



**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS, SECURITY,  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS ON THE OVERSIGHT VISITS TO  
CAPITAL PROJECTS OF THE VARIOUS MILITARY BASES IN THE SELECTED  
REGIONS; KHOMAS, //KARAS, OMAHEKE, ERONGO, OTJOZONDJUPA,  
KAVANGO EAST, ZAMBEZI AND KUNENE REGIONS**

**FROM**

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**27 SEPTEMBER TO 13 OCTOBER 2022**

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*November 2022*

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## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

- a) Honourable Likando John Musialela, MP – Chairperson
- b) Honourable Uutoni Andreas, MP – Vice Chairperson
- c) Honourable Hainghumbi Elkan, MP – Member
- d) Honourable Kuuoko T. Daniel, MP – Member
- e) Honourable Ndjambula Philemon, MP – Member
- f) Honourable Mavara F. Nkore, MP – Member

### Support Staff

- a) Mr. Norbert Uuyuni Parliamentary Clerk
- b) Mr. Bonifatius Amadhila Parliamentary Clerk
- c) Ms. Pamela Mate Senior Information Officer

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Council Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to all Regional Governors and the members of the armed forces in their various capacities within the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs.

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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

The visits to the Regions was in accordance with the 2022/2023 Activity Plan of the Committee which included oversight visits to the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) military bases facilities that were undergoing renovations, construction and rehabilitation. The objective was to assess the progress made and to ensure that government resources are put to good use as per the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the period 2019/2022.

For the purposes of visits, specific construction projects of the Ministry of Defence in the Khomas, //Karas, Omaheke, Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Kavango East, Zambezi and Kunene Regions as indicated in the Committee's Activity Plan 2022/2023 were identified and listed as follows:

- a. Leopard Valley Military Base;
- b. Keetmanshoop Military Base;
- c. Karasburg Military Base;
- d. Gobabis Military Base;
- e. Walvis Bay Naval Base;
- f. Rooikop Military Base;
- g. Karibib Air Force Military Base;
- h. Otjiwarongo Military Base;
- i. Rundu Military Bases;
- j. Mpacha Military Base; and
- k. Okagwati Military Base.

## ACRONYMS

NDF	Namibia Defence Force
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MoD	Ministry of Defence
CoW	City of Windhoek
KAFB	Karibib Air Force Base
W/O	Warrant Officer
J/NCO	Junior Non Commission Officer
S/NCO	Senior Non Commission Officer
OC	Officer Commanding
ICT	Information Communication Technology
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The National Council's Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs undertook oversight visits to various military bases to verify the progress made with the capital projects of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. Prior to undertaking the visits to the regions, the Committee engaged senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. During the visits, the Committee had an opportunity to meet and engage with the senior army professionals with their exclusive vocation of experts.
- 1.2 The capital projects visited in these military bases were at the time undergoing constructions, renovations and rehabilitations, in order to meet the demands of accommodation and office infrastructure for the armed forces countrywide.
- 1.3 Some Military bases that did not received funding during the aforementioned financial year were also visited to ascertain the state of their infrastructure.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The National Council's Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs undertook oversight visits to Khomas, //Karas, Omaheke, Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Kavango East, Zambezi and Kunene Regions respectively as indicated in the Committee's Activity Plan 2022/2023. During these oversight visits, the Committee paid courtesy calls to Regional Governors to register its presence in the regions, conducted meetings with senior officials at the military bases that were visited and undertook physical inspections of the facilities.



### **3. FINDINGS**

#### **3.1 Site visit to Leopard's Valley Military Base**

- a) The Committee was received by senior military officials who gave a briefing on the status of the base in terms of infrastructure prior to undertaking physical inspections. It was observed that various infrastructures ranging from old to new buildings, and learned that despite some new constructed barracks, the majority of its infrastructure inherited from the colonial era administration which were being used were not in good condition.
- b) Some buildings were in dilapidated state and cracks could be observed. The Committee was also informed that the base was out-of-place since it was built on top of a water aquifer and they are strongly convinced that it was the underground water that was causing constant damages to the infrastructures.
- c) Amongst the facilities in a poor condition, is the kitchen, which was in a dilapidated state and lacks heavy duty and high quality equipment for food preparations.
- d) Another observation was the double story building accommodation which had large cracks and it was still occupied by the military personnel. The building in its current state poses a danger to the occupants and it needs immediate attention to avoid injuries and loss of lives.

#### **3.2 Challenges**

- i) The military base has transport shortages that needs urgent attention;
- ii) Most of the military vehicles remain stationary due to lack of spare parts and other minor mechanical problems;
- iii) Poor road infrastructures within the base; and
- iv) Lack of accommodation for members of the force.

### 3.3 Visit to new military Headquarters opposite Suiderhof Military Base

- a) The Committee was received by a senior military officer representing the August 26 Company which is the main contractor for the project and was responsible of overseeing the project. He informed the Committee that the project started in year 2014 by a North Korean Company but due to the international sanctions imposed on North Korea, the Namibian Government was forced to terminate the contract.
- b) The completion process was prolonged by the sanctions imposed on North Korea by the international community. Meanwhile, a new contractor was appointed and had to start from scratch in terms of building plan and also breaking down some structures that were found to be of a poor standard.
- c) The initial budget for the project was N\$ 602 million in 2012 and current estimate of the project total cost is N\$ 1 billion plus N\$ 40 million and this emanated from the inflations of cost of building materials. Some materials had run out of stock or were discontinued resulting the current contractor had to dispose of the old materials used by the North Korean company s and acquired new once that are currently on the market and such processes negatively affected the progress and completion of the project.
- d) The Committee was taken for a tour of the building and later watched a video that outlined the blueprint of the building after completion. He further said that the project was supposed to be completed in 2018, but due to lack of funds and other processes it was still at 75% completion level.

### 3.4 Challenges

- i) Lack of funds from the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs;
- ii) Lack of land to build military infrastructures such as feeder roads to access the Head Office. Discussions between MoD and City of Windhoek (CoW) to acquire land were at an advanced stage, however with changes in the leadership, discussions stalled and the process of acquiring land stalled; and
- iii) Shortages of building materials since some are sourced internationally.

### 3.5 Site visit to Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi Barracks - Keetmanshoop Military Base

- a) The Committee was received by senior military officials who briefed the committee. They said that the security situation in their area of responsibility was normal and calm. They further said that due to financial constraints, most of the capital projects except the day-to-day maintenance were put on hold since 2017.
- b) The Emergency Exit Door was successfully installed on the office administration block to the tune of N\$ 38,978.14 during 2020/2021 financial year.
- c) The Committee observed that the structures that were completed in 2017, starting from accommodation barracks, messes and ablution facilities, were all in a commendable state. It was however noted that minor renovations as part of maintenance was required.
- d) The Committee also observed that some structures which were handed over in 2017 were not complete, such as washing machines that are still to be completed.
- e) Further note was taken of the renovated house for the senior military officer located in Keetmanshoop Town, to the tune of N\$ 500 000.

### **3.6 Challenges**

- i) lack of accommodation, office space and transport;
- ii) Lack of security lights in the base fence perimeter around the base;
- iii) Poor internet connectivity in the base; and
- iv) Challenges with the fuel pump, that once it fuels many vehicles at a time it overheats and stop working for a while. In order to continue using it, it requires to cool down in order to fuel again.

### **3.7 Site visit to Jacob Marengo Barracks - Karasburg Military Base**

- a) These barracks were originally the home of the Special Forces that had relocated to Orupoko Lodge near Okahandja. The relocation took place in January 2018.
- b) At the time of the visit, the Committee learned that the base was now occupied by Alpha Company, which is part of the 124 Motorized Infantry Battalion, whose headquarters are located in Keetmanshoop.
- c) The Committee learned that there were no capital projects for the period under review however, the house of Officer Commanding (OC) was renovated to the tune of N\$ 610 363.16 in 2020/2021 financial year.
- d) The Committee observed with great concern about the overflowing of the sewer water surrounding the accommodation quarters that had been flowing for a long period. The officials revealed to the Committee that the sewer system was old and needed to be replaced. However, after the Committee oversight visit, the Committee was later informed that the sewer system has been repaired.

### **3.8 Challenges**

- i) There is a need to fix broken doors and windows;
- ii) Shortage of office space as many officials were sharing offices;
- iii) Dilapidated member's accommodations and lack of hot water in some accommodation facilities since some geysers were out of order; and
- iv) Shortage of Store Rooms.

### **3.9 Site visit to Chief Munyuku Nguvauva II Barracks - Gobabis Military Base**

- a) The Committee was briefed by the senior officials who said that the security situation was calm in their areas of operation. They further indicated that the base had no capital projects for the period under review. They also informed the Committee that there is a master plan for a new military base.
- b) The current base was previously a commercial farm and the ministry bought it and converted it to military base.
- c) The barracks houses the 126 Motorized Infantry Battalion and was earmarked for the construction of a new military base which was supposed to have started during the financial year 2011/2012. This could not materialize due to the country's economy downturn which adversely affected government's budgetary allocations.
- d) The Committee observed structures that were dilapidated including the kitchen that burned down in 2017 and was in need of urgent renovations. There was no mess for staff members and they were therefore compelled to eat outside under trees and in their rooms. However, the Committee was informed that the kitchen would be considered under the Chief of Defence priorities.
- e) The Committee also observed that the structures were made out of prefabricated materials but they were also getting dilapidated and required renovation.

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### **3.10 Challenges**

- i) There is a railway line that runs in the middle of the base and it was an issue of security concern, as any person can access the base by using the train or railway line;
- ii) Lack of office space since most of the officials were sharing the offices;
- iii) Lack of kitchen in the base since the kitchen burned down and was yet to be repaired;
- iv) Lack of messes for staff members and they were forced to eat in an open space under trees and in their rooms; and
- v) The Committee observed that the perimeter fence was not in good condition and it needed to be maintained. It was noted that animals also do encroach into the military base through the broken fence.

### **3.11 Site visit to Walvis Bay Naval Base**

- a) The senior officials informed the Committee that the naval base project started in 2004 with various projects ranging from the construction of the office block, kitchen, messes, accommodation blocks, internal roads, boundary wall, water and electrical services.
- b) The Committee confirmed the completion of the project but there was however a report that the dune sand was causing damage on the boundary wall and that some part the boundary wall was about to collapse due to sand and wind pressure.
- c) The Committee also observed a Jetty that was completed in 2007 and the fuel farm completed in 2015.
- d) The Committee was given a tour into the completed triple story accommodation for junior and senior officers accommodations, workshop rooms and the Gash Bin.

### 3.12 Site visit to Wilbard Tashiya Nakada Barracks - Rooikop Military Base

- a) The Committee observed progress with the construction of a new fuel station and the renovation of the kitchen.
- b) The Committee was further informed that, the ammunition warehouses and other war equipment's were in a dilapidated state. This situation presents a concern since the ammunition s might be exposed to elements that could endanger the lives of people. Infrastructures such as the Duty Room, Conference Hall, ICT Centre and 44 Artillery Regiment Canteen are damaged and need urgent renovations and this should include the demolition of obsolete and fabricated buildings and to replace them with permanent structures. Rusted parking warehouses for vehicles pose a potential danger to property if not timeously attended to.
- c) The vehicle workshop for servicing and repairs of military vehicles is in a dilapidated state and its corrugated iron roof is damaged by dewdrops, and requires urgent maintenance.
- d) The Committee also learned that some members commute to work on a daily basis, due to a lack of official transport hence there is a need for provision of transport.
- e) Constant shortage of utility trucks and other administration vehicles have strained the execution of the base's assigned tasks, and might affect timely response when there is a need to assist civil authorities or during actual operations.
- f) The senior officers further informed the Committee about the need for housing for soldiers who could not afford or qualify for housing schemes. Despite the fact that some barracks are renovated, other fixtures such as geysers were not functioning. Soldiers resorted to rent decent accommodation places in town and these is an additional expense.

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### 3.13 Challenges

- i) Lack of accommodation for soldiers;
- ii) Lack of transport to and from the base for the members that commute; and
- iii) Lack of recreational facilities.

### 3.14 Site visit to Karibib Air Force Base (KAFB)

- a) The Karibib Air Force Base capital projects covered phase three (3) and four (4).
- b) The Committee was given a tour of the facilities to observe the level of progress made towards phase three (3) and phase four (4). Phase three (3) consisted of the construction of barracks for Senior and Junior Officer's accommodation, WO's-S/NCO's accommodation, 2 J/NCO's accommodation, Health Centre, WO's, and other Ranks mess (kitchen), Provost Station and Main Gate that was completed in January 2015.
- c) After inspection of all project phases, the Committee independently confirmed that the level of progress towards the project completion was satisfactory. The base construction of phase three (3) was fully completed.
- d) The air traffic controller tower structures were completed, however due to lack of funds it was not fitted with necessary equipment to be operational.
- e) The Committee observed the dilapidated runway, with many potholes and cracks. It was also mentioned that the runway was short and there was a need for rehabilitation and to extend it from 3 kilometers to 3.5 kilometers for suitable takeoff and landing.
- f) It was also reported that there were a lot of stones in the runaway that can strike the aircraft engine during landing or takeoff and can cause extensive damage to the engine.
- g) The Committee was also informed that the buffer zone of the base was being encroached by the community and it will be difficult in terms of future expansions therefore there was a need for a platform to educate the community on the importance of buffer zone.



- h) The Committee also learned that there was a need of a hangars where the air force planes will be parked due to harsh weather in Karibib area. The hangars can also be used in terms of fueling and loading during the rain. It will also be good to conceal the aircraft.
- i) During the tour, the Committee learned that there was a fuel farm that consist of four (4) tanks with the capacity of 6000 liters each.

### 3.15 Challenges

- i) Insufficient capital project funding contributed to the delay of some project not being completed on time;
- ii) Some local SMEs contractors provide poor workmanship and they also abandoned work due to lack of finances;
- iii) Encroachment of the buffer zone by the community members;
- iv) The air force had only three (3) fire engines that were noted as old. At least a minimum of four (4) new fire engines; two each to serve the Grootfontein Military and Karibib Military Bases were needed;
- v) Lack of accommodation for senior officers; and
- vi) The boundary fence was not in good condition and animals are able to access the base and posed a threat during landing or takeoffs.

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### **3.16 Site visit to Otjiwarongo Military Base**

- a) The Committee was received by the senior military officials who noted that there was no capital project during the period under review except for the day-to-day maintenance which was taking place.
- b) There was shortage of senior official's accommodation at the base, however four (4) erven were donated for that purpose by the Ministry Works and Transport in 2015 and these were yet to be developed.
- c) The Committee was informed that the Ministry was planning to acquire 66 hectares of land in order to expand its accommodation facilities in order to accommodate all the members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery Brigade Headquarter.

### **3.17 Challenges**

- i) There was no proper parade ground for the members;
- ii) Lack of accommodation at the base;
- iii) Water leakages in the male ablution block; and
- iv) Close proximity of fuel station to the kitchen which is not safe in case of a fire outbreak.

### **3.18 Site visit to Grootfontein Military Base – Air Force Division**

- a) The Committee was received by senior military officials who informed the Committee that there was no capital project funded for the period under review, since all the capital projects were put on hold due to budgetary constraints. It was noted that, once the situation normalizes the capital projects would take off as planned.
- b) The kitchen burned down in 2017 and it was never renovated and it is therefore difficult to prepare food for the members.

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### 3.19 Challenges

- i) Lack of accommodation, transport and uniforms for the members;
- ii) The government procurement process was noted as too bureaucratic and negatively affect the day-to-day operations of the military, hence the need to be revised;
- iii) Most of the military bases experienced water pipes bursting, old sewerage systems that were blocked, water reservoirs leakages, old electricity utility poles and electricity transformers that are too old; and
- iv) Limited funds to implement capital projects and to renovate dilapidated military infrastructure.

### 3.20 Site visit to the Rundu Military Bases

- a) The Committee observed with great concern the setup of the Rundu Military Bases. The bases are close to the main road and also close to the border line between Namibia and Angola.
- b) The Committee had opportunity to visit the renovated kitchen of the 26 Artillery Regiment that was handed over on 22 May 2022. The renovation was completed, however the kitchen was not operational since it was not fitted with cooking equipment's such as pots and others items. It was further stated that the purchase order for the installation of pots was already issued to the company responsible.
- c) The new kitchen that is under construction was observed to be at 48% completion level.
- d) The Committee further observed the water tank that have been leaking for a long period and need to be fixed as matter of agency. For this purpose, the Committee was informed that quotations have been sourced and forwarded to the head office. However, the issue of ownership of the water tank was not resolved, as to whether it belongs to Namwater or Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs.
- e) The senior officials also indicated to the Committee that the military had enough land for expansion, however the community members have started encroaching the military base buffer zone.

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- f) They also revealed to the Committee that they were given a standby generator to assist the base during the power outage.
- g) The Committee observed the renovations which were underway at the barracks that will accommodate newly recruited military officials while attending basic training.

### 3.21 Challenges

- i) The absence of cooking pots in the completed kitchen makes cooking impossible; and
- ii) The electrical distribution box needed urgent repair to avoid electrical shocks.

### 3.22 Site visit to Greenwell Matongo Military Barracks

- a) The Battalion's kitchen and messes that were constructed were handed over in March 2016. The Committee observed that the Kitchen was in good condition and proved to be state of art building.
- b) Nukwa Military base kitchen was constructed at the cost of 4.5 Million Namibian Dollars, however the interlocking for the apron was still outstanding.
- c) The Committee was informed that the Kongola Military Bases was part of Greenwell Matongo Barracks and their kitchen had been also renovated and handed over some kitchen equipment were yet to be installed. The kitchen was renovated at the cost of 3.7 Million Namibian Dollars.

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### 3.23 Challenges

- i) Lack of suitable accommodations for the military officials across of all ranks; existing accommodations facilities are in dilapidated stage.
- ii) Lack of security lights in the military bases was also a point of concern.
- iii) The fences of military bases were in bad state and needed to be maintained to avoid easy access of intruders and animals to the military bases.
- iv) Lack of backup generator for Kongola and Nukwa Military Bases affects the operations during electricity blackout.
- v) Lack of ammunition storerooms in both bases that is worrisome.

### 3.24 Site visit to Okanguati Military Base

- a) The Committee was received by senior military officials who informed the Committee that the Base came into existence in 2012 when the Special Field Forces were deployed in Okanguati until 07 February 2022 when they were replaced by Reconnaissance Regiment Company.
- b) The Committee observed that Okanguati Military Base structures were in good condition.
- c) They further mentioned that the perimeter fence of the base was in bad condition for security reasons.
- d) They further informed the Committee that there was no capital project for the period under review.
- e) The Officers Administration Block was completed in 2016 with well-functioning ablution facilities. However, the absence of air conditioning equipment presents a challenge to officials occupying these offices due to excessive heat experienced in the region.
- f) Senior and Non-Commissioned Officer's sleeping quarters were completed in 2016 and are operational.
- g) Officers and senior officer's mess also completed and fully functional.
- h) Kitchen was completed and fully operational and the facility is fitted with modern equipment.

- i) The Committee learned that the base was benefiting from a civilian water point where they have connected their water pipe.

### **3.25 Challenges**

- i) Frequent power outages;
- ii) Unserviceable telephone line, more especially when power goes off;
- iii) The perimeter fence was not in good condition and needed to be rehabilitated;
- iv) Lack of water at the base since they do not have their own borehole; and
- v) Shortage of sleeping quarters for members.

## **5. Key Findings**

- 4.1 The Committee noted with concern that, some local companies contracted often produced poor workmanship and disappear without completing the work.
- 4.2 The Committee observed the dilapidated runway, with many potholes and cracks. It was also mentioned that the runway was short and there was a need for rehabilitation and to extend it from 3 kilometers to 3.5 kilometers for suitable takeoff and landing.
- 4.3 The Committee also observed with great concern the structures made out of prefabricated materials that has a short life span. The structures observed at Gobabis Military Base were in a bad state and requires renovation.
- 4.4 Poor security/boundary fences and lack of security lights at some military bases exposes military equipment and other material that is not meant to be seen by the public and compromises the security of the country.
- 4.5 The Committee noted that development agenda in terms of capital projects designed for military bases were ongoing around the country but however at a slow pace. This is attributed to the country's economic downturn that has led to serious budget cuts which in turn negatively affects capital project funding. Some projects have been completed and completion of others were indefinitely deferred.

- 4.6 The Committee also discovered that there were shortages of store rooms and that military arsenal were exposed to hash conditions.
- 4.7 Extreme poor accommodation at some military bases (such as Gobabis, Leopards Valley and Karasburg Military Bases) remains a source of concern for the men and women in uniform.
- 4.8 The Committee also noted with great concern that there were no hangars at Karibib Air Force Base to park their aircrafts as a results they were making use of the Grootfontein hangars.
- 4.9 The Committee had observed with great concern the location of some military bases such as Rundu Military Base which is close to the national road (Highway) and in close proximity of the borderline between Namibia and Angola.

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## 5. Conclusion

Bases on the above findings and observations during the oversite visits to the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) military bases facilities that were undergoing renovations, construction and rehabilitation, the Committee gained an insight on progress made towards implementation of the projects. During the oversight visit, the Committee had fruitful engagement with senior military officials despite challenges of office spaces and accommodation for the military officials. During the visits the Committee noted that some military bases had no capital projects due to the economic down turn experience by the country.

Another factor that halted implementation of projects was a moratorium issued by government to put capital projects that were under 5% completion level on hold. Other contributing factors noted by the Committee were insufficient budgetary allocations to capital projects due to drought and Covid-19 Pandemic. The Committee also visited military bases that did not receive funding for capital projects to ascertain the state of the existing infrastructures and was satisfied. Amongst the noted observations made by the Committee was the shortage of land that could curtail future expansion of the military bases.

However, the Committee also noted that the infrastructure at most military bases were in bad state especially those that did not receive funding for the period under review.

The above are the conclusions the Committee could draw from the oversight visits.



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## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Against the foregoing, the Committee recommends that:

- 6.1 The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs establishes proper monitoring and evaluation mechanism of capital projects with immediate effect to eliminate poor workmanship and incomplete projects.
- 6.2 The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs to upgrade the runway of the Karibib Air Force Base and extend it from 3 to 3.5 kilometers.
- 6.3 The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs to relook into the use of fabricated material as it presents a challenge when it comes to quality and the lifespan of buildings.
- 6.4 The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs to urgently construct and rehabilitate fences around military bases in order to protect the country's military equipment. The security lights within military bases should also be considered. Also avoid military activities such as training being seen by the community surrounding military bases.
- 6.5 The Ministry should avail sufficient funds to the capital projects to ensure that the projects are completed on time.
- 6.6 The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs to urgently construct Store Rooms for its military arsenal that are exposed to harsh conditions.
- 6.7 The Ministry should consider construct enough accommodation facilities for military officials.
- 6.8 The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs consider constructing hangars at Karibib Air Force Base in order to park its aircrafts on site and not in Grootfontein.
- 6.9 The Line Ministry should consider the relocation of the Rundu Military Base that is close to the national road (Highway) and in close proximity of the borderline between Namibia and Angola.

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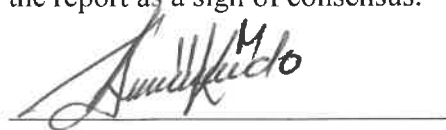
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7. **SIGNING OFF THE REPORT**

This report has been discussed by the Standing Committee Members and content thereof has been verified and agreed upon. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee signed this report off on behalf of the Standing Committee Members who only initialled the pages of the report as a sign of consensus.



**Hon. John M. Likando**



**Date**

Chairperson:

Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs



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