

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



BUDGET MOTIVATION 2018/2019

BY THE

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MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

VOTE 05

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

13 APRIL 2018

“NO NAMIBIAN MUST FEEL LEFT OUT”

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee

Honourable Members of this August House

It is my distinctive honour to motivate Vote 05 for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. From the onset, let me join other honourable members of this august house in congratulating Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance and Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, the Minister of Economic Planning and their teams for crafting a considerate budget to address socio-economic challenges facing our nation. The ministry promises to continue reaching out to more citizens with regard to provision of national documents. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is indebted to the support of this august House and other partners and stakeholders over the years.

Honourable Members, our programmes and all our efforts are geared towards realizing our Strategic Plan, NDP 5 and Vision 2030 as well as the Harambee Prosperity Plan as per the following programmes of the Ministry:

1. Department of Civil Registration
2. Department of Immigration Control and Citizenship
3. Directorate of Refugee Administration
4. Directorate of Administration

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

Allow me to present to this august house the budget allocation to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration during 2018/2019 financial year and to abridge individual programmes for which the funds will be allocated. An amount of **Six Hundred and Nine Million Three Hundred and Fifty-nine Thousand Namibian Dollars** (NS 609, 359, 000) is allocated for Vote 05. Out of this amount, **Four Hundred Forty-five Million Three Hundred and Fifty-nine Thousand Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 445 359 000) is allocated for Operational budget while **One Hundred Sixty-four Million Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 164 000

000) is allocated for Development budget. The Ministry, shall amongst its priorities, work towards amalgamating and sustaining efforts towards improving service delivery.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

It is now my singular honour and privilege to share with you the summary of achievements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration during the year under review and introduce the requested allocation for 2018/2019 financial year for each of the following programmes.

PROGRAMME 1: CIVIL REGISTRATION

The core function of this programme is to manage the National Population Registration System (NPRS), which entails issuance of national documents such as birth certificates, identity cards, marriage certificates and death certificates. The activities under this programme are aimed at ensuring lawful identity management of nationals, the facilitation of the establishment of family basic units, and that Government has the necessary demographic statistics needed for planning purposes.

During the period under review, the Department registered **Forty-three Thousand One Hundred and Forty-seven** (43 147) babies under the age of One (1) year. **Twenty-eight Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty-five** (28 465) persons had their births registered late. **Four Thousand-nine Hundred and Seven** (4 907) marriages were registered. A total of **One Hundred and One Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty-one** (101 231) ID cards were printed; of which, **Four Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty-one** (4 561) were conversions of the SWA ID card to the Namibian ID card. Regrettably, **Twenty Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-four** (20 264) deaths were registered country wide. These data which are collected electronically are availed to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) for the production of vital statistics on a regular basis.

During the period under review, the Department had continued to expand services, and thus ensure timely registration of all children. The new regional office at Nkurenkuru in the Kavango West Region was officially opened to the public on 31 July 2017 marking a footprint in all fourteen (14) political regions of our country. A first of its kind Public Private relations was witnessed with the opening of a hospital based facility at Rhinopark Private Hospital in the Khomas Region. An outreach programme to rural areas was implemented and a total of **Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-two (9 972)** people were registered in the Kavango East, Kavango west, /Karas, Hardap and Kunene regions respectively.

Furthermore, the Department participated at Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, Windhoek Agricultural Show, Helao Nafidi Business Expo and Nkurenkuru Expo where a total number of **Six Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty-seven (6 357)** people were registered for birth certificates, IDs and Citizenship. School mobile registrations were conducted countrywide targeting learners who turned 16 years of age as it is the legal age by law to acquire an Identity Card and a total number of **Nine Thousand One Hundred and Fifty-nine (9 159)** ID cards were printed and issued to learners.

As part of the ministerial strategy on digitalisation, the Department, in close collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Namibian Police Force, and the Namibia Statistics Agency, launched the e-birth notification project in May 2017. The aim of the e-Birth Notification System is to notify the e-National Population Registration System electronically when a birth has occurred at a hospital in order to secure the birth details of the child, to verify the identity of their parents and collect accurate data of all children's birth in the country. The system is currently implemented at Windhoek Central and Katutura Hospitals in Khomas region; Eenhana and Engela State Hospitals in Ohangwena region; Rundu State Hospital in Kavango East region; Oshakati

Intermediate State Hospital in Oshana region; Oshikuku and Outapi State Hospitals in Omusati region and Onandjokwe Hospital in Oshikoto region.

The Department led the design and development of the e-death notification system, which aims to notify the e-national Population Registration System of all death occurring, as well as recording the causes of death according to International Classification of Diseases (ICD 10). The system will be piloted at Windhoek Central Hospital during the second quarter of 2018.

The Ministry successfully hosted the ID4Africa Conference in Windhoek from 26-28 April 2017. The conference was attended by 900 delegates from all over the world. The key objective was to create a platform for African Governments to benchmark and discuss matters related to digital identity and implementation of e-IDs, and for ICT companies to showcase the latest technology on the market.

I am delighted to inform you, honourable members that during the current financial year, Namibia will for the first time release a vital statistics report based on administrative records from the National Population Registration System. The accuracy of the data is likely to be compromised due to the high number of late registration of births in some regions, particularly, Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto, Kunene and Zambezi regions. However, we are working very hard to ensure that we produce a reliable and usable data.

During the financial year 2014/2015, after a careful evaluation, the Ministry took a decision to gradually close some of the Sub-Regional Offices temporarily. The decision was based on the following reasons:

1. Very low number of registrations (statistics) recorded for three consecutive calendar years.
2. The escalating costs of maintaining the office in comparison to number of service users.

3. Keeping a staff member to register one child per week did not only result in no value for money but also under-utilisation of staff members, which led to demotivated staffs.
4. Ever increasing relief duties to keep the offices open while the staff members are on leaves. 30% of the department's DSA was spent on relief duties depriving resources for outreach programs to the very needy who could not reach our offices.
5. Keeping some of Sub-regional offices operational up to three weeks without any registration of birth is not sustainable taking into consideration the meagre resources.

The table below lists offices which were/are to be temporarily closed and statistics for three consecutive calendar years for the Sub-Regional Offices which were considered for temporary closure:

Region	Constituency	Sub-Regional Office	Statistics for 2015	Statistics for 2016	Statistics for 2017	Number of Staff member	Closure Date
Omaheke Region	Aminius	Aminius	124	129	39	1	1 May 2018
	Otjombinde	Talismanus	54	141	31	1	1 November 2017
Kunene region	Kamanjab	Kamanjab	194	191	74	1	1 September 2017
Erongo region	Karibib	Karibib	48	37	17	1	1 May 2018
Zambezi region	Judea	Linyanti	114	123	82	1	1 May 2018
	Lyaboloma						
	Kongola	Chetto	28	48	11	1	1 April 2016
	Kabbe South	Impalila	17	14	10	1	1 April 2014

In our quest to take services closer to the people, we plan to intensify rural outreach programs during the financial year 2018/2019. Furthermore, it is our plan to cover the following places: Tallismanus and Aminius in Omaheke region; Aranos in Hardap region; RoshPinah in //Karas region; Karibib in Erongo region; Okalongo in Omusati region; Uukwiyuushona in Oshana region; Omulonga in Ohangwena region; Ndiyona in Kavango East; Impalila and Sibbinda in Zambezi region. Expansion of ID services is planned for Omaruru in Erongo region, Divundu in Kavango East region and Okongo in Ohangwena region.

School mobile registration is planned countrywide for schools in towns and in far distant rural areas. Schools mobile registrations are crucial in order to attend to learners at their respective schools in order to avoid long queues at our regional offices during school holidays. A total of **Eleven Thousand** (11 000) learners are targeted for the current financial year. A general mobile registration is planned for the regions of Ohangwena, Kavango West, Kavango East, Zambezi, Omaheke, Oshana, Omusati and Kunene. A total population of **Sixty Three Thousand** (63 000) people is targeted during this exercise. Furthermore, the department is envisaging opening hospital based facilities at Tsumeb hospital in Oshikoto region and at Rehoboth in Hardap region.

For the above mentioned activities under the programme Civil Registration to fully render quality services, I wish to request this august house to approve an amount of **Two Hundred Thirty-four Million One Hundred and Forty-six Thousand Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 234 146 000) only.

PROGRAMME 2: IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND CITIZENSHIP

This programme is responsible for the facilitation of lawful migration and issuing of travelling documents. It has two directorates:

- 2.1 The Directorate of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship
- 2.2 The Directorate of Immigration and Border Control

2.1. DIRECTORATE OF VISAS, PERMITS, PASSPORTS AND CITIZENSHIP

This Directorate is responsible for receiving applications and managing various types of visas, permits, passports and citizenship. In executing its functions, the Directorate, among other things, serves as the secretariat to the Immigration Selection Board (ISB) and its Committees which consider applications for visas and permits. The Directorate also assists the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration in administering and processing of applications for various categories of Namibian citizenship.

During the year under review the Directorate recorded a high volume of applications, especially for employment permits for various categories of foreign skills required by socio-economic sectors of our country, such as engineers, architects, health professionals and academia to mention but just a few. As a result of this high demand, the following categories of permits were issued:

Visas	28 617
Permanent Residence Permits	358
Study Permits	6 681
Employment Permits	7 706

Equally, the Ministry also considered and approved applications for Citizenship and issued certificates of Citizenship by virtue of all categories such as:

Descent	4 765
Registration	75
Marriage	39
Naturalization	1 782
Grand total	6 661

Furthermore, as the need to travel abroad for Namibians increase; during the period under review, the following travelling documents were issued:

Diplomatic Passport	296
Official Passport	509
Ordinary Passport	73 761
Emergency Traveling Certificate	643
Grand total	75 209

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

I am glad to inform you that the first Namibian electronic passport (e-passport) was launched on 08 January 2018. This proudly placed Namibia amongst the increasing number of countries in the world today who are using e-passports which are safer categories of travel documents in terms of electronic chip embedded in these documents, making it difficult to forge. This progress has also advanced Namibia in meeting the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which urged Member States to shift from machine readable passports which are increasingly becoming targets of international criminal fraudsters to safer e-passports.

Furthermore, progress is also being made with regard to the project on visas and permits stickers to replace rubber stamps. The launching of the stickers is expected before the end of this financial year. The Directorate will continue during 2018/2019 financial year, to ensure that those eligible applicants for various categories of travelling documents, citizenship, visas and permits are attended timeously. Equally, mobile registrations for citizenship will be undertaken.

In order for this programme to continue yielding tangible results, I now wish to request this august house to approve an amount of **Forty-one Million Six Hundred and Fifty-eight Thousand Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 41 658 000) only.

2.2. DIRECTORATE: IMMIGRATION AND BORDER CONTROL

This Directorate is responsible for the efficient, effective and smooth movement of persons entering and exiting the country. Other responsibilities of this directorate include surveillance of suspected illegal immigrants, the facilitation of deportations of illegal immigrants, the provision of secretariat services to the Immigration Tribunals and conducting joint operations with other Law Enforcement Agencies. Moreover, the Directorate provides Tourists statistics which inform the development agenda of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Immigration officers are our first point of contact with visitors to Namibia and are also the last to say bon-voyage to them. Understandably, whatever impression they create usually portrays the level of service delivery in the country. As you may imagine, Honourable Members this impression has an impact on the growth of tourism and perception of service delivery in Namibia, negatively or positively. In this regard, the Ministry remains committed in shaping our staff members on customer care in order to ensure preserved good image of the country. The posting of Immigration Attachés to some Namibian Diplomatic Missions continued during the year under review.

During the year under review, the Programme facilitated legal movement of persons both Namibians and foreign nationals at various port of entries and exit through the country.

Arrivals	
Departures	
Total	

A total number of **One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-five** (1 595) illegal immigrants were deported.

Furthermore, the new Electronic Border Management System (e-BMS) was launched during the year under review. The installation of the new system has improved data storage and verifications. However, like any new venture, the migration to this system has unfortunately not been easy. We observed delays in clearing passengers at both arrivals and departures; however, improvement is being recorded.

In 2018/19 financial year, the programme will continue to work towards improving service delivery in terms of its mandate. The Hon Members of this house have surely taken note of the judgement by the High Court regarding training of Immigration Officers. Although this matter had already been receiving the attention of the concerned department, we have taken note of the judgement and will implement corrective measures where necessary. The Ministry has placed training of Immigration Officials amongst its priorities. On the other hand, work started to improve policy framework in the area of migration which will be fast-tracked. Joint operations with Law Enforcement Agencies will be further enhanced.

As announced by His Excellency President Hage Geingob, this programme is investigating and putting in place modalities to exempt holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports from African countries from visa requirements when visiting Namibia. Currently, Namibia has already exempted 17 African Countries from visa requirements. It is envisaged that in this financial year holders of Diplomatic and Official passport from a further thirty (30) African countries will be exempted from visa requirements. The remainder of the countries will be considered in the next phase.

In order for this programme to continue fulfilling its core functions, I now wish to request this august house to approve an amount of **One Hundred Forty-five Million Eight Hundred Six-nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 145 869 000)** only.

PROGRAMME 3: REFUGEES ADMINISTRATION

This Programme provides protection and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Namibia. It further coordinates, facilitates and promotes the three durable solutions which are Local Integration, Voluntary Repatriation and Resettlement. This is done in accordance with the Refugee Recognition and Control Act of 1999 (Act No. 2 of 1999) and under 1951 Conventions and the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees.

Namibia is a host to **Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty-four (7 684)** refugees and the majority are at Osire settlement. It is worth indicating that the number of asylum seekers and refugees is continuing to increase and the majority of the refugees' population are from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The majority of asylum seekers enter Namibia through the Zambezi Region; and the Ministry has established a reception centre in Katima Mulilo to serve as a first point for asylum seekers registration.

Hon. members may recall that in 2012 the government of the Republic of Namibia approved the local integration of **Two Thousand Four Hundred (2 400)** former Angolan refugees into the Namibian society. As a result, a total number of **One Hundred and Seventy (170)** households of this group have been issued with Permanent Residence Permits (PRPs) while passports for the remaining **Three Hundred and Six (306)** households are still to be received from the Angolan Embassy in Windhoek, for the Ministry to endorse the PRPs in their passports. Furthermore, consultative meetings with Governors and regional leaderships to inform them on the number of those who have opted for local integration in their regions are being held.

Twenty (20) Namibian refugees from Dukwi Camp – Botswana were repatriated in dignity and safety, and are now integrated with their families in Namibia. Moreover, the remaining number of Namibian refugees in Dukwi Refugee Camp stands at **Nine Hundred and Sixteen**

(916). The Government of Namibia is committed to the principle of voluntary repatriation as a core durable solution; hence we are working together with the Government of the Republic of Botswana and UNHCR to ensure their return back home in a dignified manner. In this context; consultations on a Tripartite Commission on this matter is at an advance stage.

During 2018/2019 financial year the Refugees Administration will continue strengthening its human capacity to render quality services to refugees. Comprehensive management of Osire settlement and reception centre will be strengthened. Printing and delivery of travel documents for refugees will be expedited. The local integration of former Angolan refugees will be completed during the 2nd and 3rd Quarters. Furthermore, promotion of durable solutions will be enhanced.

I now wish to request this august house to approve an amount of **Thirteen Million Two Hundred and Forty-three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 13 243 000)** for this programme.

PROGRAMME 4: ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of this Program is to provide policy direction and support, administrative support services through proper coordination on financial management, Human Resources Management and Development, Legal Support Services, ICT and General Support Services to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

The construction of Ministerial Head Office in Windhoek which commenced on 01 April 2015 is progressing very well, the erection of the super-structure having reached the 10th Floor which is also the last floor; the project was scheduled for completion in August 2018, however due to economic situation experienced in the country during 2017/2018 financial year work has been scaled down to fit within the budget allocation.

REVENUE COLLECTION

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration continues to generate revenue through administrative fees of permits, visas, passports, duplicates of birth, death, marriage certificates, as well as identity cards (Ids) and miscellaneous items including consular fees collected by our Missions. To this effect, an amount of **Sixty-five Million Five Hundred Sixty-eight Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-eight Namibian Dollars and Twenty-seven Cents (N\$ 65 568 548.27)** has been **Domestically** generated. And an amount of **Twenty-two Million Six Thousand Twelve Five Hundred Forty-one Six-two cents (N\$ 22 612 541.62)** has been generated from Foreign Missions where Immigration Attachés are deployed, such as, Cape Town Consular Office and Pretoria- Republic of South Africa; Beijing - Peoples' Republic of China and Ondjiva Consular Office – Peoples' Republic of Angola. The overall revenue collection during the year under review was **Eighty-eighty Million One Hundred Eighty-one Thousand Eighty-nine Namibian Dollars and Eighty-nine cents (N\$ 88 181 089.89)**. These figures definitely will increase once the revenue collection is received from Abuja – Federal Republic of Nigeria and Berlin – Federal Republic of Germany.

During the 2018/2019 Financial Year the Directorate shall continue to uphold a culture of high performance through proper coordination and implementation of relevant pieces of legislations, prudent financial management, human resources and development, information and communication technology infrastructures.

I now wish to request this august house to approve an amount of **One Hundred Seventy-four Million Four Hundred and Forty-three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 174 443 000)** only for this programme.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work and support of our development partners who continue to provide us with human and technical

support. Amongst the International partners that support the Ministry are the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). Their support is highly valued and appreciated.

I extend my appreciation to my Deputy Minister Honourable Maurine Hinda who has been very supportive in the day to day execution of our mandated responsibilities. Equally, I wish to express my gratitude to our Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Patrick Nandago and the entire staff for their hard work, dedication, innovation and commitment to provide excellent service to our citizens and those valuable visitors to our republic.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee

Honourable Members of this August House

Finally, we pledge that resources granted to the Ministry will be put to good use, i.e. towards quality service delivery. It is now my distinct honour and privilege to request this august house to approve the budget allocation to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration under **Vote 05** amounting to **Six Hundred and Nine Million Three Hundred and Fifty-nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (NS 609 359 000)** for 2018/2019 Financial Year.

I thank you!