



Omaheke Regional Council

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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SUBJECT: TENDER SCAM ALERT CIRCULATING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

GOBABIS, OMAHEKE REGION – The Omaheke Regional Council has regrettably learned about a recent tender scam alert circulating on social media, titled “SCAM AND FRAUD ALERT.”

The author of the message claims that the owner of a company, Onjama Construction, contracted by the Omaheke Regional Council for the construction of service infrastructure in Witvlei, Benzen Katjuanjo, has been working with his uncles who are employed by the Council, to swindle people. The author claims that they do this by selling fake tender (bidding) documents allegedly issued by the Omaheke Regional Council.

Mr Benzen Katjuanjo is known by the Regional Council to be employed by Onjama Construction and the project they are working on is supervised by Conselect Engineering. No other relationship exists between these parties and the Omaheke Regional Council, except the construction of service infrastructure at Witvlei.

While institutional investigations are ongoing to determine the legitimacy of these claims, the Omaheke Regional Council would like to inform its stakeholders that its procurement process is regulated by the Public Procurement Act, Act No. 15 of 2015, its regulations and directives. Such provisions require that:

1. All procurement activities (as approved by the Chief Regional Officer) are **handled by the Procurement Management Unit** (headed by the Deputy Director of Administration). This means that all bidding documents are compiled- and issued the Procurement Management Unit (PMU).
2. Where the open advertised bidding method is used, the bid invitation must be **advertised in a widely-circulated newspaper**.
3. Purchasing of bidding documents is **only allowed for open advertised bids**, i.e. where a bid invitation has been published in a newspaper. All bidding documents for other procurement methods, including request for sealed and informal quotations, direct procurement and restricted procurement, are issued free of charge.

In addition to these provisions:

4. The Omaheke Regional Council publishes its invitations for all open advertised bids on its **procurement portal**.
5. The Council **does not accept cash payments** to be made to any of its officials. Bidders interested in purchasing documents for open advertised bids are required to deposit the fees into the Council’s bank account and collect the bidding documents from the PMU with a proof of payment from the bank. The Council’s banking details are always included in the bid invitation.

6. The Council **does not make limited copies of bidding documents**. Open advertised bids are open for a minimum of 30 days. Bidding documents are available for the entire period during which the invitation is open.

In summary, interested bidders are hereby discouraged from purchasing any bidding documents from the Omaheke Regional Council or any of its employees, unless:

- The bid invitation is published in a newspaper circulated nationwide and on the Council's procurement portal: www.omahekerc.gov.na/procurement;
- The bid invitation (newspaper advertisement) mentions that the fee for the bidding document should be deposited in the Council's bank account with the banking details provided in the advertisement. **No cash payments for bidding documents are allowed at the Council;** and
- The bidding documents are collected from the Council's PMU which resorts under the Division of Administration.

Bidders are encouraged to visit the Council's procurement portal to verify the legitimacy of a bid invitation (advertisement). All advertised bids are published on that portal.

Council would further like to encourage residents to approach the Office of the Chief Regional Officer to report any fraudulent claims involving the Regional Council with the alleged scammer.

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