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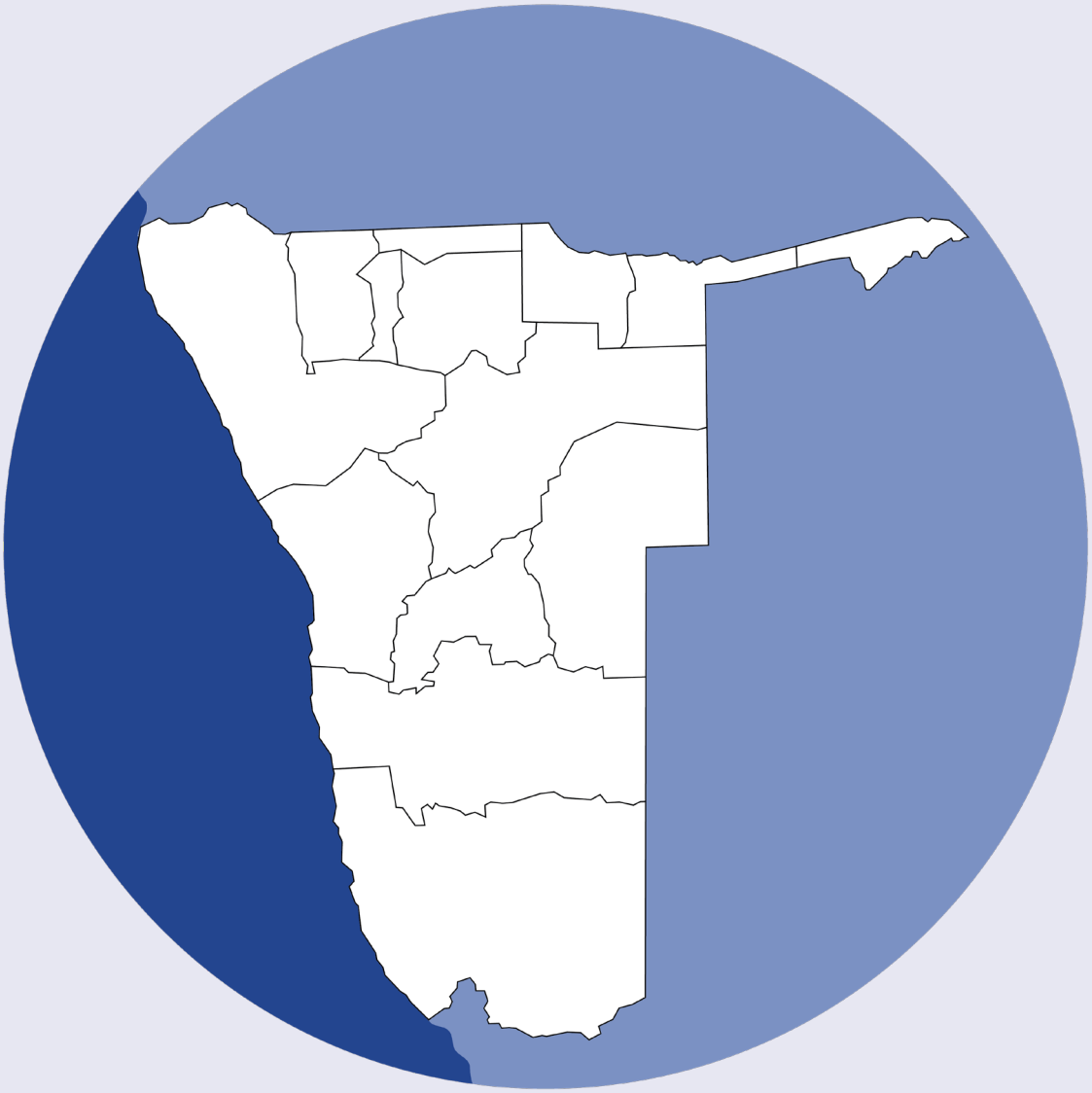
NOVEMBER 2026

BRIEFING PAPER

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT

TRANSPARENCY AT RISK

Level of compliance with procurement rules, state of websites reflect governance challenges in regional and local authorities



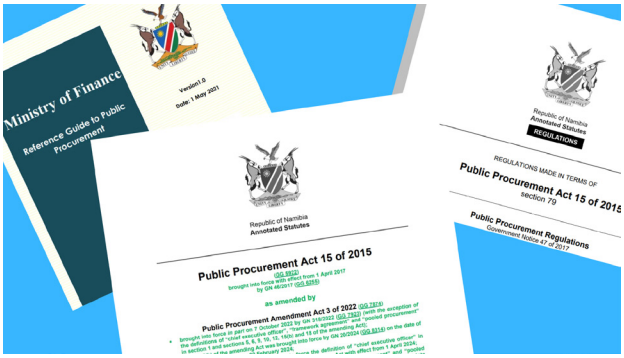
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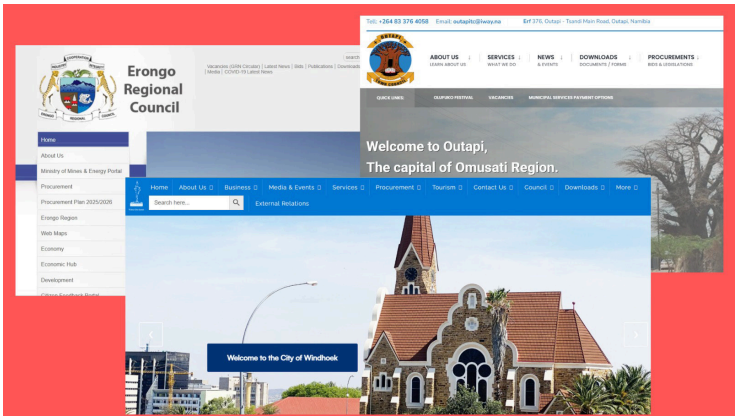
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Table of Contents

1. Overview .....Page 2
2. Introduction .....Page 5



3. Regions and public procurement transparency .....Page 9
4. Municipalities and public procurement transparency .....Page 13
5. Towns and public procurement transparency .....Page 16
6. State of websites.....Page 19



7. Conclusion .....Page 22
8. Recommendations .....Page 24

OVERVIEW

Namibia's regional and local authority councils continue to be a source of considerable governance headaches, as media and other reports repeatedly indicate.

Since the first IPPR local and regional governance assessment was published in November 2022, exactly four years ago, the situation has hardly improved.

For this edition of the local and regional governance assessment, the researcher assessed to what extent regional and local councils complied with specific transparency mechanisms built into the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework, as well as what the state of regional and local authority websites say about public access to information. On this latter issue, the assessment took the form of an access to information readiness appraisal, against what the Access to Information Act of 2022 would require of public entities.

The picture that emerges from this assessment is decidedly mixed.

Compliance with public procurement transparency rules

With regard to compliance with relevant transparency provisions of the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework, there is a broad spectrum of compliance, from almost no transparency to relative openness. Similarly, the web portals (if they exist) of the assessed entities also differ across a range of functionality, accessibility and ease-of-use.

A note of caution, though, when engaging with this governance assessment. Regional or local authorities that are assessed as compliant with regard to their obligations under the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework might not be compliant in terms of other governance and legal frameworks. Just because an entity ticked the boxes in this assessment does not mean that it ticks the boxes in other governance contexts as well. For the fact is that Namibia's regional and local authorities, like probably most other public sector institutions, are perennially challenged by differing degrees of internal capacity, competence and resource constraints.

To illustrate, the Oshana Regional Council, which tops the regions in compliance with the specific provisions of the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework, is one that has repeatedly received qualified or adverse audit opinions from the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) over the years. The regional council has also been called repeatedly to appear before the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to explain its financial management practices and operations in the wake of qualified or adverse audit opinions.

In the same vein, both the top performing municipal (Swakopmund) and town (Outapi) councils have also failed significant financial governance tests recently. In October 2026, it was reported that the Swakopmund municipal council "fails audit, again", and that it was the third time in five years that the municipal council had received an adverse audit opinion from the OAG. Similarly, in late 2025 it was reported that the Outapi Town Council had received a disclaimer audit opinion from the OAG.

This is meant to say that we should not read into this assessment a judgement of what was not assessed. To be clear, an entity can be well-performing under one metric and, at the same time, broadly failing under a range of others.

Against this backdrop, 14 regional councils, 12 municipalities and eight (8) town councils formed part of this governance assessment.

As already indicated, they were assessed in terms of the following:

1. Compliance with specific procurement rules related to transparency;
2. State of their websites in terms of enabling access to information.

Following are the salient observations of this governance assessment.

Compliance with procurement rules

Top 5 best performing regional councils in terms of compliance

Rank	Region	2026/27 APP on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website (2026/27)	Executive summaries on website (2026/27)
1	Oshana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Kavango West	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some
3	Zambezi	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4	Kunene	No	Yes	Yes	Some
5	Kavango East	Yes	No	Yes	No

Top 5 best performing municipal councils in terms of compliance

Rank	Region	2026/27 APP on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website (2026/27)	Executive summaries on website (2026/27)
1	Swakopmund	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Tsumeb	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Henties Bay	Yes	Yes	Some	Some
4	Mariental	Yes	Yes	No	No
5	Otjiwarongo	Yes	No	No	No

Top 5 best performing town councils in terms of compliance

Rank	Region	2026/27 APP on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website (2026/27)	Executive summaries on website (2026/27)
1	Outapi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Katima Mulilo	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
3	Lüderitz	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4	Oshakati	No	Yes	No	No
5	Karasburg	No	Yes	No	No

Bottom 3 worst performing regional councils in terms of compliance

Rank	Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
12	Ohangwena	No	Yes	No	No
13	Otjozondjupa	No	Yes	No	No
14 (worst)	Oshikoto	No	No	No	No

Bottom 3 worst performing municipal councils in terms of compliance

Rank	Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
12	Omaruru	No	Yes	No	No
13	Okahandja	No	No	No	No
14 (worst)	Keetmanshoop	No	No	No	No

Bottom 3 worst performing town councils in terms of compliance

Rank	Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
6	Rundu	No	Yes	No	No
7	Opuwo	No	No	No	No
8 (worst)	Rehoboth	No	No	No	No

State of websites

In an increasingly digital and digitising society it is important for government entities to have an online presence, whether primarily via a website and/or a dynamic social media feed. An online portal allows (or should) for efficient information sharing with the public. A poor website or online presence reflects poorly on the entity and suggests that it does not value communication and engagement with the public.

A functional, easy-to-use and accessible website can serve as an effective digital town hall for regional and local government entities. On the other hand, a poor website, which is indicative of a lack of communication and transparency, can undermine confidence in regional and local governments and lead to distrust of such authorities.

That said, for this assessment, regional and local government websites were considered primary channels for enabling access to information, and they were judged on a set of criteria based on what public entities will be required to proactively disclose once the Access to Information Act of 2022 is implemented and operationalised.

In light of this, the following was observed:

- Across the board, website functionality is an issue, to a greater or lesser degree, and for the most part, while the websites are quite basic, they are not at all user-friendly;
- To be clear, none of the websites assessed are well designed;
- As is illustrated in section 5, access to information is seriously hampered by the absence of significant information or documents from the websites of the majority of regional and local governments;
- On the whole, the state of websites suggests that regional and local governments are far from ready to implement the Access to Information Act of 2022 framework once it is fully implemented and operationalised.

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the second iteration of the Local and Regional Government Assessment. The first such assessment was published in November 2022, exactly four years ago.

As was stated in the introduction to the 2022 report, these assessments are based on the "levels of transparency and accountability exhibited" by regional and local authorities. These authorities are the 14 regional councils and 20 geographically representative local authority councils (municipalities and towns), where it is assumed that "institutional capacities are relatively more established".

The regional and local councils assessed are:

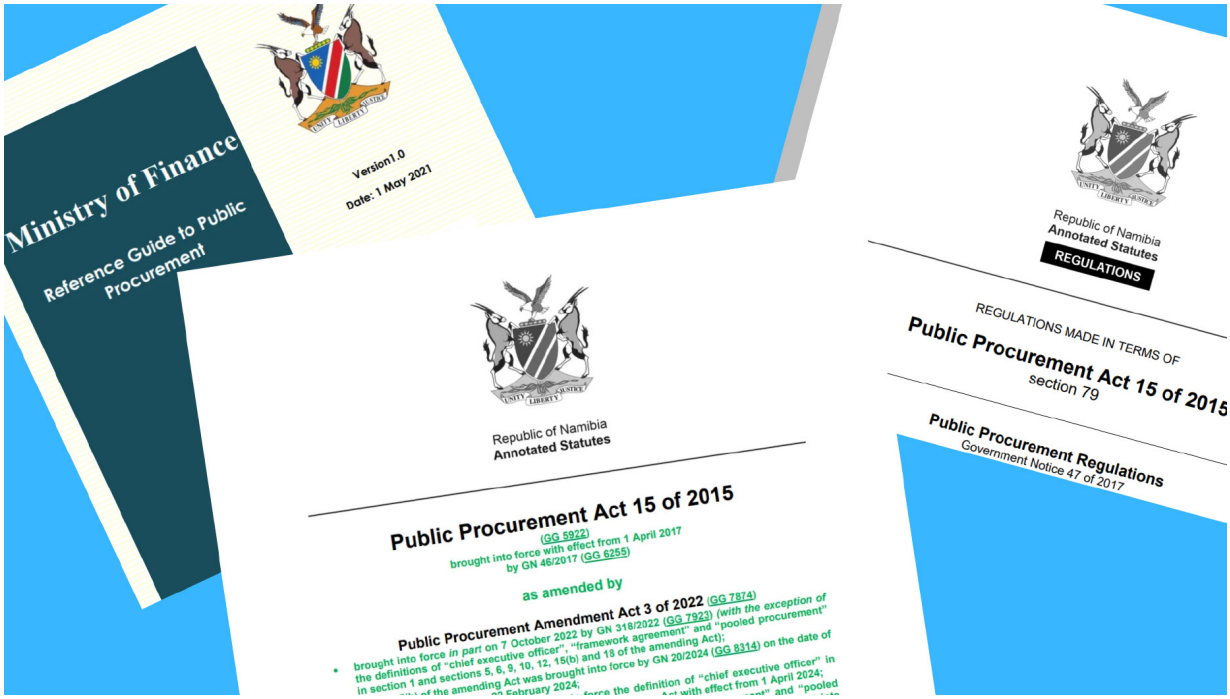
Regional Councils (14)
Erongo Regional Council
Hardap Regional Council
Kavango East Regional Council
Kavango West Regional Council
Khomas Regional Council
Kunene Regional Council
Ohangwena Regional Council
Omaheke Regional Council
Omusati Regional Council
Oshana Regional Council
Oshikoto Regional Council
Otjozondjupa Regional Council
Zambezi Regional Council
ǁKharas Regional Council

Municipal Councils (12)
Gobabis
Grootfontein
Henties Bay
Keetmanshoop
Mariental
Okahandja
Omaruru
Otjiwarongo
Swakopmund
Tsumeb
Walvis Bay
Windhoek

Town Councils (8)
Karasburg
Katima Mulilo
Lüderitz
Opuwo
Outapi
Oshakati
Rehoboth
Rundu

Whereas the first installment of the assessment had a broad focus, this iteration of it is essentially a transparency assessment, narrowed to appraising regional and local councils on their compliance with specific transparency enabling and inducing provisions of the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework and their compliance readiness with the proactive disclosure provisions in the Access to Information Act of 2022.

Compliance with public procurement transparency rules



The Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework consists of the Public Procurement Act of 2015, the Public Procurement Regulations and the Public Procurement Guidelines.

The relevant and specific public procurement rules the regional and local governments were assessed under are the following:

Law / Regulations/ Guidelines	Section / Provision	Rule
Public Procurement Act of 2015	Section 25 (4) (a)	An accounting officer must - (a) engage in procurement planning, plan each step of the procurement process and prepare annual procurement plan, and must submit the plan to the Policy Unit at least three months before the commencement of each financial year;
Public Procurement Act of 2015	Section 55 (8)	The Board or public entity must promptly in a prescribed manner publish a notice of every procurement or disposal award together with the executive summary of the bid evaluation report.
Public Procurement Regulations	Regulation 39 (1)	For the purposes of section 55(8) of the Act, a public entity must publish on its website and on any other print media widely circulated in Namibia a notice of every procurement together with the executive summary of the bid evaluation report within seven days of the procurement award.
Public Procurement Guidelines	Guideline 1.5.1	The Public Entity should post its procurement plan on its website.

State of ATI readiness exhibited by regional and local authority websites

The second part of the assessment appraised the websites of the identified regional and local governments on their readiness for enabling proactive disclosure in terms of the Access to Information Act of 2022, once it is fully operationalised and implemented.

Following are the relevant and specific sections of the Access to Information Act of 2022 that were applied for this assessment.

Law	Section / Provision	Rule
Access to Information Act of 2022	33 (1) (a)	manuals, policies, procedures or rules and similar instruments which have been prepared for use by its staff in discharging its functions, exercising powers and handling complaints, making decisions or recommendations or providing advice to persons outside the entity with respect to rights, privileges, benefits, obligations, penalties or other detriments, to or for which persons may be entitled or subject-ed to;
	33 (1) (e)	whether meetings of the public entity, including its boards, councils, committees or similar other bodies, are open to members of the public and, if so, the process for direct or indirect engagement, but where a meeting is not open to the public, the public entity must proactive-ly make public the contents of submissions received, the process for decision making and decisions reached;
	33 (1) (g)	all contracts, licences, permits, authorisations and public-private partnerships granted by the entity
	33 (2) (a)	the particulars of its organisation, mandate, powers and obligations;
	33 (2) (g)	the detailed actual budget, revenue, expenditure and indebtedness
	33 (2) (h)	the annual report submitted in terms of section 26

It is against the backdrop of these two legal frameworks that this assessment has come to the findings laid out in the following sections.

2. REGIONS AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY

This section illustrates to what extent Namibia's 14 regional councils were compliant with the specific public procurement rules related to publishing annual procurement plans, bid awards and executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on their websites. Following are the results of the assessment.

Table 1: Annual Procurement Plans on websites & on e-Procurement portal - Regions

Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	APP submitted to the PPU on time	Notes
Erongo	No	Yes	No	2025/26 APP is still on the website
Hardap	Yes	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in September 2026
Kavango East	Yes	No	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in July 2026
Kavango West	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Amended 2026/27 APP was submitted to PPU in August 2026
Khomas	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in June 2026
Kunene	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in February 2026
Ohangwena	No	Yes	Yes	2026/27 APP was submitted to PPU in December 2025
Omaheke	No	No	No	2026/27 APP not viewable
Omusati	No	Yes	Yes	2026/27 APP was submitted to PPU in December 2025
Oshana	Yes	Yes	Yes	2026/27 APP was submitted to PPU in December 2025
Oshikoto	No	No	No	2026/27 APP not viewable
Otjozondjupa	No	Yes	No	2025/26 APP is still on the website
Zambezi	Yes	No	No	Stamps indicate APP was only approved in January 2026
IIKharas	Yes	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in January 2026

Table 2: Notices of awards & executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on websites - Regions

Region	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27	Notes
Erongo	**No**	**No**	Tabs for awards notices and executive summaries exist, but no notices of awards for 2026/27
Hardap	**No**	**No**	No notices of awards for 2026/27. Awards for 2025/26, but only some summaries of bid evaluation reports
Kavango East	**Yes**	**No**	Notices of awards for 2026/27, but no summaries of bid evaluation reports. No tab for executive summaries
Kavango West	**Yes**	**Some**	Notices of awards and executive summaries for 2026/27. No tab for executive summaries. Inconsistency in publishing summaries of bid evaluation reports
Khomas	**No**	**No**	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries. Website links to e-Procurement portal
Kunene	**Yes**	**Some**	Many notices of awards for 2026/27, but only one summary of bid evaluation report for 2026/27
Ohangwena	**No**	**No**	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries.
Omaheke	**Some**	**Some**	Just one summary of bid evaluation report for 2026/27, but under awards notice tab. No tab for executive summaries
Omusati	**Some**	**Some**	Tabs for awards notices and executive summaries exist, and awards are listed, but don't open when clicked on
Oshana	**Yes**	**Yes**	Many awards notices and summaries for 2026/27
Oshikoto	**No**	**No**	No notices of awards or executive summaries for 2026/27
Otjozondjupa	**No**	**No**	No notices of awards or executive summaries for 2026/27. Notices of awards for 2025. No tab for executive summaries
Zambezi	**Yes**	**Yes**	Notices of awards and executive summaries for 2026/27. No tab for executive summaries
IIKharas	**No**	**No**	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries.

Table 3: Top 3 best performing regional councils in terms of compliance with Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework

Rank	Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
1 (best)	Oshana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Kavango West	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some
3	Zambezi	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Table 4: Bottom 3 worst performing regional councils in terms of compliance with Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework

Rank	Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
12	Ohangwena	No	Yes	No	No
13	Otjozondjupa	No	Yes	No	No
14 (worst)	Oshikoto	No	No	No	No

Observations:

Only 6 of the 14 regional councils had published their annual procurement plans (APPs) on their websites by end-October 2026.

That is a **43%** compliance rate among regional councils.

The APPs of **4** regional councils were not viewable via the e-Procurement Portal of the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU).

Only 3 regional councils had submitted their APPs to the PPU on time.

Just half, or **7**, of the regional councils have published many or some notices of awards on their websites for the 2026/27 financial year.

Less than half, or **just 6**, regional councils have published many or some executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on their websites for the 2026/27 financial year.

The **best performing** regional council was the **Oshana Regional Council** under all the metrics used.

The **worst performing** regional council was the **Oshikoto Regional Council** which had not complied with any of the public procurement transparency rules by end-October 2026.

3. MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY

This section illustrates to what extent the assessed municipal councils were compliant with the specific public procurement rules related to publishing annual procurement plans, bid awards and executive summaries of bid evaluation reports. Following are the results of the assessment.

Table 5: Annual Procurement Plans on websites & on e-Procurement portal - Municipalities

Municipality	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	APP submitted to the PPU on time	Notes
Gobabis	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in July 2026
Grootfontein	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in September 2026
Henties Bay	Yes	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in September 2026
Keetmanshoop	No	No	No	2026/27 APP not viewable
Mariental	Yes	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in July 2026
Okahandja	No	No	No	2026/27 APP not viewable
Omaruru	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in June 2026
Otjiwarongo	Yes	No	No	2026/27 APP was approved in June 2026
Swakopmund	Yes	Yes	Yes	2026/27 APP was submitted to PPU in June 2026
Tsumeb	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in July 2026
Walvis Bay	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in October 2026
Windhoek	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in July 2026

Table 6: Notices of awards & executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on websites - Municipalities

Municipality	Notices of awards on web-site for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27	Notes
Gobabis	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries on website
Grootfontein	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries on website
Henties Bay	Some	Some	One notice of award and summary of bid evaluation report for 2026/27. No tab for executive summaries
Keetmanshoop	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries on website
Mariental	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries
Okahandja	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries
Omaruru	No	No	No functioning website
Otjiwarongo	No	No	No notices of awards or executive summaries for 2026/27
Swakopmund	Yes	Yes	Awards notices and summaries for 2026/27
Tsumeb	Yes	Yes	Awards notices and summaries for 2026/27
Walvis Bay	No	No	No notices of awards or executive summaries for 2026/27
Windhoek	No	No	No notices of awards or executive summaries for 2026/27

Table 7: Top 3 best performing municipal councils in terms of compliance with Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework

Rank	Municipality	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
1 (best)	Swakopmund	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Tsumeb	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Henties Bay	Yes	Yes	Some	Some

Table 8: Bottom 3 worst performing municipal councils in terms of compliance with Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework

Rank	Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
12	Omaruru	No	Yes	No	No
13	Okahandja	No	No	No	No
14 (worst)	Keetmanshoop	No	No	No	No

Observations:

Only 4 of the 12 municipal councils had published their annual procurement plans (APPs) on their websites by end-October 2026.

That is a **33%** compliance rate among municipal councils assessed.

The APPs of **3** municipal councils were not viewable via the e-Procurement Portal of the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU).

Just 1 municipal council had submitted its APP to the PPU on time.

Only 3 of the municipal councils have published many or some notices of awards on their websites for the 2026/27 financial year.

And **just 3** municipal councils have published many or some executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on their websites for the 2026/27 financial year.

The **best performing** municipal council was the **Swakopmund municipal council** under all the metrics used.

The **worst performing** municipal council was the **Keetmanshoop municipal council** which had not complied with any of the public procurement transparency rules by end-October 2026.

4. TOWNS AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY

This section illustrates to what extent the assessed town councils were compliant with the specific public procurement rules related to publishing annual procurement plans, bid awards and executive summaries of bid evaluation reports. Following are the results of the assessment.

Table 9: Annual Procurement Plans on websites & on e-Procurement portal - Towns

Town	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	APP submitted to the PPU on time	Notes
Karasburg	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in September 2026
Katima Mulilo	Yes	No	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in July 2026
Lüderitz	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in June 2026
Opuwo	No	No	No	2026/27 APP not viewable
Outapi	Yes	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in September 2026
Oshakati	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only submitted to PPU in June 2026
Rehoboth	No	No	No	2026/27 APP not viewable
Rundu	No	Yes	No	2026/27 APP was only approved in August 2026

Table 10: Notices of awards & executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on websites - Towns

Town	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27	Notes
Karasburg	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries on website
Katima Mulilo	Yes	Yes	Some notices of awards and some summaries of bid evaluation reports for 2026/27
Lüderitz	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries on website
Opuwo	No	No	No notices of awards and executive summaries for 2026/27. No tab for executive summaries
Outapi	Yes	Yes	Notices of awards and summaries of bid evaluation reports for 2026/27.
Oshakati	No	No	No notices of awards and executive summaries for 2026/27
Rehoboth	No	No	No tabs for notices of awards or summaries.
Rundu	No	No	No notices of awards and executive summaries for 2026/27

Table 11: Top 3 best performing town councils in terms of compliance with Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework

Rank	Municipality	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
1 (best)	Outapi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Katima Mulilo	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
3	Lüderitz	No	Yes	No	No

Table 12: Bottom 3 worst performing town councils in terms of compliance with Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework

Rank	Region	2026/27 Annual Procurement Plan on website	2026/27 APP on e-procurement portal	Notices of awards on website for 2026/27	Executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on website for 2026/27
6	Rundu	No	Yes	No	No
7	Opuwo	No	No	No	No
8 (worst)	Rehoboth	No	No	No	No

Observations:

Only 2 of the 8 town councils had published their annual procurement plans (APPs) on their websites by end-October 2026.

That is a **25%** compliance rate among town councils assessed.

The APPs of **3** town councils were not viewable via the e-Procurement Portal of the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU).

None of the town council had submitted its APP to the PPU on time.

Only 2 of the town councils have published many or some notices of awards on their websites for the 2026/27 financial year.

And **just 2** town councils have published many or some executive summaries of bid evaluation reports on their websites for the 2026/27 financial year.

The **best performing** town council was the **Outapi town council** under all the metrics used.

The **worst performing** town council was the **Rehoboth town council** which had not complied with any of the public procurement transparency rules by end-October 2026.

5. STATE OF WEBSITES

The websites of regional and local authorities were assessed for their readiness to enable comprehensive access to information once the Access to Information (ATI) Act of 2022 is fully implemented.

With regard to the criteria used, regional and local authority websites were assessed on whether they already published the following information and / or documents online, which they will be required to do once the access to information law comes into full force.

- Organisational structure
- Annual reports
- Procurement plans
- Awarded contracts and tenders
- Budgets and financial statements
- Council resolutions and decisions
- Service standards and fees
- Development plans and performance reports

With regard to the following tables, a 'Yes' indicates substantial ATI Act compliance readiness, meaning the actual existence of a development plan and/or performance reports on the website, while 'No' means the complete absence of such information or documents. A 'Partially' means that there is some sort of plan, such as an institutional strategic plan in lieu of an actual development plan, and/or a State of the Region or other type of statement online which might be construed as a performance report of some sort.

Also, the fact that some councils score 'Yes' in this section, while scoring 'No' on some metrics in the previous sections, should not be read as contradictory. For instance, some councils were scored 'No' for publishing their procurement plans and tender awards in the earlier sections, but scored a 'Yes' in this section. This is because in the previous sections councils were specifically assessed on whether they had published their procurement plans and tender awards for the current financial year (2026/27), whereas in this section they were assessed on the presence of any procurement plan, whether the current one or older ones. So, if there was a procurement plan or notices of tender awards from past financial years on a council website, then it scored 'Yes'. A 'No' score in this section thus means that there were no plans or awards, or other documents assessed for, viewable from any year.

Table 13: ATI readiness of regional councils' websites

Region	Organisational structure	Annual reports	Procurement plans	Awarded tenders	Budgets and financial statements	Council resolutions and decisions	Service standards and fees	Development plans and performance reports
Erongo	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	No
Hardap	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Partially
Kavango East	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Partially
Kavango West	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Partially
Khomas	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Partially
Kunene	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Yes
Ohangwena	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Partially
Omaheke	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Partially	Partially
Omusati	Partially	Partially	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Partially
Oshana	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Partially
Oshikoto	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partiall	Partially
Otjozondjupa	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Partially
Zambezi	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	Partially
ǁKharas	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Partially

Table 14: ATI readiness of municipal councils' websites

Municipality	Organisational structure	Annual reports	Procurement plans	Awarded tender	Budgets and financial statements	Council resolutions and decisions	Service standards and fees	Development plans and performance reports
Gobabis	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Grootfontein	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Henties Bay	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Keetmanshoop	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mariental	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Okahandja	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Omaruru	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Otjiwarongo	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Swakopmund	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Tsumeb	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Walvis Bay	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Windhoek	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

Table 15: ATI readiness of town councils' websites

Town	Organisational structure	Annual reports	Procurement plans	Awarded tenders	Budgets and financial statements	Council resolutions and decisions	Service standards and fees	Development plans and performance reports
Karasburg	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Partially	No
Katima Mulilo	Partially	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Lüderitz	Partially	No	No	No	No	No	Partially	No
Opuwo	Partially	No	No	No	No	No	Partially	No
Outapi	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Oshakati	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Partially	No
Rehoboth	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Rundu	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Partially	No

Observations:

Just 14 of the 34 regional and local governments assessed demonstrated substantial readiness with the publishing of organisational structure information on their websites.

That is a readiness rate of **41%.**

At the same time, **15** of the assessed entities demonstrated partial readiness.

Only 1 (Outapi Town Council) of the regional and local governments assessed demonstrated substantial readiness with the publishing of annual reports on their website, while **1 other** (Omusati Regional Council) demonstrated partial readiness.

Meanwhile, **24** of the regional and local councils showed substantial readiness with the online publication of procurement plans.

And **22** of the entities demonstrated substantial readiness with the publication of awarded tenders on their websites.

None of the 34 regional and local councils demonstrated substantial readiness when it came to the publishing of budgets and financial statements on their websites.

And **just 3** of the assessed councils showed substantial readiness concerning the publication of council resolutions and decisions.

Only 8 of the regional and local governments indicated substantial readiness with the publication of service standards and fees online, while **16 others** demonstrated partial readiness.

When it came to the online publication of development plans and performance reports, **only 1** (Kunene Regional Council) demonstrated substantial readiness, while **12 others** showed partial readiness.

6. CONCLUSION

In terms of **compliance with transparency rules** of the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework, the following was observed …

Only 12 of the 34 regional and local councils were compliant with the public procurement framework regarding publication of annual procurement plans for the current financial on their websites.

That means a **35% compliance rate**.

At the same time, **24 of the 34** regional and local councils were compliant with submitting their annual procurement plans for the current financial year to the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU).

That is a compliance rate of **over 70%**.

However, **only 5** of the 34 regional and local councils appear to have submitted their annual procurement plans for the current financial year on time (at least three months before the start of the financial year) to the PPU.

That is a compliance rate of **just 15%**.

Regarding publication of notices of tender awards for the current financial year on their websites, **only 12** of the 34 regional and local councils appeared to be compliant.

That's a **35%** compliance rate.

Just 11 of the 34 regional and local councils have published executive summaries of bid evaluation reports for the current financial year on their websites.

That's a compliance rate of **32%**.

In terms of the **access to information readiness** of regional and local council websites, the following was observed …

Just 5 of the 34 regional and local councils demonstrated substantial or significant readiness with proactive disclosure provisions of the Access to Information Act of 2022.

That's a readiness rate of **just 15%**.

The general low compliance with transparency rules of the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework found with this assessment is **reflective of a broader culture of non-compliance** evident across the state sector.

Similarly, the low level of readiness with access to information rules in the Access to Information Act of 2022 is demonstrative of **general low levels of transparency** evident across the public sector.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Against a backdrop of low procurement transparency compliance and low access to information readiness, the following recommendations are made:

- In 2022, we recommended that regional and local councils "prioritise the establishment of their online presence" and that at "a minimum, this should include a functioning website that residents can visit in order to put a face to the name of their representatives and understand the work they are doing to improve service delivery". This recommendation remains valid in November 2026.

- All regional and local authorities are encouraged to deploy relevant and affordable communication and digital technologies and platforms to overcome capacity shortages and constraints and to enable more and better information dissemination to their publics or constituents.

- All regional and local authorities are encouraged to prioritise enforcement of public procurement transparency rules, as well as others in other frameworks that speak to principles of good governance.

- All regional and local authorities are encouraged to prioritise preparing for the eventual operationalising and implementation of the Access to Information Act of 2022 by improving, updating, installing transparency enabling mechanisms, measures and practices within their structures.

- All offices and agencies that exercise an oversight and regulatory function over the governance practices and activities of regional and local authorities are encouraged to promote and enforce, as per relevant laws, transparency and accountability, as captured in various frameworks.

- Civil society actors at regional and local levels are encouraged to continue to monitor compliance with transparency and accountability rules of the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework, as well as to what extent regional and local authorities are preparing for the full implementation of the Access to Information Act of 2022.

- Given that the issues flagged by this assessment are reflective of broader governance challenges and shortfalls across the state sector, relevant senior government and political offices and actors are called upon to promote and encourage more robust embracing of transparency and accountability standards, rules and practices across the Namibian public service landscape.

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Hanns Seidel Foundation

November 2022

BRIEFING PAPER

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT



Introduction and Assessment Overview

The Local and Regional Government Annual Assessment is a new IPPR publication which is planned to appear in the last quarter of each calendar year.

Assessments are based on the levels of transparency and accountability exhibited by each of Namibia's 14 regional councils along with a geographically representative subset of 18* of the country's 57 local authorities, focusing primarily on municipalities and larger town councils where institutional capacities are relatively more established. Assessments are determined on the basis of public information lifted from the following sources:

- Local and Regional Councils' responses to an IPPR questionnaire
- Local and Regional Councils' activity reports, financial statements and other supporting materials
- Audit reports from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG)
- Undisputed print media articles
- Local and Regional Councils' websites
- Local and Regional Councils' social media profiles

The majority of these materials are available to the public but in some cases, supplementary data was obtained from Local Authorities (LAs) and Regional Councils (RCs) as part of this study's research process. Most notably, the researcher requested all 32 local and regional governments under review to provide responses to a short questionnaire (see Appendix 1). The purpose of this questionnaire was to allow councils the opportunity to provide more extended commentary and insight into the activities and challenges of their respective administrations, some of which may not have been evident from information contained on their websites and/or social media profiles.

BY KITTY MCGIRR

The previous regional and local government assessment can be accessed at the following link: https://ippr.org.na/publication/local-regional-councils-governance-assessment-2022/

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About the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) was founded in 2001 as a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to deliver, independent, analytical, critical yet constructive research on social, political and economic issues that affect development Namibia. The IPPR was established in the belief that development is best promoted through free and critical debate informed by quality research.

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About the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)

Active in more than 60 countries around the world, the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a German non-profit organisation promoting democracy, good governance, the rule of law and anti-corruption. Cooperating with its Namibian partners, such as the IPPR, HSF also seeks to contribute to sustainable economic and social development, environmental sustainability, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation. The contents expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not purport to reflect the views and opinions of the HSF.

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