



## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Official Newsletter



## ADVANCING DRONE TECHNOLOGY 10 INNOVATION

## DROUGHT STRICKEN ANGOLAN IMMIGRANTS FLEE TO NAMIBIA TO SEEK REFUGE

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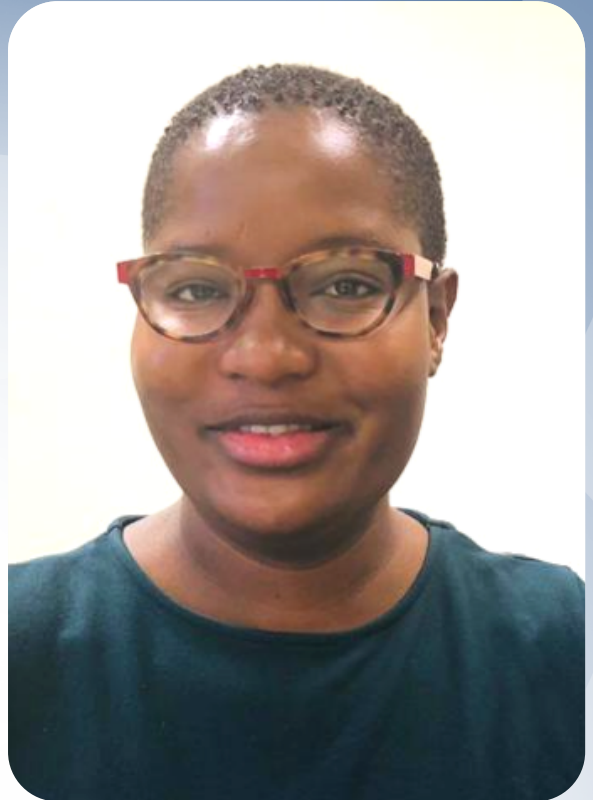


## EDITOR'S NOTE

I warmly welcome you all to the second edition of MHISS 2021 Newsletter.

This is the platform where we bring you stories making headlines and preview events that took place within the MHISS on quarterly basis. In this issue we feature the ministerial familiarisation visits to Omusati region, where thousands of Angolan Immigrants are settling. Furthermore, the Newsletter will feature the leasing of Oshakati Small Abattoir to Namibia Correctional Service

We have created a platform for you our readers to make contributions by sending letters, stories, photographs, and comments to the editor on matters related to Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security to [Margaret.Kalo@mha.gov.na](mailto:Margaret.Kalo@mha.gov.na) and you may find them in our next edition.



Editor

**Margaret S Kalo**



## ED IMPRESSED WITH NCS PROGRESS



**T**he Home Affairs and Immigration, Safety and Security Executive Director (ED), has applauded the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) and its leadership for a job well done. Etienne Maritz is impressed with the administration and general maintenance of correctional facilities around the country. The ED also commended the institution for being self-reliant as it grows its own food to feed offenders. He was speaking during a familiarization visit to correctional facilities, following the merger of the Ministries of Home Affairs and Immigration with that of Safety and Security.

The Executive Director conducted his visits in the north-eastern and southern regions during the months of November and December 2020. He was accompanied by, amongst others, the

Commissioner-General of the NCS, Raphael Tuhafeni Hamunyela.

During his visit to Divundu Correctional Facility, the Executive Director heaped praises to the management of the facility for a job well done, especially with regards to food production. At the time, Divundu Correctional Facility was in the process of milling 200 tons of maize meal contracted by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) which he commended to be a milestone. *"I believe that the Department can become the supplier of these goods to the whole Government,"* said Maritz.

Maritz assured officers that their hard work has been noticed and guaranteed them his support, especially when it comes to addressing shortcomings. In the same vein, he encouraged the NCS to work together with other sister departments in the Ministry to improve service delivery, general maintenance and vehicle repairs since they have functional workshops.

Describing him as a 'Management Guru,' the ED applauded the Commissioner-General Raphael T Hamunyela. *"I commend you for your stellar role in transforming the NCS into one of the best Government institutions in the country. The implementation of the Performance Management System is one of your many achievements, placing the Department ahead of any other organization in the Public Service"* said Maritz while speaking to officers at Divundu Correctional Facility.

Despite all the praises, the Commissioner-General urged officers not to settle for average and to work hard to achieve the NCS vision to be *"Africa's leader in the provision of correctional services"*.

Even with the achievements, the NCS is still challenged with lack of resources such as funds and human resources. The NCS currently





has a staff complement of 2712 of the 8831 positions approved, meaning there is a dire shortage of manpower to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services. However, the Executive Director promised to make this a priority area in the next budget proposals.

Apart from visiting correctional facilities, the ED also visited several border posts, police stations and conducted briefing meetings with regional heads of the different departments of the Ministry. He also had a meeting with the Grape Growers Association in Aussenkehr, where he addressed their concerns regarding work permit applications.

At Velloorsdrift Border Post, situated between Namibia and South Africa, the delegation found that officers are staying in deplorable conditions as the ceilings are falling apart,

windows are broken and tiles damaged. The only available water is the untreated water from the Orange River.

The ED was also disappointed to observe that some officials were not taking good care of State properties as some accommodation facilities are new but are not well looked after by the staff living in them. He discouraged such tendencies and challenged staff to play their part while his office was looking into some of their challenges.

In the effort to address some of the challenges, the Keetmanshoop Correctional Facility, under the instruction of the Commissioner-General dispatched two artisans to Velloorsdrift to assess the needed items for the renovation of the houses.



## OSHAKATI TOWN COUNCIL TO LEASE ABATTOIR TO NAMIBIA CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

**T**he Namibia Correctional Service under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security will henceforth operate the Oshakati Small Abattoir.

This was agreed when the Governor of the Oshana Region, Elia Irimari, and the Executive Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration Safety and Security, Etienne Maritz recently met at the Governor's office in Oshakati.

The abattoir that belongs to the Oshakati Town Council will be used to slaughter pigs that are being bred at the Oluno Correctional Services. The abattoir will cater for local livestock farmers south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence who wish



to use the facility to slaughter their animals. It is estimated that more than 1,000 pigs are being bred at Oluno Correctional Service Facility in Oshitoko Region.



Oluno is one of the largest correctional centres in Namibia's northern regions, and inmates started breeding pigs in 2005. The abattoir will still belong to Oshakati Town Council, but it will be under the care of the Home Affairs Ministry. The pork meat will be

distributed to all prisons in northern Namibia for consumption by inmates.

The abattoir is currently being renovated for N\$400 000 and expected to create permanent as well as casual employment for locals



## LONG SERVING CIVIL SERVANT'S DESERY HESS RETIRED, AFTER 42 YEAR AT THE HELM OF HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY

**D**esery Hess is the epitome of the consummate civil servant worthy of emulation. She is one of the original government employees that witnessed the implementation of biometric and identity system in Namibia just before independence. For over four decades, she has been responsible for the preparation and verification of fingerprints at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

During our interview, Mrs. Hess, began by narrating, how retirement is one of the most important transitions in a person's life, especially a person who worked from the age of 19 years, it means adjusting to a life as retiree and changing your everyday routine. However, it also means having a lot of free time to spend with loved ones.

**Q: Please tell us about yourself?**



I was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1961, in Windhoek, Khomas Region and I was raised by my grandparents. In 1967, at the age of seven (7) I started with my primary education, at M. H. Greeff Primary School and did my Secondary education at Ella Du Plessis. However, due to financial challenges that we faced, while doing my grade eleven (11)





In June 1979, I decided to drop out of school in order for me to get a job, so that I can take care of my grandparents. Luckily enough, in August of 1979 the then (Burgersake en mannekraa) Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security was hiring. They needed people to begin with the issuance of Identity Documents for the first time in Namibia and that was how I got lucky and joined the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security. In addition, I have been married for the past thirty one (31) years and I was blessed with three (3) wonderful children

**2. Q: When did you join the public service? What were you doing before joining the public service?**

I joined the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security in August 1979, straight from High School and with no work experience. When I joined however, I joined with a group of 30 people, some were sent to Otjiwarongo, but I was among the group that remained in Windhoek, Khomas Region.

**3. Q: Why did you decide to join the public service? Was it your dream to work for the government?**

I had just dropped out of school and was job hunting when I came across the posts at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigrations, Safety and Security, in other words it was the first opportunity that I got. Furthermore, for me at that point in time it didn't matter, I just wanted a job, for me to be able to support my grandparents. But when I started with

training, I began to love working for Government, though my dream was to work with children, because I love children.

**4. Q: How old were you when you joined the public service?**

I was 19 years old.

**5. Q: What was your position, roles, and responsibilities at the Ministry?**

When I started working for Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security in 1979, I began as a Fingerprint Officer, in 1987 I was prompted to the position of Principal Fingerprint Officer. In 2004, I was promoted to Senior Fingerprint Officer and 2010 I was promoted to the position of Chief Fingerprint Officer, a position that I held until my retirement. Apart from managing and supervising officers under me, I also gave training to officers and handled queries from the Department of Police and Mortuary to help with the identification and verifications of persons.

**6. Q: What did you find most challenging about your work?**

Apart from the fact that I had to use a magnifying glass to count the ridges of fingerprints of individuals for verification purposes from 1979 to 2004 when the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) was introduced, I took everything as it came and tried to learn from such experiences as much as possible. Most importantly I took such challenges as lessons which helped to groom me into the person that I am today.



**7. Q: What was most satisfying about your job? What made you happier regarding your work?**

Knowing that the job that I was doing helped families to unite with their family members and to root out criminals from society through the verification process gave me solace. In addition, working with my colleagues for all those years was a total bliss, as my colleagues become my second family.

**8. Q: Please share with us your good memories over the years working as a public servant?**

One of the best memories about being a public servant, was travelling out with my colleagues to remote rural areas, whereby people who live in such areas do not have access to such services and as a result do not have national documents. Being in position to help register and issue fellow citizens identity documents gave me great joy. When the Automated Fingerprint identification system (AFIS) system was introduced, I was sent to the People's Republic of China for training, the experience was also amazing.

**9. Q: There is a big misconception especially among young people about staying in one job for many years. What advice can you share about the advantage of working in the same organization for a long time?**

Having worked for the same ministry for the past 42 years. I never saw the need of moving to another organisation because I was passionate about my job. The best

part of it was working with people from different cultural backgrounds who became family.

**10. Q: Tell us how people benefited from your experience and you think it is important to share knowledge at the workplace? Maybe how many people you have trained or mentored?**

I would say I trained roughly 20-30 or more people the fingerprint verification system, before the AFIS system was introduced. I trained so many colleagues as they were joining the ministry. They came in, studied with tertiary institutions and left for better opportunities. However, I was not motivated to leave for greener pastures because I was committed and content with my work.

**11. Q: Having been at work for so many years, what do you plan to do after retirement?**

I do not have any plans; I am just excited to be going on retirement. As it means spending a lot of precious time with my family and grandchildren.

**12. Q: Any words of encouragement to the young people joining an organisation that you served for so long?**

In conclusion, I just want to advise especially the young ones, joining the ministry today, not to always focus on bigger pay cheques, citing that a friendly working environment is far more important. In addition, they should be committed to their work in order to deliver quality service to the public.



## RANI GROUP DONATED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT COVID - 19



**W**ith Personal Protective Equipment in high demand in the country, RANI Group has donated 10,000 masks and 5,000 gloves to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security to be used by the law enforcement and staff members.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Ministry, the Deputy Executive Director, Nehemia Nghishekwa, thanked the RANI Group for the incredibly generous donation of Personal Protective Equipment aimed to provide safe care for Ministry's employees and fight against coronavirus.

"Fighting this virus is a responsibility for every one of us said Ali Rani, the Representative of

RANI Group and further added that "We don't work in the medical

field, so we cannot fight the virus directly, but we want to share our responsibility and share what we have with the community."

The donated items are expected to last and will be used for the period of two months, which is August and September 2021.

Please continue to observe all COVID-19 protocols: Get tested, get vaccinated, wear a face mask, keep social distancing, regularly wash, and sanitize your hands.

## MUNYIKA APPOINTMENT AS NAMIBIA'S ID4AFRICA AMBASSADOR



**T**he Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security is proud to announce and, at the same time, congratulates Ms. Tulimeke Munyika on her appointment as Namibia's new ID4Africa Ambassador. A qualified legal practitioner, Ms. Munyika currently serves as the Director for the National Population Register (NPR), Identification and Production under the Department of Civil Registration. She has held this position since 2019.

The ID4Africa program was established in 2016 and has thus far reached 48 different countries across the continent. The ID4Africa Ambassadors, are senior-level government officials, appointed from each member state to act as a liaison between their country's institutions and the ID4Africa Program. ID4Africa appointments, are valid for one year, but are subject to renewal annually with a four-year term limit.

ID4Africa is important to Namibia and other member states. The ID4Africa Ambassadors Program empowers African Civil servants to influence and advance the identity agenda in Africa. The ID4Africa Ambassadors, play an integral role in influencing and shaping the direction of the ID4Africa Movement to ensure that issues pertaining to the development of identity ecosystems in their countries are prioritized and addressed. Since its inception in 2016, the ID4Africa Ambassadors Program has not only continued to gain importance in the range of representation, but also in the breadth and depth of engagements from the Ambassadors who continue to be driven and active in advocating digital transformations of identity in their countries.

The ministry wishes Ms. Munyika, the best of luck in her new appointment and has no doubt that she will excel in her new role and make the ministry proud.





## ADVANCING DRONE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION



**T**he United Nations Development Program (UNDP) donates a highly sophisticated, state of the art drone to the Namibian Police Force, through the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

The donation was an initiative driven by the UNDP's continued support to country-led efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable Development goals. The UNDP resident representative, Alka Bhatia, who addressed at the event, congratulated the Namibian Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security for championing change by ushering in the 4th Industrial Revolution with the use of technology.

"Drones were increasingly being used to respond to humanitarian, developmental

and peacekeeping operations. Although drones could not resolve issues brought on by social challenges such as wildlife crime or climate change, it was a powerful ally for public servants and communities on the frontlines of developmental change", Cited Bhatia.

Receiving the donation is the Inspector General of the Namibian Police Force, Lieutenant General Sabastian Ndeitunga and narrated that globally, the use of drones in areas of policing was rapidly advancing, making it possible for the law enforcement to make use of aerial view without having to dispatch helicopter or other manned aircrafts, which are costly to operate. However, the drone would enhance the level of law enforcement capability, especially air operations to search, rescue, locate suspects and or victims of crime, providing surveillance and assessment of dangerous situations such as riots and hostage situations and many others.

"donation such as these, were essential in policing operations and will indeed contribute to the police's effectiveness in ensuring continued safety for its citizens. the drone would assist the police in its quest to render quality service and fight crime in the country and would indeed be the law enforcement's eyes in the sky", lamented the Inspector General.

In closing, the General, re-assured the UNDP representatives, that the Police would greatly utilise the drone for the purpose that it was intended for and thanked the UNDP for their noble gesture.



## DROUGHT STRICKEN ANGOLAN IMMIGRANTS FLEE TO NAMIBIA TO SEEK REFUGE



**T**he Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (MHAISS) donated humanitarian goods to alleviate the plight of Immigrants from Angola. The immigrants are currently camping at Oshifo and Etunda in the Omusati.

The donation was handed over by the Omusati Governor, Erginus Endjala, accompanied by the Commissioner for Refugees, Likius Valombola, from the MHAISS, the Secretary General Namibia Red Cross Society, Glynis Harrison and the Vice Chairperson of the Namibia Red Cross Society, Johnny Hakaye. The

donated items consist of 15 boxes of water purification tablets, 7 hand wash booths, 424 masks, and 425 litres of hand sanitizer liquid.

Angola shares a borderline with Namibia, in the northern part of country, and for the past two years Angola has been hit hard by persistent droughts, food and water shortages as well as widespread malnutrition among children.

As a result, since the beginning of March 2021, Angolans living along the borderline, started illegally crossing into Namibia through various points in Omusati and Ohangwena regions.





So far, the regional councils have recorded a total number of two thousand, nine hundred and twelve (2,912) immigrants, currently camping at Oshifo and Etunda in the Omusati region. These numbers are comprised of mostly children, lactating mothers, and the elderlies. The number could be higher as some immigrants are not registered.

Sadly, both camping sites where Angolan Immigrants are currently

accommodated are faced with challenges of overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, shortages of food and lack of potable water. This prompted the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS), in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, to donate humanitarian goods to alleviate their plight. In addition, talks between the Namibian and Angolan Governments are underway to find a lasting solution to the plight of immigrants.

### RE-LAUNCH OF THE SMS NOTIFICATION SERVICE

In context of improving service delivery, MHAISS in partnership with Mobile Telecommunication Company (MTC) re-introduced the SMS notification service for ID Application Services. This one-way communication service automatically sent out a notification about the status of an application and it is free of charge.

Applicants for IDs will henceforth receive an SMS on their mobile phone when: Their application has been approved and printed, and when the ID is ready for collection.

This will save applicants time and decongest the offices, since applicants no longer need to visit the office to enquire on the status of their application. Additionally, this will also reduce the risk of exposure, especially at this time of Covid-19 pandemic.

Applicants will receive a push notification SMS from 10001 that will read:

"Your ID card will be ready for collection from X Office within 5 working days" when the ID Card is being dispatched from HQ to Regional Office for collection

"Your ID card is ready for collection from X Office" when the ID card has been received by the Regional Office that the applicant chose as a collection office during application time.

In the near future, applicants will be able to enquire about the Status of their ID application by sending a text message. Which will cover other service of the ministry as well.

## SMS NOTIFICATION SERVICE



*Notification service will be expanded to other Departments, such as Passport, Certificate of Conduct, just to mention a few.*

## INNOVATION TRAINING FOR ENHANCED SERVICE DELIVERY

**T**he Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, in its quest to improve effective and efficient service delivery, incepted on an innovative training for its staff members aimed to equip them with relevant knowledge and skills. The two-phased training was held on 22-26 March and again on 06-09 April 2021 at the Lucius Sumbwanyambe Mahoto Correctional Training College in Omaruru, Erongo Region.

During the training, more than 70 staff members from different Directorates were inducted on several aspects, such as on Constitutional Law which includes Judicial Precedence, Statutory Interpretation, Administrative Law, Namibian Citizenship

Law, the legal nature of Civil Registration and Identity Management which are some of the Ministry's core tasks.

The workshop also focused on other important topics such as the implementation of Performance Management System (PMS) in an organization, Monitoring and Evaluation, Performance Agreements, Ethics and Integrity, and Customer Care Service. The training also highlighted the importance of Quarterly Reviews and Appraisals, amongst others.

The team was treated to a breathtaking team-building excursion to Cape Cross on the north-western coast of Namibia.



# *In Loving Memory*



*We will always know the brightest star in the sky is you watching over us*



Mr. Jonas Alweendo  
\*01/05/1970  
+20/06/2021



Mr. Peter Nghende  
\*10/08/1976  
+21/05/2021



Ms. Jeneth Uanguta  
\*25/09/1986  
+03/05/2021



Ms. Foibe Shilongo  
\*16/08/1976  
+01/06/2021



Mr. Sakeus Mbango  
\*14/06/1976  
+03/07/2021



Ms. Matilda Simataa  
\*25/03/1969  
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