

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION**

**VOTE 5**

**BUDGET MOTIVATION 2019/2020**

**BY THE**

**HON. FRANS KAPOFI, MP,**

**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION,**

**“YEAR OF ACCOUNTABILITY”**

**THURSDAY, 25 APRIL 2019**

**WINDHOEK**

**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 Honourable Obeth Kandjoze, the Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission, and their teams for crafting a considerate budget to address socio-economic challenges facing our nation. 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:

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

#### **PROGRAMME 1: DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL REGISTRATION**

The Department of Civil Registration is responsible for management of the National Population Register which contain records of vital events: births, adoptions, marriages and deaths, and for issuing the relevant certificates as well as the national identity documents. Birth, Death and ID registration and the issuance of birth certificates and death certificates are de-centralised to fifty-eight (58) regional offices across the country, while the production of ID cards and amendment of birth, marriage and death records are centralised at the Head Office in three Divisions.

The Department of Civil Registration consists of two Directorates: namely;

1.1 National Population Register, Identification and Production;

1.2 National Civil Registration.

### **1.1. DIRECTORATE: NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER, IDENTIFICATION AND PRODUCTION:**

Namibian citizens and Permanent Resident Permit holders are eligible for ID cards when they attained the age of sixteen (16) years. In order to ensure that people are applying for their ID cards timely as set out in the Act [Identification Act, 1996 (No. 21 of 1996)], the Ministry is on annual basis registering eligible pupils for IDs at Secondary Schools. A high number of persons are still delaying their initial application for their ID cards. During the financial year under review a total number of one-hundred and ten thousand, two-hundred and fifty-eight (110, 258) ID cards were produced and issued.

Many SWA ID Cards have inaccuracies in terms of the surname, name(s), and date of birth of the card holder; thereby requiring an amendment to be effected before the issuance of a Namibian National ID card for such an application. In that regard, special processes have been set up to fast track these applications to ensure that all persons who applied have their case resolved soonest. In the period under review, three-thousand, six-hundred and eighty-nine (3 689) SWA ID cards were converted to Namibian National ID cards.

A total number of nine-thousand eight-hundred and thirty (9,830) applications for alterations of surnames; first names; date of birth; parents' particulars; and gender were received and resolved.

Marriages are solemnized by registered pastors or magistrates across the country. All marriage register records received are captured timely on the National Population Registration System (NPRS). Over the period under review, five-thousand, three-hundred and thirty-two (5,332) marriage records were registered. Four-hundred and forty (440) Namibians married foreigners, predominantly from our neighbouring countries: Angola, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Two (2) Marriage Officers were

granted licenses out of five (5) applicants. There are currently six-hundred and thirty-one (631), non-Magistrate Marriage Officers countrywide.

The Department continues striving towards digitalising of all records and processes. During the financial year under review, the Department continued with the implementation of the e-Birth Notification System, and identifying of places, assessment of network connectivity, installation of equipment such as computers with the assistance of funding from UNICEF, training of staff members of Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and Ministry of Safety and Security (NAMPOL).

The aim of the e-Birth Notification System is to notify the e-National Population Registration System (eNPRS) electronically when a vital event such as birth has occurred at a hospital, health centre or clinic to secure the birth details of the child and to ensure verification of the mother's identity against the National Population Registration System (NPRS). The e-Birth Notification System was successfully implemented at twenty-two (22) sites country wide.

In line with the electronic notification of births, all deaths should also be notified electronically. The e-Death Notification System was successfully implemented at twenty-six (26) sites country wide.

## **1.2. DIRECTORATE: NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRATION:**

The mandate of this Directorate is the registration and issuance of birth and death certificates, registration and distribution of ID cards, ensuring service delivery to the General Public at four clustered Regions, namely;

- Division- Northern Regions: (Oshana, Ohangwena, Omusati and Kunene);
- Division- North and Eastern Regions: (Zambezi, Kavango East & Kavango West);
- Division- Central and Southern Regions: (Khomas, Omaheke, Hardap & //Kharas);
- Division- North and Western Region: (Otjozondjupa, Erongo and Oshikoto).

A total of sixty four-thousand, three hundred and ninety two (64,392) birth registrations were recorded for the period under review. Of the total number registered, forty three thousands, six hundred and forty four (43,644) birth registrations were registered on time i.e. below one year after date of birth and twenty-thousand, seven-hundred and forty-eight (20,748) were late birth registrations.

A total of two-thousand and seventy-four (2,074) recorded births were for late registration of people over twenty years of age, while the legal age to acquire an ID card is sixteen (16) years.

It is always unfortunate to report on deaths, but it is my duty to record and report all deaths occurring in Namibia. A total of thirty six-thousand, three-hundred and sixty (36,360) deaths were recorded during the previous financial year. Please note, those are the reported and registered deaths.

As viewed from the above statistics, a total of sixty four-thousand, three-hundred and ninety-two (64,392) birth registrations were recorded and a total of thirty six-thousand, three-hundred and sixty (36,360) deaths were recorded, i.e. number of deaths registered is less than the births registered.

Honourable Members for all intended purposes, you may be interested to know that according to information from the National Population Registration System (NPRS), Forty-one Thousand, Seven-hundred and Fifty-nine (41, 759) people turned eighteen (18) years of age by the end of 2018. These are people who were born in the year 2000. By the end of 2019, Thirty-one Thousand, Six-hundred and Two youngsters are expected to turn eighteen (18) years. However, these figures are only for people whose particulars have been captured into the NPRS.

Despite inadequate budgetary allocation which has hampered opening of new offices in Regions and Constituencies, the Directorate intensified its outreach program which has enumerated a significant increase in mobile registrations. A total of forty

three-thousand, four-hundred and twenty-seven people (43,427) were registered country wide during various outreach/mobile registrations in 2018/2019 financial year.

**For all the operational activities stated above, which include birth, marriage and death registrations which are compulsory and continuous by nature, a total of Seventy-one Million, Two-hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 71, 230, 000) is required.**

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL REGISTRATION**

The construction of the Ministerial Head Office in Windhoek which commenced on 01 April 2015 is progressing very well; the project is scheduled for completion by January 2020. Thus, an amount of Two-Hundred and Sixty-three Million Namibian Dollars (N\$ 263, 000, 000) is required to finalise the construction project of the Ministerial Head Office.

Furthermore, for construction work at Kunene Regional Office in Opuwo, Three Million Namibian Dollars (N\$ 3, 000, 000) is required.

**I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of Three Hundred Thirty-seven million, Two-Hundred and Thirty-thousand, Namibia Dollars (337, 230, 000) for the Civil Registration Programme.**

### **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 THE DIRECTORATE OF VISAS, PERMITS, PASSPORTS AND CITIZENSHIP:**

The Directorate of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship is responsible for receiving and processing of applications for visas, permits, passports and citizenship and for rendering other services relating to the above stated line functions.

During the 2018/2019 financial period, the Ministry continued to experience high demand for various services that it renders to both Namibians and Foreign nationals. For example, a total number of sixty-thousand, seven-hundred and eighty-two (60 782) applications for visas and permits were processed which can be broken down in the following categories:

### **Approvals of Visas and Permits:**

- Employment Permits :**5 356**;
- Work Visa (Short term Employment Permits): **42 269**;
- Permanent Residence Permits: **375**;
- Student Permits: **6 158**;
- Holiday/Tourist/Visitors Visa: **3 598**;
- **Total number approved: 57 756**

I would like to inform this August House that, the Ministry is at an advanced stage to introduce a longer term Employment Permits system, up to a maximum of five years (5) to deserving investors and professionals.

### **Rejections:**

- Employment Permits: **698**
- Work Visas: **2 125**
- Permanent Residence Permits: **192**
- Student Permits: **11**
- **Total number rejected: 3 026**

Besides the above stated, a total number of nine-hundred and fifty-eight (958) applications for Citizenship were processed, excluding two-hundred and forty-one

(241) applications for Duplicate Citizenship Certificates which were also processed. The following are the breakdown statistics for different categories of citizenship applications processed.

**Approvals of Citizenship applications:**

- Descent : **385**
- Naturalisation : **447**
- Marriages: **67**
- Registration (Naturalisation): **33**
- **Total number approved: 932**

**Rejections:**

- Descent : **5**
- Naturalisation : **17**
- Marriages: **2**
- Registration (Naturalisation): **2**
- **Total number rejected: 26**

Additionally, passports and other travel documents continued to be in high demand by Namibians of all ages who intended to travel across international borders. Below are some statistical highlights of this line function.

**Approvals for passports:**

- Ordinary Passports : **72 588**
- Diplomatic Passports : **411**
- Official Passports: **469**
- Travel Document (Brown Passports): **379**
- Emergency Travel Certificates (ETC): **273**
- **Total number approved: 74 120**



**Applications for Passports and Other Travel Documents Rejected due to applicants not meeting the requirements:**

- Ordinary Passport : **1 248**
- Diplomatic Passports : **54**
- Official Passports: **43**
- Travel Document (Brown Passports): **72**
- Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC): **0**
- **Total number rejected: 1 417**

**2.2. DIRECTORATE: IMMIGRATION AND BORDER CONTROL:**

This Directorate is responsible for the administration and processing of movement of persons entering and exiting the country. Other responsibilities of this directorate include surveillance on suspected illegal immigrants; the facilitation of deportations of illegal immigrants; the provision of secretarial services to the Immigration Tribunals and conducting joint operations with other Law Enforcement Agencies. Furthermore, the directorate provides statistics of all persons using the ports of entry on annual basis.

The Honourable Members are aware that Immigration officers are the first point of contact with visitors to Namibia. The impression they create usually could be taken to portray the level of service delivery in the country. Honourable Members, this impression could have an impact on the growth of tourism and perception of service delivery in Namibia, negatively or positively. Last year, we dedicated efforts to ensure that on the job training is intensified. In this regard, the Ministry retrained one-hundred and ninety-seven (197) Immigration officers in several areas, and customer care topped the list. We would like to thank facilitators from various stakeholders in this regard, especially from the private sector who participated in the training. In this regard, I wish to single out Ms. Gwen Lister, the Executive Chairperson of Namibia Media Trust; and Mr. Sven Thieme, President of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who voluntarily participated in the training programme. In this financial year, we plan to train another two-hundred (200) Immigration officials to ensure they are skilled for the job.

During the last financial year, the Programme facilitated Two million, Forty-three thousand, One-hundred and Thirty-two (2, 043, 132) arrivals; and One million, Nine-hundred and Seventy-eight thousand, Four-hundred and Eighty-three (1, 978, 483) departures through various ports of entry and/or exit. In the same year, seven hundred and forty-four (744) travellers were refused entry for not meeting the entry requirements. As for the number of visitors who were refused entry, I would like to state that, the Government through the Ministry does not have any particular dislike of nationals of particular countries; the refusal is always done in accordance with the Immigration Control Act, to ensure that Immigration requirements are adhered to. The Ministry would like to appeal to prospective travellers and visitors to our country, to abide by the Immigration requirements of Namibia, just as Namibians are required to obey the Immigration laws and regulations of other countries.

With regard to the removals of prohibited immigrants; the programme removed nine-hundred and nineteen (919) people during the same period from Namibia.

As a response to the call by His Excellency, President Hage Geingob, to exempt holders of diplomatic and official or service passports; additional holders of diplomatic and official passports of thirty-one (31) African countries were exempted from visa requirements to enter Namibia as from 10 August 2018. In addition, Jamaican nationals are also exempted from visa requirements to enter Namibia.

Currently there are fifty (50) African countries whose diplomatic, official and service, or ordinary passports are exempted from visa requirements to enter Namibia. Out of these, seventeen (17) African countries exempted Namibians from visa requirements to enter their countries. Apart from African countries, forty-two (42) countries, inclusive of European, Asian, North and Southern America are exempted from visa requirements to enter Namibia. It is also worth noting that out of ninety-two (92) countries exempted from visa requirements to enter Namibia, only thirty-six (36) have exempted Namibians from visa requirements to enter their countries. **As a product of International Solidarity, Namibia has taken this voluntary decision to allow citizens of those countries to visit our country visa free. It is our hope**

**that common sense will prevail in those countries to reciprocate to our gesture of good will.**

In the area of policy formulation, the Ministry and stakeholders started the drafting of the Nation Migration Policy in 2018/19 financial year. The work on the Policy will continue this financial year and is envisaged to be completed before the end of the calendar year. As stated above, the programme will continue to work towards improving service delivery in terms of its mandate. Consequently, the training of Immigration Officials is again placed amongst the priorities.

### **CAPITAL PROJECT UNDER DIRECTORATE OF IMMIGRATION AND BORDER CONTROL**

During the current financial period, the Ministry requires for the finalization of the Dobe Border Post in the Otjozondjupa Region, One-Million Namibian Dollars (N\$ 1, 000, 000).

**In order for the Immigration Control and Citizenship Programme to continue fulfilling its core functions, I now wish to request this August House to approve an amount of One-Hundred, Seventy-three Million, Nine-Hundred and Forty-six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 173 946 000) only.**

### **PROGRAMME 3: REFUGEES ADMINISTRATION**

African Union has declared 2019 as “The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa”. “Project 2019” “Opportunities for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Statelessness Persons”

This Programme provides international 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 Namibia Refugees Recognition

and Control Act of 1999 (Act No. 2 of 1999) and under the 1951 UN Conventions, and the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees, as well as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

During the year under review, this Programme was allocated Thirteen Million, Two-hundred and Forty-three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 13, 243, 000). Out of this an amount of Eight Million, Two-Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 8 228 000) was spent towards staff remuneration. While Five Million and Fifteen-Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 5, 015, 000) was spent on goods and services, towards the management of the Resettlement and reception Centre, management of the Namibia Refugee Committee (NRC), and Namibia Refugee Appeal Board.

20% was spent as down payment towards the purchasing of Refugee Travel Documents. Equally, building materials for former Namibian refugees from Dukwi, in the Republic of Botswana were purchased and issued to those who have returned in safety and dignity. In this regard, I wish to inform Honourable Members that Namibia is welcoming back home a family of three (3) from Dukwi Refugee Centre today. Other allocations were spent on the participation on international and regional platforms on issues related to refugees.

**The following Activities were also realized during the period under review:**

Five-Thousand, Three-Hundred and Thirty-Five (5 335) asylum seekers and refugees were re-registered by September 2018. Further, One-Hundred and Seventy-two (172) refugees were resettled to third countries, mainly Canada and United States of America. Three-Hundred and Seventy-one former Angolan refugees were successfully integrated in communities of their choices in Namibia. These communities are amongst other, Okongo in Ohangwena Region; Epalela in Omusati Region; Okakarara, Otavi and Otjiwarongo in Otjozondjupa Region; Rundu in Kavango East Region; and Tsumeb in Oshikoto Region respectively. One-Hundred and Four (104) former Namibian refugees were successfully voluntarily repatriated in safety and dignity from Dukwi Refugee Camp in Botswana.

Two-Hundred (200) refugees were issued with travel documents during the period under review.

**Challenges:**

- Asylum seekers & refugees involved in criminal activities, such as drugs, human trafficking, Gender Based Violence and rape;
- Unaccompanied minors;
- Asylum seekers entering Namibia at un-gazetted port of entries and hidden in trucks;
- Insufficient allocation.

During the 2019/2020 financial year, this programme will embark upon various activities, such as: Re-registration of asylum seekers/refugees who could not re-register last financial year; Delivery of Travel documents and Purchasing of virgin ID cards with enhanced security features, for example: a chip and Machine Readable Zone (MRZ); Linking of the proGress V4 database to National Population Register; training of staff members on NPRS; identification of loopholes in Namibia Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act 2 of 1999; and the promotion of voluntary repatriation of former Namibian refugees in Dukwi- Republic of Botswana and Tripartite Commission on the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The remaining Five-hundred and Thirty-eight (538) former Angolan refugees who are still at Osire Settlement will be relocated during this financial year to their chosen areas of integration in the country.

Namibia is committed to eradicate Statelessness by 2024 and by so doing, the Ministry is preoccupied with a Plan of Action towards addressing the plight of those individuals who are without nationality. Stakeholders from all walks of life will be identified and a National Committee on Statelessness would be established supported by a technical Committee to spearhead the implementation of the Action Plan. Equally, the Ministry is resolute in ensuring that Namibia deposit instruments of accession on Statelessness conventions both at UN and AU levels.

**For the above mentioned activities, I wish to request this August House to approve an amount of Eleven Million, Four-Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 11, 487, 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; Security and Risk Management Services; ICT and General Support Services to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

#### **RECRUITMENTS:**

Amongst the limited number of recruitments for 2019, the Ministry has prioritised the recruitment of twenty-two (22) Immigration Officers for the Hosea Kutako International Airport to ease the pressure caused by congestion that is being experienced there. A limited number of posts of the Security and Risk Management Services division has also been filled to ensure safety and security in and around the work places; as well as to curtail incidences of fraudulent and corrupt issuance of national documents. During the current financial year, the Ministry will try to fill all the funded but critical positions as per approval that will be obtained from the Office of the Prime Minister.

#### **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. **To this effect, an amount of Sixty-nine Million, Six-Hundred and Ninety-five Thousand, Nine-Hundred and Forty Namibian Dollars and Fifteen Cents (N\$ 69 695 940.15) has been generated.** However, as we exempt many countries from visa requirements, this figure is likely to shrink.

**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, Fifty-four Million, Four-Hundred and Sixty-six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 154, 466, 000) only.**

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,  
Honourable Members of this August House,**

Before I conclude, I want to share some of the issues or challenges that we are encountering as a Ministry; there is a concern from other countries, that there are instances of human trafficking crossing our borders into other countries. Secondly, there are reports from other countries about Namibian citizens seeking asylum status, especially in the United Kingdom and Canada. We want to appeal to our citizens to be always honest because, such claims will tarnish the image of Namibia as a country. In this regard, we would like to appeal to our citizenry to respect the laws of other countries, just as we expect other people to abide by our laws.

Finally, we pledge that resources granted to the Ministry will be put to good use, 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 Seventy-Seven Million, One-Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 677 129 000) for 2019/2020 Financial Year.**

I thank you!

