



Newsletter

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP

DECEMBER/2019



OTARG Executive Committee Elected at AGM during 11th OTARG Congress in Kigali, Rwanda

MESSAGE FROM OTARG PRESIDENT

The OTARG President, Matumo Ramafikeng (PhD) shares a short fraternal message with the membership of OTARG. [Page 2](#)

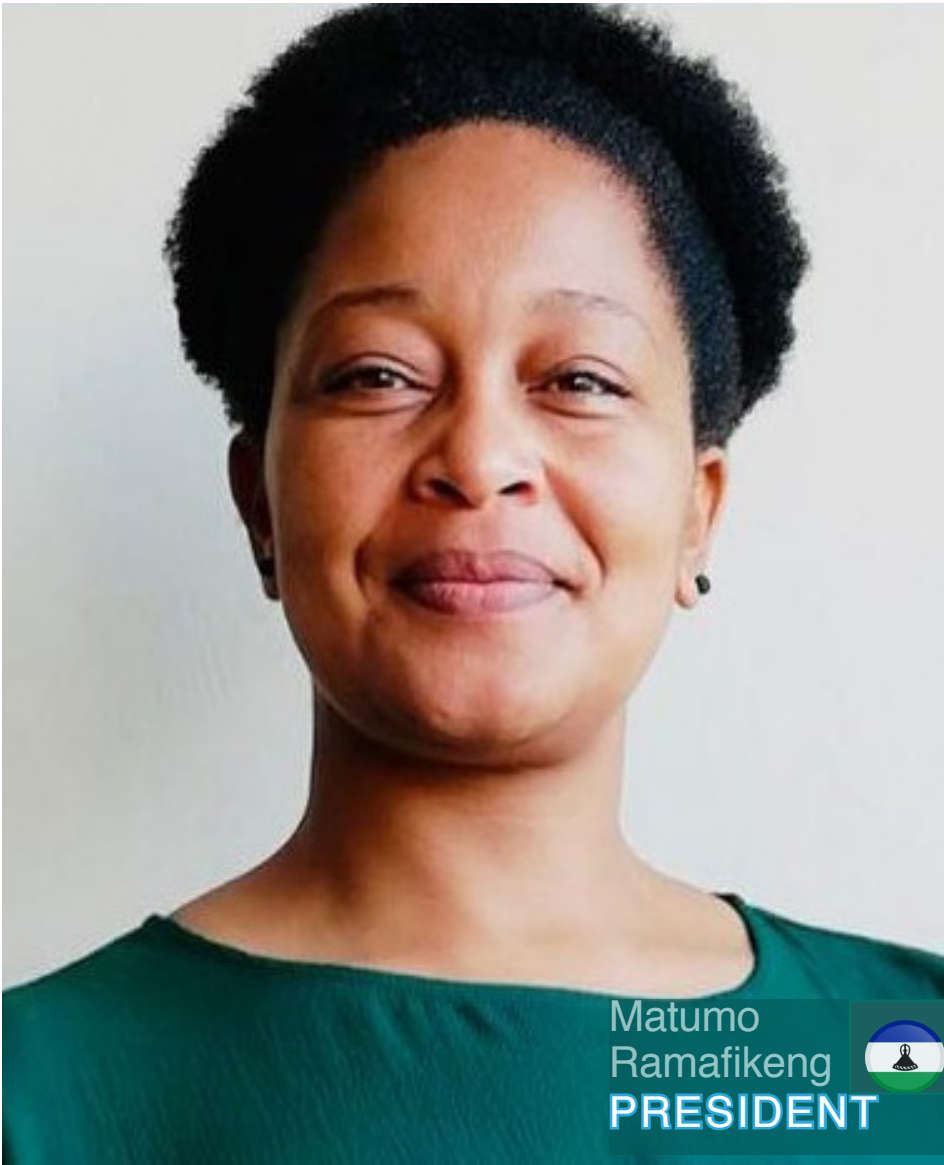
2019-2021 OTARG EXECUTIVES

Meet the newly elected OTARG Executive Committee. [Page 3](#)

MEMBER COUNTRY UPDATES

Find out how member countries celebrated Occupational Therapy day across the continent. [Pages 4&5](#)

Dear OTARG Members,



Matumo
Ramafikeng
PRESIDENT



Thank you for entrusting me with the huge responsibility of leading this beautiful profession in Africa, I do not take it lightly; I am honored. I have a fine team behind me – comprising of brilliant, enthusiastic individuals – who are passionate about occupational therapy and willing to dedicate their time and skills to promote OT in Africa. The composition of our ExCo is unconventional; with two vice presidents and a social media coordinator. We intend to capitalize on this uniqueness to serve you to the best of our abilities.

As part of the plans we have for OTARG, we will begin to address the burning question of the function and relevance of OTARG beyond hosting congresses bi-annually with your guidance. We absolutely agree that OTARG has the potential to do more and we promise to start this process of redefining ourselves as OTARG and working towards reaching our potential as outlined in our constitution. We hope to revolutionize OTARG and the OT profession on this continent and beyond. Together with you as members, the ExCo that I lead believe that we can realize the objectives of OTARG.


As a new crop of OTARG ExCo, we have a lot of novel initiatives that we hope to implement with your support thus I plead with you to bear with us as implementing the plans we have will be a process of trial-and-error as we streamline our processes and communication with members. We look forward to your feedback on how we are doing and how to serve you better. We are counting on your unwavering support to realize the mission of OTARG together.

On that note I wish you all happy holidays, lots of rest and I hope we will reconnect in the new year!!!




Clement Nhunzvi 
**VICE PRESIDENT
 (PROGRAMMES)**




Erastus Shuma 
**VICE PRESIDENT
 (MARKETING &
 FUNDRAISING)**



Eleyinde Temitayo 
SECRETARY




Munira Hoosain 
TREASURER




Itumeleng Tsatsi 
**SOCIAL MEDIA
 COORDINATOR**



Kalanda Muwonge Emmanuel 
WEBMASTER



Joana Nana Serwaa Akrofi 
**NEWSLETTER
 EDITOR**

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

It is a pleasure and a privilege to present you with the official mouthpiece of OTARG.

On behalf of the ExCo, I crave your indulgence to patronize and contribute to this newsletter. It is our desire that it would be interactive and relevant to your satisfaction.

We are open to your articles, suggestions and comments.

Please send these to newsletter@otarg.org.za

Don't be a stranger, reach out!

– Joana N.S. Akrofi

KOTA CONFERENCE

Kenya Occupational Therapists' Association hosts OTARG President at Conference

The KOTA 2019 Conference was held from 28th to 29th November at the Scorpio Villas Resort, Malindi. This year, KOTA held a maiden pre-conference needs assesment workshop on 28th November, which involved hands-on training and practice with clients from the community. The OTARG President graced the occasion with her presence and discussed avenues of partnership between the two organizations to increase visibility, education and research



The OTARG President; Dr. Matumo Ramafikeng with the KOTA President; Evans Obaigwa.



PARTNERS IN OT EDUCATION

OT Students from Rwanda to study at Stellenbosch...

A group of academics (representatives from Hogent in Belgium and the University of Rwanda in Kigali) have signed a memorandum of understanding for the period of 2020-2025 with the Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The goal of the collaboration is to share resources, train occupational therapy postgraduate students and conduct research in the three countries in the field of community development. The picture below was taken at the recent OTARG congress held in Kigali.



OT WEEK IN ZANZIBAR

Eradicating Stigma towards PWDs

Occupational Therapy week in Tanzania was commemorated from 23rd to 25th October 2019, with various events aimed at raising awareness on effects of stigma towards people with disabilities. The theme for the celebration was "BE PART IN ERADICATING STIGMA TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES". OTs across Tanzania converged in Zanzibar for the 3 day celebration. The first day was spent in conference where presentations and ideas were shared on the role of OTs in combating stigma.

27/10/19 AT MULAGO

OTs offer free services at Hospital

The Uganda Association of Occupational Therapists convened at the Mulago Hospital in Kampala to offer OT services to the general populace. The event was covered by UBC radio and Dream TV. The UAOT partnered with Katalemwa Cheshire Home, Mengo Hospital Rotary blood bank and the Mengo Hospital eye Department for the event. A combined total of 34 occupational therapists (students and practitioners) attended and 53 clients were registered.

OT ACROSS BORDERS

Nigeria reaches out to Turkey...

In observing the 2019 World Occupational Therapy Day, Nigerian Occupational Therapists; Eleyinde S. Tayo (OTARG secretary) and Ola Olatunji educated the community and rehabilitation professionals on the role of Occupational Therapists in facilitating social inclusion for children with disability in the Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus.



CARE FOR THE AGED

Day at Bumhudzo Home for Aged

In Zimbabwe, occupational therapists spent OT Day offering voluntary geriatric and psychogeriatric services to the residents of BUMHUDZO OLD PEOPLES HOME, CHITUNGWIZA. The role of OT in geriatrics – promoting active aging, social inclusion and occupational justice – was highlighted during this event. The President of the Old Person’s Board was present to receive donations sourced from well-wishers and cooperations.

OuTreach

OTAG in Okatabanman community

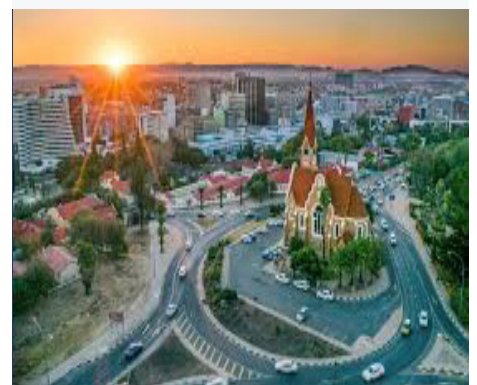
The Occupational Therapy Association of Ghana crowned her weeklong OT celebrations in the Okatabanman community. Activities organized during the week included; presentations at selected Churches and a scientific conference



NAMIBIA 2021

Host of 12th Biennial OTARG Congress

The Namibia Association of Occupational Therapy (NAOT) has won the bid to host the 12th Biennial OTARG Congress. It would be held in August, 2021 at Windhoek. OTARG would be celebrating 25 years of existence in 2021.





Occupational Therapy Africa Regional Group

JOBS!

**University of Gondar (UoG):
Gondar, Ethiopia**

Full Time Occupational Therapist
(Service Provider and Educator)
1 year renewable contract

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate degree in Occupational Therapy preferred, from a WFOT approved program.
- A minimum of five years of clinical practice as an occupational therapist.
- Experience teaching Occupational therapy courses would be an asset

More information can be found on OTARG website

Interested applicants should email their resume and cover letter by

December 16, 2019 to:

Carol Mieras

Co-Manager, MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program

Queens University

mieras@queensu.ca

1-613-533-6000 ext 74493

OTARG Launches Membership Numbers

As part of efforts to create a database of OT Practitioners in the African Region, OTARG Executives have deemed it necessary to create membership numbers for all registered member countries and individual members effective **January 2020**

MEMBER COUNTRIES



South Africa



Kenya



Rwanda



Namibia



Uganda



Zimbabwe



Tanzania



Ethiopia



Ghana



Lesotho



Madagascar



Nigeria

KEY DATES

17-19/06/2020

OTASA Congress

George, South Africa

<https://otasa2020.org.za/>

2021

12th Biennial OTARG Congress

Naimbia

24-28/11/2020

FATO Conference

Marrakech, Morocco

<https://congres2020.fatoafrique.org/en>

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