



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

BUDGET MOTIVATION -2017/2018

BY

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MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

VOTE 05

(MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION)

4th APRIL 2017

“NO NAMIBIAN MUST FEEL LEFT OUT”

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

It is my distinct honour and privilege to motivate Vote 05 for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. From the onset, let me join this August House in congratulating Honourable Calle Schletwein, the Minister of Finance and Hon. Tom Alweendo, the Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of National Planning Commission, and their teams for crafting an accommodating budget to address ever-increasing socio-economic challenges facing our nation. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration appreciates the improved budget allocation for 2017/2018 Financial Year and promises to continue reaching out to more citizens in terms of service delivery. The Ministry is indebted to the support of this August House and other stakeholders over the years.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

Our Programmes and all our efforts are geared towards realizing our Strategic Plan, NDP 4/5 and Vision 2030 as well as 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,

Let me now take this opportunity to present to you Honourable Colleagues the budget allocation of the Ministry during the 2017/2018 Financial Year and to outline individual Programmes for which the funds will be utilised for. An amount of Six Hundred and Nineteen Million, Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and Six Hundred and Twenty-Two Namibian Dollars (**NS 619, 925, 622**) is allocated for 2017/2018 Financial Year. Out of this amount, Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (**NS 439, 703, 000**) is allocated for Operational budget while One Hundred and Eighty Million; Two Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (**NS 180, 223, 000**) is allocated for Capital budget of the Ministry. The Ministry, shall amongst its priorities, work towards consolidating and sustaining efforts geared to improving services delivery.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

It is now my distinct 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 2017/2018 financial year for each of the following programmes under the Ministry's Vote: 05

1. PROGRAMME: CIVIL REGISTRATION

This programme is mandated to manage the National Population Register, 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 data needed for planning purposes.

During the Financial Year 2016/2017, the Department registered **Forty-Two Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty-Four** (42 154) babies under the age of One (1) year, (60% of all new born babies), while **Sixty Thousand, Eighty Hundred and Fifty-Four** (60 854) persons were registered late; while **Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty-Three** (5 483) marriages were registered. **One Hundred and Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Two** (102 402) ID cards were printed, of which only **Four Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy-Three** (4 273) were conversions of the SWA ID card to the Namibian ID card. A total of **Eighteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Three** (18 343) deaths were registered;

The Department expanded ID registration services to two offices, namely Ruacana in Omusati region and Walvisbay in Erongo region, and conducted Mobile Registration in regions like Kavango West, Kavango East, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto. Furthermore, the Department participated at Trade Fairs and Expos like Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, Windhoek Show Ground, Helao Nafidi Annual Expo, Zambezi Bream Festival, Eenhana Trade Fair and Business Expo, Okakarara and Agricultural Show . A total of **Fifteen Thousands and Fifty** (15 050) people were registered during the Mobile Registrations country-wide.

The Department of Civil Registration during the year under review worked hard to realize the Ministry's goal to digitalize all processes relating to civil registration. All the core back office functions and processes have been digitalized and are fully functioning, and the Department started working on the front office functions, that involve key stakeholders like the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Namibian Police Force and Namibia Statistics Agency. In the

third quarter of the Financial Year 2016/2017, the Department rolled out the ID Track and Trace System, an end-to-end application, which ensures that all ID applications forms are tracked from the point of application to the point of collection of the ID card.

For the financial year 2017/2018 the Department will continue striving to expand services, and thus ensure timely registration of all children. Preparations are at an advanced stage to open a new regional office at Nkurenkuru in the Kavango West Region during the 1st quarter of the Financial Year and a new outreach programme to rural areas will be developed.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, and the Namibia Statistics Agency, the Ministry will in the first quarter launch a high profile pilot project: the E-Birth Notification System. 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. Moreover, this verifies the identity of the mother and collects accurate data about all children's birth in the country. The system will also support the efforts to reduce late registration of birth, as the collected data can be used to pinpoint population groups or areas where late registration has high prevalence. The Department will also continue with the development of the e-death notification system.

I am delighted to inform this August House that from 26-28 April 2017, the Ministry will host the ID4Africa Conference in Windhoek and the Honorable Members are invited to attend the opening ceremony. So far Seven Hundred (700) delegates from all over the world have registered to attend the conference. The key objective is 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, relating to identification, creation and verification. All Ministries have been invited to this important event, considering that the establishment of digital identities is a cornerstone for all government social protection or financial programs. You cannot effectively manage or monitor financial loans or social grants without ensuring proper digital identification and verification of the applicants.

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 and Thirty Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Sixteen Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 230, 378, 416) only.

2. PROGRAMME: IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND CITIZENSHIP

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

- 1) The Directorate of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship
- 2) The Directorate of Immigration and Border Control and

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 Sub-Committees which consider applications for visas and permits and to the Citizenship Committee which deals with applications for various categories of Namibian citizenship.

During the 2016/2017 Financial Year, the Directorate recorded a high volume of applications, especially for employment permits for various categories of foreign skills required by various 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, a total number of **Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty** (4 880) employment permits were approved during the beginning of the year up to December 2016. Due to the ever increasing demand of skills and shortage of such professionals in Namibia, these figures are expected to rise once the last quarter of the Financial Year is added.

On citizenship functions the Ministry conducted Mobile Registrations to register Liberation Struggle Kids during which a total of **Two Hundred and Nineteen** (219) applicants were registered and granted citizenship by descent. A similar exercise was also conducted during the course of the year to register foreign nationals who have been residing in Namibia from the 1930s

up to Independence for citizenship as per Cabinet decision. During this exercise a total number of **Three Hundred and Ninety-Nine (399)** people were registered. Mobile registration for the above stated activities will continue during 2017/2018 Financial Year.

I am also glad to inform this August House that the project to launch the first Namibian electronic passports is progressing well and we expect to issue the first e-passports in the course of the 2017/2018 Financial Year. Furthermore, the Ministry is also working very hard to receive the first consignment of visas and permits stickers (also referred to as electronic visas and permits) during the second quarter of the Financial Year.

In order for this programme to continue yielding tangible results, I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **Fifty Six Million; Five Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand and Five Hundred and Sixty-Four Namibian Dollars (N\$ 56, 558, 564)** 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 generates Tourists statist for usage by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Immigration officers are our first point of contact with visitors to Namibia. 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 to improving the customer care skills of our staff members in order to ensure and maintain a good image of the Land of the Brave. Moreover, Posting of Immigration Attachés to some Namibian Diplomatic Missions has taken place and will increase as funds become available.

As from 1 April to 31 December 2016, the Programme facilitated **One Million Four Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand and Seven Hundred Thirty-Nine** (1 426 739) arrivals and **One Million Four Hundred Thousand and Three Hundred Ninety-Eighty** (1 400 398) departures through various ports of entry/exit. Regarding removals of prohibited immigrants, the programme removed **Two Thousand and Five Hundred and Ninety-Six** (2 596) during the same period.

In the 2017/18 Financial Year, the Programme is expected to launch a new Border Control Management System and will spend resources on change management functional training. Funds allocated will also be used for pursuance of the Programme's core functions such as surveillance and removal of prohibited immigrants, providing secretarial services to the Immigration Tribunals, joint operations with other law enforcement agencies and pursuance of creating accommodation for immigration officials at ports of entry.

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 and Thirty-Nine Million, Fifty-Four Thousand and One Hundred and Thirty-Five Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 139, 054, 135) only.

3. PROGRAMME: REFUGEES ADMINISTRATION

This Programme provides protection and gives support to all 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 2 of 1999) and the International Conventions and Protocols relating to the treatment of refugees and displaced persons.

Currently, Namibia hosts to **Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven** (6 777) of which **Four Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty-Four** (4 534) are asylum seekers and **Two Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-Five** (2 265) are refugees and the majority are from the Democratic Republic of Congo. **Thirty-One** (31) refugees were resettled to third countries during 2015/2016 Financial Period.

During the period under review the Government of the Republic of Namibia, Government of the Republic of Botswana and UNHCR have facilitated the voluntary repatriation of **eight** (8) Namibian refugees in dignity and safety, from Dukwi refugee Camp and they were integrated into their communities. The voluntary repatriated returnees were issued with return package made of, cash grant of **US\$ 100** to every person below **12 years of age** and **US\$ 300** above the age of **12** for their up keeping; building materials and ration (food) for three months.

I wish to inform this august House, that the 18th Tripartite Commission meeting held in Katima Mulilo from 9th to 11th August 2016 discussed the outcome of the Botswana High Court that interdicted the implementation of the Invocation Cessation Clause which was supposed to have been affected on 31st December 2015. Equally, it was observed that the clearance procedure was still cumbersome and lengthy and the Government of the Republic of Namibia was to re-assess the clearance procedures.

I am delighted to report that the Ministry of Home affairs and Immigration together with its stakeholders have made great stride regarding the **Nine Hundred and Nineteen** (919) Namibian refugees still in Dukwi Camp. **Nine Hundred and Three** (903) refugees are cleared to return back home in dignity and safety. The Government is resolute to ensuring their restoration of national protection, safe and dignified return and sustained reintegration into their communities.

During the 2017/2018 financial year, the Directorate shall continue managing asylum seekers and refugees. Equally, it will promote the three durable solutions; acquiring travelling documents for refugees; establishing the Reception Centre in Zambezi region and repatriating Namibian refugees from Dukwi Refugees Camp- in the Republic of Botswana.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **Ten Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand and Seven Hundred and Twenty-Seven Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 10, 182, 727) for this programme.

4. PROGRAMME: ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of this Program is to provide policy direction and support, administration 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 a new and bigger 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 final completion date is set for August 2018. It is equally worth mentioning that the construction of the Kunene Regional Office in Opuwo and Dobe Border Post is well on track.

Further, I would like to bring to the attention of this august House that the MHAI continues to generate revenue through administration fees of permits, visas, passports and miscellaneous items including consular fees collected by our Missions. To this effect, an amount of **Sixty-Four Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Eight Thousand and Four Hundred and Thirty-Four Namibian Dollars and Twenty-Five Cent** (N\$ 64, 138, 434.25) has been generated during the period under review. These, figures do not include revenue collected in March at foreign missions. Certainly, by the end of April 2017, we shall have the accurate revenue collection during 2016/2017 Financial Year.

During the 2017/2018 Financial Year the Directorate shall continue to uphold a high culture of performance through proper coordination and implementation of relevant pieces of legislations, prudent financial management, human resources and development, information and technology infrastructures.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **One Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand and Seven Hundred and Eighty Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 183, 751, 780) for this programme.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work and support of our development partners through capacity and technical support. Amongst the International partners that support the Ministry are the UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM. Their support is very much appreciated.

Honourable Speaker,

I extend my sincere gratitude to my Deputy Minister Honourable Erastus Uutoni who has been very supportive in the day to day execution of our mandated responsibilities. My sincere appreciation goes to my Permanent Secretary Ambassador Patrick Nandago and the entire Team Home Affairs for their hard work, dedication, and innovation to uphold the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration as a centre of excellent public service delivery.

It is clear that resources granted to the Ministry are for good cause and, therefore, it is 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 Nineteen Million, Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and Six Hundred and Twenty-Two Namibian Dollars (NS 619, 925, 622)** for 2017/2018 Financial Year.

I thank you!

