

Oshakati/Ongwediwa Are One Town

ALLOW me space in your esteemed daily. There has been disturbing talk and often exaggerated comparison of two northern towns, Ongwediwa and Oshakati. It is on record that Ongwediwa is clean and well-managed and one couldn't agree more. But comparing the two in terms of cleanliness is pretty much unfair. As far as I am concerned Ongwediwa is by and large a residential district rather than a metropolitan town like Oshakati. In fact there are fewer industrial and business activities taking place at Ongwediwa than at Oshakati. To give an example, Ongwediwa

has its own open market where only a few do their business. Again a sizeable number of working people residing in Ongwediwa either work in Oshakati, Ondangwa or in the surrounding towns and villages, Ongwediwa included, conduct their business and do their shopping. In essence, masses of Ongwediwa residents also do contribute to the unhygienic conditions in Oshakati if there is any.

Just imagine how much of a burden to the Oshakati town council to provide cleaning services to the masses who do not even pay rates and taxes

to Oshakati Municipality. The odds are that some people may seek to score cheap political points by comparing an apple to a lemon. One wonders what Ongwediwa would become without Oshakati.

In fact Ongwediwa is more like one of Oshakati's suburbs and one would think that these two towns have a unified cleaning system. Instead of competing they must forge mutual co-operation, because to me Ongwediwa and Oshakati is just one big town.

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