



MINISTRY OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

VOTE 21

NAMIBIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

2014/2015 BUDGET MOTIVATION OF VOTE 21

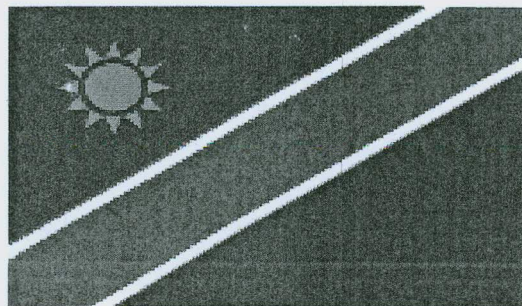
BY

HONOURABLE MINISTER

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TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

01 APRIL 2014



1. **INTRODUCTION**

Hon. Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

Allow me to congratulate the Honourable Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for her continued good work in her capacity as the Minister of Finance. We wish her with her dedicated team of staff, all the best in their endeavours to steer our economy to greater heights for the prosperity of our nation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce Vote 21 of the Ministry of Safety and Security: The Namibian Correctional Service for your consideration. Our Ministry is requesting a total budget of **eight hundred million, nine hundred and sixty two thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$800,962,000)**, of which **six hundred and forty million, nine hundred and sixty-two thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 640,962,000)** is for the Operational Budget and a **hundred and sixty million Namibia Dollars (N\$ 160,000,000)** is for the Development Budget.

2. **PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET**

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

The Department of Correctional Service have the following programmes: Safe Custody; Rehabilitation; Re-integration; and Coordination and Support. In light

hereof, I will briefly reflect on some achievements made in the implementation of the budget:

2.1 Safe Custody

The Namibian Correctional Service has successfully managed to keep safe custody of offenders sent to prison. In the period of 2013/14, the monthly average number of offenders in our correctional facilities continued to stand at approximately 4200 with the majority of offenders being at the ages of between 18 and 29 and most of them sentenced to periods of between 1 month and 2 years for mostly property related offences.

At those facilities where the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy is implemented, we continue to classify each offender in accordance to the risk they pose to themselves, other inmates, staff and the public and thereby assign them to a suitable level of security (i.e. maximum, medium, low-medium or minimum) for placement.

This Strategy to classify offender populations remains an important determinant in two of our facilities in terms of minimising escapes and other untoward incidents; it also serves as a saving mechanism as resources are directed to where they are most needed. As a result of this approach, not many security incidents were reported in the Namibian Correctional Service facilities during the review period. We only experienced 3 escapes in the 2013/14 period. One of the escapes was from a public hospital where the offender was admitted for treatment, while the other escape involved three offenders from inside Windhoek Correctional Facility. All the escapees were re-arrested.

The unit management facility differs from the old traditional built prisons facilities as it enhances safe custody and is regarded as the safest system in terms of inmate supervision and control to avert escapes and institutional incidents. The projects that are ongoing in terms of unit management are as follows:

- **Windhoek Prison Unit Management Conversion**
- **Hardap Prison Unit Management Conversion**
- **Divundu Rehabilitation Centre Unit Management Conversion**
- **Oluno Prison Unit Management Conversion**
- **Walvis Bay Prison Unit Management Conversion**

2.2 Rehabilitation

The Namibian Correctional Service continue with its efforts in achieving successful rehabilitation of offenders through the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy (ORMCS). During the review period, a National Training team was appointed and was trained by the Consultant on the delivery and facilitation of the training of Case management Officers and Unit Managers who are key staff in the ORMCS. The National Training Team will carry out all training aspects and facets of the ORMCS, thus taking over some functions from the Consultant and thereby minimise spending on consultation. The period also saw Unit Managers, Correctional Supervisors and Case Management Officers at Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility receiving refresher training on Case Management assessment tools and procedures. In addition, various projects have also been undertaken to perfect the rehabilitation activities in the Namibian Correctional Service. These include projects such as:

- a. Aligning the offender education activities in the NCS to the ORMCS

- b. Enhancing the role of programme officers in Unit Management
- c. Development of Pre-release framework and programmes
- d. Development of a framework for Community Supervision in Namibia

Furthermore, in order to maximise our rehabilitation potential, the Namibian Correctional Service intends to roll-out the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy to the Hardap Correctional Facility and the Evaristus Shikongo Correctional Facility during this year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

The most serious criminal activities in our country seem to be significantly linked to low education, lack of thinking and living skills as well as substance abuse. In order to mitigate these criminogenic factors among offenders, during the review period, the Namibian Correctional Service continued to deliver programmes such as literacy education and the two core rehabilitation programmes, namely: Thinking and Living Skills (TLS) and the Manage My Substance Use (MMSU) to offenders. I am proud to say that a high number of offenders have gone through and completed these programmes while we have a significant number still continuing to undergo these programmes.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

We consider our Agriculture Production initiatives as significant contributors to the Rehabilitation of offenders, not only in terms of averting idleness of offenders, but most importantly imparting work skills and attitudes that are important for their livelihood after their release from correctional facilities. In this regard, our food production initiative at the Divundu Correctional Facility in the Kavango East Region continues to be the best provider particularly for self-sustenance in maize and wheat production. The

Namibian Correctional Service continues in a sustainable way to supply maize meal and bread flour to all its institutions with some significant level of surplus which is sold to correctional officers.

We are also proud to announce that the Evaristus Shikongo Correctional Facility (previously known as Farm Scott Open Prison) in the Oshikoto Region was inaugurated by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba and we have now transferred a number of offenders there. This means that food production and other agricultural activities that are ongoing at that facility will significantly be increased and improved. The facility is a 5000 hectare farm consisting of 31 grazing camps, 100 hectare fodder under dry land, and 40 hectare for irrigation pivots for fodder, 1 hectare is for fruit trees and 30 hectare is for yellow maize. However, our main production line at that facility is cattle and small stock and it currently provides 89% of red meat requirements to correctional facilities around the country through its meat processing plant.

2.3 Re-integration

Following the much appreciated promulgation of the Correctional Service Act, 2012 (Act No. 9 of 2012) and its Regulations, we have engaged on various projects intended to operationalize its provisions with regard to the re-integration programmes for offenders particularly those that are released on Parole and Remission.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as I earlier stated, most offenders that are admitted in the Namibian Correctional Service facilities are sentenced for petty offences ranging from theft and housebreaking and are hence sentenced to shorter periods of between 1 month and 2 years. Therefore in the review period, the Namibian Correctional Service engaged on efforts to enhance the Community Service Orders initiative that will enable the justice system to divert petty offenders from costly incarceration and instead sentence

them to community based sanctions to work and give back to the community. In this regard, the Namibian Correctional Service appointed additional staff to complement the already existing staff in the Community Service Orders office.

The Namibian Correctional Service is busy conducting a thorough assessment of the status and challenges of Community Service Orders. The Community Service is a preventative method, it prevent people from going to prisons over petty crimes, particularly the young offenders. The offenders serve his/her sentence working within community. There are Community Service Officers appointed to supervise and monitor the work of those offenders. After the assessment, the Ministry will consult all stakeholders with regard to the implementation of Community Service Order. We intend to roll-out the Community Service Orders concept to more regions in this financial year.

2.4 Staff development

Honourable members, since the 2009/10 financial year, we have been reporting that a number of our staff are on the degree course in Criminal Justice (Correctional Management) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminal Justice which the Namibian Correctional Service jointly developed with the Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN). This programme is progressing very well, and last year officers who completed their studies successfully graduated and obtained their degrees in April. Again in this year, a total of 6 correctional officers are graduating. For this academic year, 8 correctional officers are in their third year, 9 in the second year and 10 in their first year.

Apart from the above Degree programme, we have another 13 correctional officers enrolled for nursing qualifications at Health Training Centres of the Ministry of Health and Social Services with the intention to curb the acute shortage of nurses that we are

currently experiencing in the Namibian Correctional Service. We have other officers enrolled for qualifications including Law, Public Relations, Public Administration and Psychology in various Tertiary institutions nationally and internationally.

2.5 Health Care

The Namibian Correctional Service continues to partner with various key stakeholders in order to deliver adequate health services to offenders. These partners, through the Ministry of Health and Social Services have been contributing significantly to the combating of serious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other diseases. These stakeholders are Centre for Disease Control (CDC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Global Fund (GF).

The CDC continued to fund the salaries of Community Counsellors who are providing the voluntary counselling and testing services in our institutions. There are twelve (12) HIV/AIDS Community Counsellors deployed in Namibian Correctional Service facilities around the country. These Community Counsellors are also providing education and awareness campaigns to our offenders. There was a request by the Ministry of Health and Social Services for the Ministry of Safety and Security to incorporate these Community Counsellors into the organisational structure of the Namibian Correctional Service and thereby pay their salaries. The Ministry of Safety and Security has accepted the request and will take on board these Community Counsellors in due course.

The Namibian Global Fund programme, during the review period, spent N\$ 1 126 010.40 on activities such as HIV/AIDS education sessions, workshops and support groups to inmates and also disseminated HIV/AIDS education and information

materials to them. Furthermore, the Global Fund also conducted training of correctional officers and nurses on HIV/AIDS during the review period.

The UNODC, during the review period, spent an amount to the tune of N\$ 275,000.00. The activities undertaken by the UNODC during the review period include testing of correctional officers for cholesterol, diabetes and high blood pressure; training of trainers in HIV/AIDS as capacity development to implement effective sustainable HIV response in correctional facilities; conducting monitoring and evaluation meetings; supervisory visits; funding of the commemoration of World Aids Day at one of our facilities including sponsorship of materials and clothing.

At this juncture, allow me Honourable members to express our gratitude to these critical social partners for their continued assistance.

3. Challenges

The Namibian Correctional Service have some of the following challenges:

3.1. Correctional Facilities:

Our Correctional Facilities are not correctly placed in the country. They are mostly located in the previously white dominated towns and cities. Therefore some areas that are densely populated do not have correctional facilities. For example Oluno Rehabilitation Centre currently services Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto Regions and to some extent Kavango and Caprivi Regions. As a result, we often experience perpetual overcrowding at some of our facilities and devote much time and resources on transporting offenders to remote areas for courts and other activities. The

Department also have a challenge of transporting prisoners to court, as it is costly and is a security risk to both the officer and prisoners. Ministry will consult the stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Justice to have special courts in some parts of the country.

3.2. Security Equipment

The need for appropriate security equipment such as communication devices, transport, standby power generators, fire-arms, handcuffs, straight-jackets and scanners is critical for the maintenance of security and order in a sensitive environment such as corrections. Insufficient security equipment leaves us vulnerable to smuggling of contraband into our correctional facilities and open to riots, attacks by offenders and public, escapes, smuggling of dangerous articles into our facilities and many other vulnerabilities.

3.3. Materials and Supplies for Offenders and Staff

As parties to the United Nations and the African Union, we strive to live up to UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the African Charter on Human Rights. This means we are expected to provide inmates with adequate food, water and electricity, clothing, open space, ventilation etc. However, the inadequacy of funds does not allow us to provide these services as required and it often results in legal action by offenders.

Furthermore, our staff are expected to present themselves in a manner which portrays a professional image requiring them to dress in proper uniform. However, this is also not often the case due to inadequate funds.

3.4. Manpower

The Namibian Correctional Service is experiencing an acute shortage of staff of over 60% due to the lack of funds.

The shortage of staff, particularly custodial staff responsible for security at facilities, is a serious security threat both to our facilities and the community at large because there is always the potential for escapes, riots and other serious incidents when staff are not enough.

The other critical shortage is that of medical personnel (i.e. doctors and nurses). Currently, the Namibian Correctional Service is utilising the services of medical personnel at Public Hospitals; meaning that a large number of offenders have to be escorted to outside Public Hospitals on a daily basis because of a lack of medical personnel within correctional facilities. This practice is not only a dangerous security risk, but the Ministry of Health and Social Services has also indicated its concern regarding the overloading of their staff and raised security related complaints.

Construction and conversion of several correctional facilities was completed, e.g. Evaristus Shikongo Correctional Facility, Hardap Correctional Facility and the Female Correctional Facility in Windhoek. However, we are unable to fully staff these facilities because of a lack of funds. Therefore, the additional funds that the Ministry of Finance provided will be used to recruit new correctional officers in order to address this challenge. Furthermore, the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy which we intend to roll-out to these facilities require specialised staff such as Social Workers and Psychologists who are critical in delivering rehabilitation programmes, but again without adequate funds, we are unable to recruit them.

4. BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2014/2015 FINANCIAL YEAR

Hon. Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce Vote 21 of the Ministry Of Safety and Security: the Namibian Correctional Service for your consideration.

The total budget allocated for the 2014/15 financial year amounts to a sum of eight hundred million and nine hundred and sixty-two thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 800,962,000), of which six hundred and forty million, nine hundred and sixty-two thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 640,962,000) is for the Operational Budget and one hundred and sixty million Namibian dollars (N\$ 160,000,000) is for the Development Budget.

The following four programmes have been identified to be implemented in the next Medium Term Expenditure Framework. They are:

4.1 Programme one: Safe Custody and Rehabilitation

An amount of seven hundred and fourteen million, four hundred and thirty-nine thousand Namibian dollars (N\$714,439,000) is allocated to Safe Custody and Rehabilitation.

4.2 Programme two: Compliance and Control of Correctional Facilities

An amount of fifty-two million and fifty-eight thousand Namibia dollars (N\$52,058,000) is allocated to Compliance and Control of Correctional Facilities.

4.3 Programme three: Reintegration

Five million nine hundred and fifty thousand Namibia dollars (N\$5,950,000) are allocated to Reintegration.

4.4 Programme four: Supervision and Support Services

Twenty-eight million five-hundred and fifteen thousand Namibia dollars (N\$28,515,000) are allocated to Supervision and Support Services.

5. CONCLUSION:

Hon. Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

In conclusion, I now have the pleasure of requesting this beloved August House to approve the sum of **eight hundred million, nine hundred and sixty-two thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$800,962,000)** for the Namibian Correctional Service.

I THANK YOU!