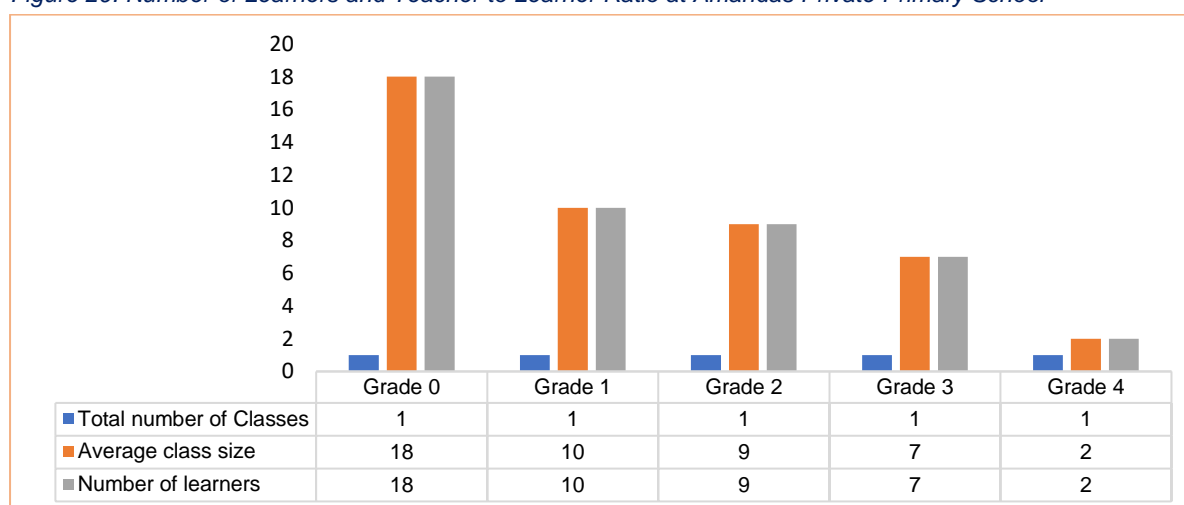
6.2.5. Private Schools

There are two registered private primary schools in Ruacana Town Council namely: Amanda Private Academy and Good Hope Private School.

Amanda Private Primary School

Amandas Private School is a private primary school within Ruacana town council, providing education services to learners from grade 0 to grade 4. The school has a total of four teachers and a total enrollment of 46 learners. This learner's population is distributed across various grades, with 18 students in grade 0, 10 students in grade 1, and 9 students in grade 2.

Figure 29: Number of Learners and Teacher to Learner Ratio at Amandas Private Primary School

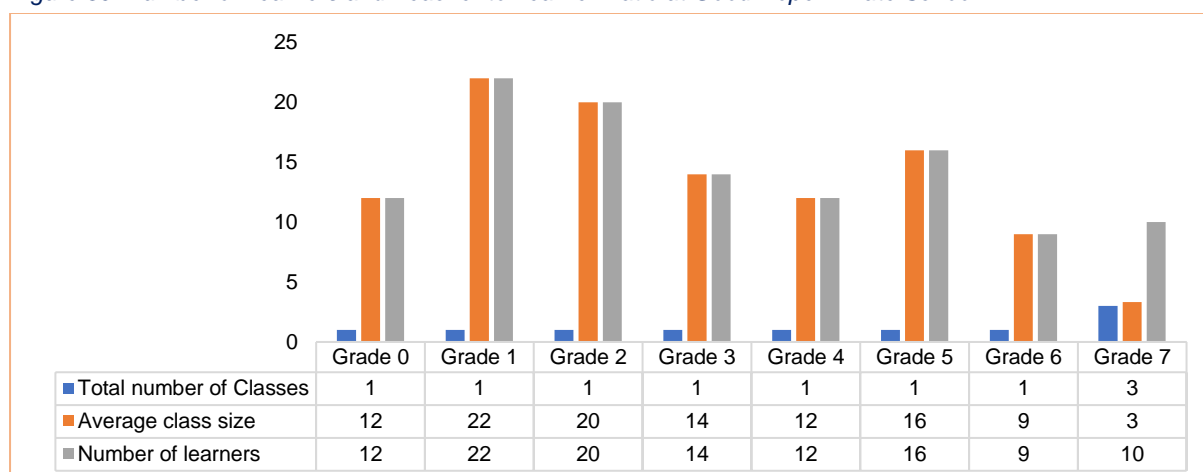


Source: Amandas Private Primary School

Good Hope Primary School

Another private primary school in Ruacana town council is Good Hope private school offering classes from grade 0 to grade 7. The teacher to learner ratio at Good Hope Private School is the highest for grade 1 (22 learners per teacher), followed by grade with 20 learners and then grade 5 with 16 learners per teacher. Contrarily, grade 7 has the lowest teacher to learner ratio (3 learners per teacher) after grade 6 and grade 4 with 9 and 12 learners per teacher respectively.

Figure 30: Number of Learners and Teacher to Learner Ratio at Good Hope Private School



Source: Good Hope Primary School

6.3. Financial Service Sector

Ruacana Town Council has two fully-fledged commercial banks, which are Standard Bank and Bank Windhoek. These financial institutions have a total of four Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), two for Bank Windhoek and two for Standard Bank. Although there is no FNB branch in the town, there is one ATM through which clients can withdraw money. In addition to that FNB clients have access to financial services through a cash-back system with Shoprite.

Similarly, Ruacana's non-banking sector is relatively small, comprising of NamPost and two microfinance lenders. Banking and non-banking institutions in Ruacana provide financial services to residents as well as those residing in Angola close to the border.

6.4. Health Services

Ruacana's healthcare system is a blend of strengths and challenges. The town demonstrates a commitment to healthcare provision through its diverse healthcare facilities, catering to both the local population and neighbouring communities from Angola.

6.4.1. Primary Healthcare Facilities

Omona Health Centre in Oshifo: This health center is a key asset in Ruacana, serving a population of 10,852 residents as of 2023. It stands as the largest health center within the Ruacana Town Council and is strategically located in Oshifo.

Visiting Medical Professionals: Omona Health Centre relies on visits from seven doctors from Outapi District Hospital. This arrangement suggests a potential shortfall of permanent medical professionals on-site, which could pose challenges to the center's capacity to provide continuous care.

Nursing Staff: To compensate for the intermittent presence of doctors, the center is supported by 12 dedicated nurses who play a crucial role in providing ongoing care and essential medical services to the community.

6.4.2. Additional Healthcare Services

Public Clinic: Ruacana also has a public clinic serving 4,199 residents. This facility offers accessible primary healthcare services, playing a vital role in meeting the medical needs of a significant portion of the town's population.

Private Healthcare and Pharmacy: Complementing the public health infrastructure are two private health establishments and a pharmacy, broadening the range of healthcare services available in Ruacana.

Cross-Border Health Services: Additionally, Ruacana's healthcare facilities extend services to people from neighbouring Angola, especially those residing close to the border. This reflects the town's inclusive approach to healthcare provision.

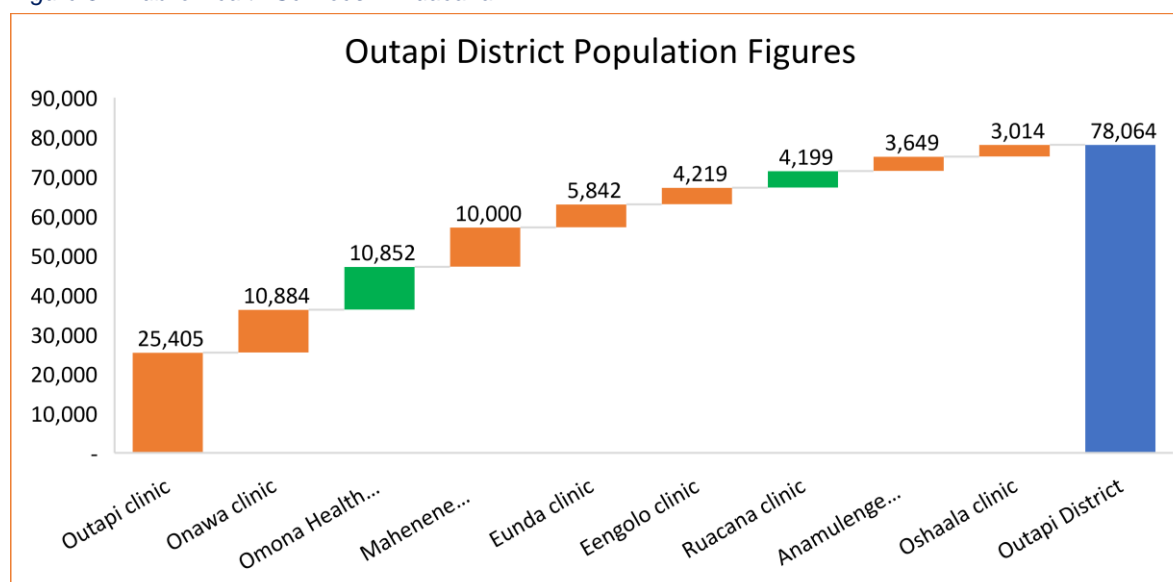
6.4.3. Addressing Healthcare Challenges

Doctor Availability: One of the primary challenges in Ruacana's healthcare system is the limited availability of doctors. Enhancing the recruitment and retention of medical professionals remains a critical priority to ensure comprehensive and uninterrupted healthcare services.

Holistic Healthcare Approach: The combination of public and private healthcare facilities in Ruacana demonstrates a holistic approach to addressing the healthcare needs of its diverse community. Continued efforts are needed to strengthen this system, particularly in areas where gaps in service provision exist.

The healthcare services in Ruacana, characterized by a mix of public and private facilities, reflect the town's commitment to health and well-being. Addressing the challenges, particularly in doctor availability, will be key to advancing healthcare quality and accessibility for all residents.

Figure 31: Public Health Services in Ruacana



Source: Ministry Of Health

6.5. Travelling Services

In terms of distance and transport fare from Ruacana, the destinations vary widely. The closest destinations are Omahenene and Swartbooisdrift border posts, located 20 km and 15 km away, respectively, with transport fares of N\$30 and N\$40 per person. Omakange, at 84km, has a slightly higher transport fare of N\$100. Outapi, positioned at 70km, offers a more economical option with a transport fare of N\$60. On the other hand, Opuwo, situated 139km away, commands a higher transport fare of N\$150 due to its increased distance. The farthest destination, Windhoek, is 760km from Ruacana and comes with the highest transport fare of N\$360, reflecting the extended travel distance to the capital city. Overall, the analysis showcases a correlation between distance and transport fare, with longer distances generally associated with higher transportation costs.

Table 6: Transport Fare

Destinations	Distance (KM)	Transport fare (N\$)
Omahenene border post	20	30
Swartbooisdrift border post	15	40
Omakange	84	100
Opuwo	139	150
Outapi	70	60
Oshifo to Proper & vice versa	14.5	13
Windhoek	760	350

Source: Residents in Ruacana

6.5.1. Ruacana Airport

Ruacana Airport is situated at the heart of the town between Oshifo and Ruacana Proper. The airport serves the whole Omusati region.

7. Tourism and Hospitality Services

7.1. The Ruacana Falls

Ruacana Falls, situated in Ruacana, Omusati, on the Kunene River in Northern Namibia, is a waterfall of impressive dimensions. Standing at a height of 120 meters (390 ft) and spanning 700 meters (2,300 ft) in width during full flood, this natural wonder ranks among the largest waterfalls in Africa, distinguished by its substantial volume and expansive width.

Figure 32: Ruacana Waterfall

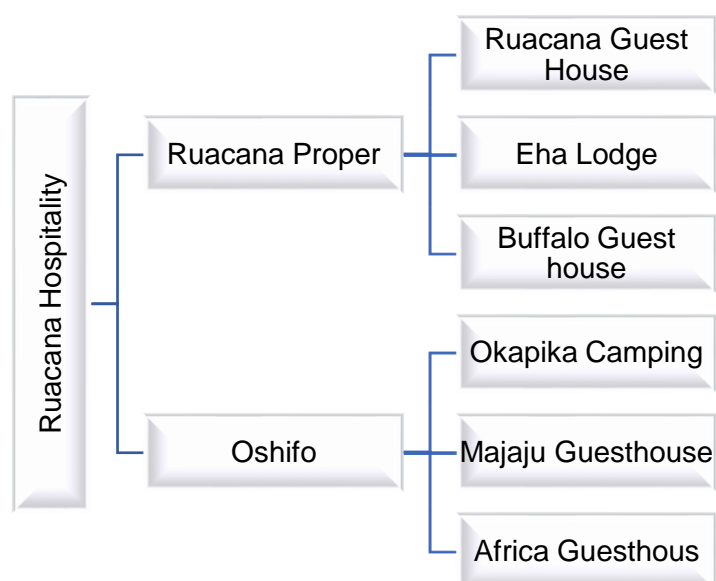


Source: Alamy

7.2. Hospitality Services

A range of services are offered to guests or customers in hotels, restaurants and other tourism and leisure facilities in the town of Ruacana. These services include everything from the initial welcome of the guest to the provision of services aimed at providing a positive and memorable experience. There are six hospitality places in the town, of which three are in Oshifo and the other three are in Ruacana Proper.

Figure 33: Hospitality



Source: Ruacana Town Council

8. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OMUSATI AND RUACANA

8.1. Agriculture

The Omusati region, particularly along the banks of the Kunene River, offers substantial opportunities for agricultural development. The presence of the Ruacana and Calueque Dams, and the vital Calueque-Oshakati canal, facilitates the region's water management, contributing significantly to agricultural productivity.

Water Infrastructure: The Calueque-Oshakati canal, originating from the Calueque dam on the Cunene River in Angola, runs to the Oshakati region in Namibia. This canal is a crucial water source for both drinking and irrigation, supporting the densely populated rural areas of Namibia.

Irrigation and Farming Potential: The canal's course, open to local communities and livestock, presents unique opportunities for irrigation-based agriculture. It provides a reliable water source for farmers from southern Angola to northern Namibia, enhancing the potential for diverse crop cultivation.

8.2. Tourism and Hospitality Services

Omusati region's rich cultural heritage and scenic beauty position it as a prime tourist destination. The region is known for its rugged landscapes, diverse wildlife, and traditional practices.

Development Potential: There is a high potential for developing tourism in the region, especially around key attractions like waterfalls and campsites. The region's cultural and natural assets present opportunities for eco-tourism and cultural tourism development.

Investment Opportunities: Investors are sought to develop these areas, enhancing the region's appeal as a tourist destination. This includes the development of hospitality services, eco-friendly accommodations, and cultural experience packages.

8.3 Power

Namibia's growing electricity demand, spurred by rapid economic development, has highlighted the need for expanded power generation and sustainable energy solutions.

NamPower's Role: NamPower, the government-owned power utility, operates several generation plants, including the Ruacana Hydro plant, Van Eck thermal plant, and Anixas thermal plant. However, these facilities often operate below full capacity.

Renewable Energy Initiatives: NamPower's engagement with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) under the Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariffs (REFIT) program has been a significant step towards enhancing local generation capacity. The program has successfully integrated renewable energy sources into the national grid.

Capacity Enhancement: Efforts to refurbish and upgrade existing plants have increased Namibia's local generation capacity. This opens avenues for further investment in renewable energy projects and modernization of existing facilities to meet the country's growing energy needs.

The Omusati region and Ruacana, with their rich agricultural potential, unique tourism attractions, and evolving energy sector, present a myriad of investment opportunities. These sectors are key to the region's economic growth and sustainability, offering promising avenues for both local and international investors.

CONCLUSION

Located in the northwest of the Omusati Region, the town of Ruacana is renowned for its famous Ruacana Waterfall. The region comprises twelve constituencies with Okahao and Okalongo being the largest constituencies. Despite being among the more sizable constituencies, Ruacana grapples with housing challenges, experiencing a notable demand for residences. The town relies on tap water and boreholes as its primary water sources, supporting predominant activities of crop cultivation and livestock rearing. Beyond agriculture, the secondary sector thrives with pursuits such as land surveying and crafting. However, the tertiary sector takes precedence, encompassing vital domains like education, healthcare, town council services, hospitality, and tourism. With abundant potential, Ruacana beckons investors to explore opportunities in agriculture, agribusiness, food processing, hospitality, cross-border trade, and energy, leveraging its water supply, proximity to the Angolan border, and allure for tourists.
