



6th National Council

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS, SECURITY, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE SELECTED CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FACILITIES AND SELECTED POLICE CELLS

Dates: 20 January to 12 March 2025

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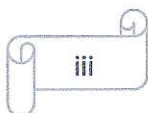
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ACRONYMS

NCS	Namibia Correctional Services
NAMPOL	Namibia Police Force
OIC	Officer in Charge
ORMCS	Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy
CCTV	Close-Circuit Television
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex
TB	Tuberculosis
HIV-AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
VMMC	Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision



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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The National Council Standing Committees on Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs undertook oversight visits to the selected Correctional Facilities. and to the selected Police Cells. The oversight visit was undertaken as from **20 January to 25 February 2025** to implement the Committee's Annual Plan for the **2024/2025** Financial Year.

During the oversight visit, the following Correctional Facilities. were visited over the period of twenty one (21) days in no particular order; Windhoek, Hardap, Keetmanshoop, Gobabis, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Omaruru, Grootfontein, Divundu, Evalistus Shikongo, Elizabeth Nepemba and Oluno Correctional Facilities. respectively.

The police cells visited were as follows; Windhoek, Otjomwise, Mariental, Keetmanshoop, Gobabis, Swakopmund, Walvisbay, Omaruru, Grootfontein Rundu, Katima Mulilo Eenhana, Oshikango, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Uutapi and Okahao and Opuwo respectively.

Given the background, this Report is aimed at sharing some of the key findings as well as recommendations to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security and to the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations for consideration and implementation thereof.

1.1 Composition of the Standing Committee Delegation

All seven (7) Members of the Standing Committee undertook the visit accompanied by the secretariat as detailed below:

a) Committee Members

Hon. Ndjambula Philemon	-Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Hainghumbi Elkan	- Member
Hon. Kuuoko T. Daniel	- Member

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Hon. Amundjindi N. Andreas	- Member
Hon. Mavara N. Phillipus	- Member
Hon. Beukes Anseline	- Member

b) Committee Secretariat

Ms. Kausiona Windeline	- Chief Parliamentary Clerk
Mr. Amadhila Bonifatius	- Parliamentary Clerk
Mr. Hangula Rafael	- Chief Information Officer
Ms. Kapweya Alletha	- Administrative Support

2. OBJECTIVES AND TERMS OF REFERENCES OF THE STUDY VISIT

- i) To conduct inspection in loco at all identified Correctional Facilities. and Prisons to ascertain whether the Ministry has implemented recommendations forwarded by predecessor Standing Committees of the National Council over the years;
- ii) To ascertain whether the Namibian Correctional Facilities. and Prisons adhere to International Human Rights Standards as contained in 2015 United Nations Standards of Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners in terms of Gender Sensitivity, Health Care and Medical needs of prisoners;
- iii) To ascertain the condition of the prisoners accommodation facilities;
- iv) To ascertain whether the prisoners are protected from violence and abuse while in custody;
- v) To ascertain the level of Non-Custodial Measures in place;
- vi) To ascertain whether the nutritional needs of the prisoners are met as per the Nelson Mandela Rules;
- vii) To have a detailed look and discussions with the authorities on various programs that are in place to rehabilitate and reintegrate offenders into family and society at large;
- viii) To engage with prisoners to ascertain whether the facilities and designed programs are responsive to their needs
- ix) To investigate claims of overcrowding of Police Holding Cells in selected towns and cities and

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- x) To compile the Report for tabling in the National Council and forward recommendations to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Safety and Immigration and to Ministry of Justice consideration and implementation

3. METHODOLOGY

The Standing Committee used the combination of the below methods to carry out its oversight activity:

- 3.1 The Committee Secretariat conducted an internal briefing session with the Committee Members who shared the copies of Nelson Mandela, United Nations and the Bangkok Rules which are officially known as the United Nations Rules for the treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for the Women Offenders while the Members as part of preparing for the oversight activity.
 - a) The Nelson Mandela Prison Rules as they are commonly known from the time when the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners were first adopted in 1957 to the time in 2015 when these rules were revised and adopted as the Nelson Mandela Rules. The United Nations Nelson Mandela Rules is a set of 122 rules which guides how prisoners should be treated globally to ensure that human rights are not violated; and
 - b) The Bangkok Rules address the specific needs and vulnerability of women in detention such as convicted pregnant women that require to have access to health Care and Medical Needs and also mother and children incarceration that require to keep the children for a short period of time few to mention.
- 3.2 Scrutiny of reports of the previous National Council Standing Committee who undertook similar oversight activity of visiting number of Correctional Facilities. in 2020, **26 February to 12 March 2020**,
- 3.3 Conduct a face-to-face in-house consultation with the Senior Personnel at Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, specifically the officials from the Namibian Correctional Services (NCS) before embarking on the follow-up oversight visits.

- 3.4 Conduct physical inspections in loco at the selected Correctional Facilities. and prisons to enter-act with both officials at various facilities and some of the inmates.
- 3.4 Brief interactions with offenders and awaiting trial inmates to hear their experiences as well to verify the facts presented by the officials.

4. SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

- 4.1 Scrutiny of the previous reports from the predecessor Standing Committees to ascertain which recommendations the Ministry has implemented over the years and which ones are still pending for consideration and implementation going forward.
- 4.2 On face-to-face engagement with the senior officials on the recommendations made by the National Council in 2020, the officials informed the Standing Committee that vast majority of the reasonable (those that did not require massive funding) recommendations were considered, budgeted and was implemented over the past financial years in different phases. The recommendations that required policy changes and structural upgradings are still pending for discussions and budget approvals pending dileberations and collaborations on higher levels as most aspects are interrelated amongst the national security cluster.
- 4.3 Although the previous Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Safety, Constitutional and Legal Affairs has carried out the similar oversight activity in 2020, with the similar terms of references, the adopted Report only outlined status of the physical infrastructure, various programs and activities that are being administered by the Namibian Correctional Services.
- 4.4 Report has clearly identify key challenges faced by the NCS, which are cross-cutting amongst all the visited facilities. With clear recommendations detailed below:

4.5 Given the summary, the current Standing Committee used the above baseline information to interact with the Ministry and conduct its follow-up oversight visits to the same facilities to ascertain whether those challenges were addressed over the past four (4) financial years.

5. CONSULTATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY – NAMIBIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

5.1 As guided by the oversight framework that the Standing Committee has been following since its first oversight activity in 2021, the Standing Committee conducted a in-house consultation session with the senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security in the Blue Room, National Council Old Building on **20 January 2025**.

5.2 The consultation session was deemed necessary to ensure that the Committee Members familiarize themselves with what was done before to avoid repetition of efforts and to built on the previous Standing Committees achievements in terms of overseeing that the Ministry is effectively executing its programs.

5.3 The consultation provided the Standing Committee members with the verified baseline information to commence with the planned oversight visits. It has also assisted the Committee to focus its oversight work on the key outstanding issues while at the same time sharing the successes over the said period, most importantly linking this successes to the previous Standing Committees oversight work.

5.4 The briefing session with the Ministerial team outlined provisions and adherence to the Nelson Mandela Rules in all aspects as stated on the Terms and Reference of the Standing Committee's visits. What stood out from the briefing was the fact that the Ministry has long become self-sustaining when it comes to adhering to the dietary requirements of the inmates as they produce maize, wheat, assorted fresh fruits and vegetables, beef, poultry and pork. The food is produced and supplied by Haldap, Evalistus Shikongo, Divundu and Oluno Correctional Facilities. and not only to the Ministry itself but to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture for schools and hostels as well as to Ministry of Health and Social Services for the hospitals. At times when the produce is

sufficient, the Ministry extends its crop supplies to the Office of the Prime Minister to supplement drought relief efforts.

- 5.5 All the Ministerial Green Schemes and Agricultural fields are manned by inmates as part of rehabilitation and building agricultural skills for those inmates who show interest, while at the same time, some inmates would use the time in the field as therapy to pass the sentencing time while in custody or the prison wardens use field work as a form of reprimand to minor issues of non-adherence to prison rules.
- 5.6. The Committee was also informed that NCS Workshop at the Windhoek Correctional Services has been accredited as a Vocational Training Facility where inmates now receive formally recognized NQA Qualifications in Auto Mechanics, Brick Laying, Plumbring, Tailoring and Uphostering and Welding and Painting.
- 5.7 One of the major challenges the NCS presentation outlined was the absence of remand facilities around the country which the authorities have identified, as one of the key contributing factors to periodically experienced overcrowding of holding cells in Regions where there are high prevalence of crime. This the Ministry has indicated as one of the key stumbling blocks for the Ministry to fully adhere to allowable number of suspects per holding cell.
- 5.8 The other challenge shared with the Committee is that the Ministry is finding it difficult to adhere to the universal 48hour holding rule of suspects in custody as most of the suspects are not able to afford bail to be released within the prescribed hours after being apprehended despite the Ministry of Justice (now Ministry of Justice and Labour relations) speeding up its court appearance processes for minor offences.
- 5.9 The other issue the presentation brought forward is the raising incidences of gang related activities amongst inmates that is being experienced all over the Correctional Facilities and jails in the country. In some Regions the cases are sporadic while in some other Regions gang activities are high. The NCS tries within its powers to separate gang leaders by recommending transfers to different facilities once certain gang related activities are detected. However, the strategy of

separating gang leaders is not that effective as they turn to embarked on recruiting new members wherever they go. Given that challenge, the Ministry has called on the law-makers to have a look at existing laws and close the loopholes that criminals are exploiting in the name of Human Rights.

5.10 The engagement with the Ministry's senior personnel achieved its main objective as the Committee Members got enlightened on the status of the all the Correctional Facilities. and police cells country-wide. The Committee expressed its deep appreciation to the Senior Officials from the Ministry for well prepared briefing notes and detailed presentations.

5.11 The Committee however could not visit all the Correctional Facilities. to verify the facts on the ground with what was presented due to limited resources but believed that the inspection in loco to some of the key Correctional Facilities. and police cells would be representational to conclude its verification process and report to the House accordingly

(Detailed presentation is available from the Committee Secretariat on request)

6. VISITS TO THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES. AND PRISONS IN BRIEF

6.1 The Standing Committee conducted physical inspection of all key Correctional Facilities. over the period of twenty one (21) days in no particular order; Windhoek, Hardap, Keetmanshoop, Gobabis, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Omaruru, Grootfontein, Divundu, Evalistus Shikongo, Elizabeth Nepemba and Oluno Correctional Facilities. .

6.2 Similarly, the police cells visited were as follows; Windhoek, Otjomwise, Mariental, Keetmanshoop, Gobabis, Swakopmund, Walvisbay, Omaruru, Grootfontein Rundu, Katima Mulilo Eenhana, Oshikango, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Uutapi and Okahao and Opuwo.

6.3 Correctional Facilities. visited by the Committee we either classified on levels 1, 2 and 3. According to the Correctional Facilities. Levels and population, Level 1 facilities accommodates 500 and more inmates and renders Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy (ORMCS). There are four facilities in this class namely, Divundu, E. Shikongo, Hardap and Windhoek Correctional Facilities.

- 6.4 Level 2 Correctional Facilities. provides for between 200 – 499 inmates and offers a combination of full and partial implementation. Correctional Facilities. under this level includes Gobabis, Lüderitz, Oluno, Nepemba and Walvis Bay Correctional Facilities. .
- 6.5 Level 3 Correctional Facilities. consist of four Correctional Facilities. being Grootfontein, Keetmanshoop, Omaruru and Swakopmund. The capacity is from 0 – 199 inmates and offer partial implementation. This report covers the programmes offered to offenders, juvenile facilities, menu of prisoners as well as other observed challenges at the above mentioned facilities.
- 6.6 At every Correctional Facility visited, the delegation was received by the Senior Officials who were well prepared to brief the Committee in the similar fashion and structure it was done at the pre-oversight consultation session held at the National Council. The data presented to the Committee from one Correctional facility to the next was uniformly done as could be expected for the security cluster. The data tables presented in terms of prisoner counts all corresponded with what was presented to the Committee back in Windhoek.
- 6.7 After short briefing sessions at the facilities, the Committee was taken on a investigatory tour of the facilities where the Members were asking questions to both inmates and to wardens to verify information presented previously. Other than verification of the data, the Committee Members were also looking at the physical status of the accommodation facilities, kitchen facilities, requesting the copies of the menus at all facilities, inspecting the health clinics and medicine pandarries to ascertain congruencies with what is reported and what is on the ground.
- 6.8 In terms of the treatment and safety of inmates, dietary requirement, access to basic healthcare, the Members were interacting with inmates by asking them direct questions which most of the inmates responses recorded as accurately verifying what was presented while few would be reporting that sometimes they do not get their medications on time as well some reporting at times they get their food too early or too late.

6.9 On the issue of rehabilitation and reintegration programs, Members also engaged the inmates to hear whether these programs are responsive to their needs and those participating in various programs have expressed appreciation to NCS for having such programs that are uplifting and giving them hope that they can still do something positive when they are back in the society, although they expressed worry of stigma.

13 FINDINGS

As per the terms of references, the Committee visited all the Correctional Facilities. and Police Cells as indicated above and the following are the findings;

7.1 Inspection in Loco of all Correctional Facilities.

7.1.1 The Committee visited all the Correctional Facilities. as indicated in the programme and noted that majorities of the facilities were inherited from the colonial government and they were in a very bad state. Some structures were constructed as early as 1922 which were built to serve certain purposes, however they need to be rehabilitated or revamped to ensure that they are fit for human habitation. Some of the Correctional Facilities. were built in towns and required to be relocated to the outskirts of the towns or cities for easy control and management. Such Correctional Facilities. are as follows; Windhoek, Keetmanshoop and Swakopmund. The structure of Evaristus Shikongo Correctional Facilities. was in good condition and well positioned since it was constructed after independence.

7.1.2 The Committee also learned with great concern that there was a shortage of staff accommodation at most Correctional Facilities. and it need to be addressed as matter of urgencies to provide conducive environment to the staffs.

7.2 Inspection in Loco of all Police Cells

7.2.1 The Committee learned with great concern that many Police Cells were in a state disrepair, stagnant water and insufficient abolition facilities were unhealthy to the inmates. The kitchen is close to the cell and in most cases they were using gas a stove when preparing meals for awaiting trial in mate. This practice is very dangerous in the event of gas explosion. Some police stations were using wood~~s~~ for cooking which is difficult during the rainy season. The toilet pots were located inside the sleeping quarters with no partitioning for privacy. In most cases the toilet pots were not flushing and inmates have to use buckets to flush.

7.3 Health care and medical needs

7.3.1 In terms health care and medical needs of prisoners, Windhoek and Walvis Bay Correctional Facility had one medical doctor, however almost all Correctional Facilities. in the country had only registered nurses, enrolled nurses and a Health Assistant to attend to offender's medical complaints and ensure that they were referred to the nearest government hospital for medical doctors attention when need arise.

7.3.2 Almost all the Correctional facilities had clinics, however there was no medicine in stock because these clinics were not well documented as a result they could not qualify to receive medicine from government. The Correctional Facilities. are in the process of registering all the clinics with the Ministry of Health and Social Services to enable them to qualify for medicine. The clinics renders screening of inmates upon admission and discharge, treating of mild ailments and provide healthcare education to inmates suffering from chronical diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB), Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV-AIDS), Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), dental care and many others.

7.3.3 In terms of the police, the trial waiting inmates are taken to the referral hospitals and clinics for medical attention. There was also a programs known as mobile clinics or outreach programme where government doctors and medical staff visit the Police Cells to provide medical services on arrangement bases.

7.4 Accommodation Facilities

7.4.1 In the case of Correctional Facilities. , accommodation facilities for offenders were quite enough despite that the most structures were dilapidated and not fit for human use. However, the accommodation for the officials were not enough. In the case of the Police, the cells were overclouded and requires urgent attention.

7.4.2 The ministry was doing all it can to ensure that the offenders were housed in decent accommodation as stipulated in Nelson Mandela Rules. The only facilities that were in good condition was Evalistus Shikongo and Divundu Correctional Facilities. since they were recently constructed.

7.5 The Juveniles

7.5.1 The Juveniles were housed in separate Units/Sections at Windhoek, E. Shikongo, Oluno and Swakopmund Correctional Facilities. , as prescribed under Rule 11 of the Nelson Mandela Rules however this was not a case due to lack of juvenile facilities at other Correctional Facilities. . The juveniles were not mixed with adult inmates, whether during programme delivery, vocational training or any other recreational activity.

7.5.2 Almost at all Correctional Facilities. , the officials were sharing accommodation due to lack of infrastructures. Some officials are married but due to lack of accommodation they were forced to share together with their spouses which is not conducive at all.

7.6 Protection from violence and abuse of offender and trial waiting by officials

7.6.1 During the investigation it was discovered that there was no report of abuse and violence between offenders and officials being in Correctional Facilities. or police cells. However, it was reported that there

were notorious gangs in Correctional facilities and Police Cells. The Gangs keep recruiting inmates and to qualify for recruitment and promotion you have to be tasked to commit a crime. Gangs are categorised in three (3) categories with portfolios, namely;

- Gang 26, for smuggling contrabands and other illegal goods;
- Gang 27 for fighting; and
- Gang 28 for sodomy.

7.7 The Prisoner's Menu

7.7.1 The Committee was informed that, inmates are served three (3) balanced meals a day, attributed to the successful green scheme program that the Ministry is running for years that is yielding the agricultural produce sustainably. Interaction with few inmates at different facilities confirmed that they are being fed as per the approved menu, which means the NCS comply with the international human rights standards as contained in the Nelson Mandela Rules (Rule 22) as the food prepared and served to inmates is in accordance with the reviewed dietary menu for offenders in the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

7.7.2 The reviewed menu has taken into consideration dietary ration scales to ensure inclusivity for diseases such as, HIV, TB, Oncology inmates would be served with a high protein menu, Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Hypercholesterolemia inmates are served with Non-Communicable disease menu, whereby allergy inmates have their allergy menu, Gastritis, Gastroesophageal Reflux inmates served with Gastro menu; kidney disease are served with Renal Diet Menu while other inmates are served with a normal menu.

7.7.3 The variety of nutritional food products such as maize meal/wheat flour porridge, samp and dried beans mixed with green peas, barley, lentils, herbs and spice; brown bread, soup powder, red meat, tea milk powder, margarine, salt sugar fresh fruit and fresh vegetables are what the Committee Members saw as part of their site visits.

7.8 Juveniles Offenders and Juveniles awaiting trial inmates

7.8.1 The juveniles in most cases had their separate cells, since by law they were not supposed to be together with the elder inmates. However, in some police station there were no cells designed for juveniles and they ended up being mixed with other inmates and this is against the Mandela Rules and need to be addressed as matter of urgency. In most cases there were delays in legal proceedings and lack of sufficient legal representation for juveniles.

7.9 Overcrowding of Police Cells

7.9.1 After the investigation to all selected police cells it was confirmed that police cells were overcrowded. Accommodated beyond capacity. This has even become a serious Administrative and Financial problem to the Namibian Police in terms of Feeding, provision of water and electricity and generally maintaining hygiene in the police cells. According to the Police Regional Commanders and Police Station Commanders, Overcrowding was caused by some of the factors listed below;

- a) Some Police stations in the regions were not having cells to keep suspect as a result they were transported to the nearest police station with cells. This situation gives burdens to other police station and also poses health hazard to the suspects and need to be addressed urgently and collectively.
- b) Lack of money to pay bails, in most cases the trial awaiting inmates were granted bails but they were unable to settle the bills and the relatives in most cases were not willing to bail them out sighting that they were dangerous and they will still be going to cause troubles for them. As results the last option is to remain in the cells until they are prosecuted. On the other instances, the inmates were give bail on some counts but they were still having pending cases as a result they have to remain in the cells.
- c) Postponement of cases by the prosecutors, this happened because of lack of magistrates, lack of courts like in Kavango West where they have to transport inmates on a daily basis to Kavango East, Rundu Town for trials. Some are long in the cells depending on the cases they committed such as murder, robbery and other high profile cases.
- d) Limited access to legal aid from the government since most suspects cannot afford lawyers and therefore rely so much in government Legal Aid.

- e) Overcrowding in the police cells was further exacerbated by the lack of alternative mechanisms to deal with short term offenders, who would ordinarily not qualify for a prison sentence. Alternatives such as community sentencing and fine on the spot when a person plead guilty or couch rend handed.
- f) Delay in finalising court hearings. Very often, such hearings are postponed because of the following factors;
 - i) Relevant case documents are lost or stolen due to sharing of offices at most police stations;
 - ii) Absent of one party from the court, either Police, Witness or Magistrate; and
 - iii) Lack of transport to transport the accuse to court.
- g) The police had expressed their worries that they are given the responsibility to safeguard the awaiting trial inmate without regal frameworks and legislation to guide them. They informed the Committee that suspects were supposed to be housed in remands facilities under the custody of the Namibia Correctional Service.

7.10 The table below illustrate the capacity of each police cells and the current number of inmates

Police Cells	Capacity of the Cells	Current in mates awaiting trial
Windhoek Police Cells	120	145
Otjomwise Police Cells	120	137
Mariental Police Cells	60	90
Keetmanshoop Police Cells	60	78
Gobabis Police Cells	60	224
Tsumeb Police Cells	100	177
Grootfontein Police Cells	98	106
Eenhana Police Cells	60	270
Oshikango Police Cells	70	200
Nkurekuru Police Cells	70	207
Rundu Police Cells	100	249
Katima Mulilo Police Cells	60	262
Oshakati Police Cells	130	224
Ondangwa Police Cells	60	172
Outapi Police Cells	60	190
Okahao Police Cells	<i>Closed for Renovation</i>	<i>Closed for Renovation</i>
Opuwo Police Cells	30	77

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Omaruru Police Cells	40	47
Swakopmund Police Cells	<i>Closed for Renovation</i>	<i>Closed for Renovation</i>
Walvisbay Police Cells	60	114
TOTAL		2,969 including foreign nationals

Source: Data taken from Ministerial Presentation

14 Programmes Offered to Offenders in most Correctional Facilities.

Educational Programmes play a vital role in enhancing offenders' functional literacy skills and relevant vocational skills, as well as helping offenders to attain and or improve secondary and post-secondary education. The Namibia Correctional Services Education Framework is based on three streams as described below.

8.1 Functional Literacy

8.1.1 This programme is aimed at helping every illiterate offender to acquire literacy and numeracy skill, in order for them to become functional in English which is Namibia's official language. Once acquired, illiterate offenders are in a position to partake in rehabilitation programs offered by the Namibia Correctional Services.

8.1.2 The delegation was informed that, functional literacy programme is mandatory for all illiterate offenders incarcerated at different Correctional Facilities. which is fully financed by NCS.

8.2 Educational upgrading to improve Vocational Training and Employment Prospects

8.2.1 The delegation learned that, vocational training stream is aimed at assisting offenders to acquire appropriate levels of education to allow them qualify for enrolment into vocational training programmes.

8.3 Education activities based on interest

8.3.1 This stream of education events is initiated by offenders to improve their levels of educational attainment. The delegation learned that, this programme includes studying to obtain Grade 12 qualification as well as proceeding to attain both undergraduate and post graduate qualifications.

8.4 Vocational Training Programmes

8.4.1 Vocational Training is aimed at imparting offenders with practical employment skills in order for them to be able to sustain themselves once released.

8.4.2 Namibia Correctional Services offers accredited vocational training to offenders that enable them to find employment or create employment after released. These types of programs were offered at five (5) Correctional Facilities. and the programmes are listed below:

- i) Welding;
- ii) Cupboard making and Joinery;
- iii) Motor mechanics;
- iv) Upholstery;
- v) Fitting and Turning;
- vi) Building Construction;
- vii) Furniture Production, Garment Manufacturing
- viii) Panel beating and spray painting.
- ix) Air Conditioning and Refrigeration
- x) Fabrication and Brick plant

8.5 Agricultural Activities

8.5.1 The Namibia Correctional Services has three (4) farms that produce food that feeds all the Correctional Facilities. and Police Cells namely;

- a) Divundu Correctional Facility was producing Maize Meals, Wheat, Vegetables, Fruits and animal folders;
- b) Mariental Correctional Facility farm with pigs for White meat (pork) and different types of fruits;
- c) Oluno Correctional Facility also farm with pigs; and
- d) Evaristus Shikongo farm with cattle for beef and chicken for meat and eggs.

8.5.2 The aim of producing enough food items were to ensure food security, ensure that all the prisoners and awaiting trial inmates have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food at all times and also to reduce the government burden of spending on foods.

8.6 Support Rehabilitative Programmes

8.6.1 The facility offers structured rehabilitative programmes such as Thinking and Living Skills for reintegration which targets maladaptive thinking patterns and as suitable for a variety of offender risk factors. It highly an effective programme since competencies like cognitive skills that are needed for acceptable social and emotional adjustment obtained and instilled in the offenders.

8.6.2 The Managing My Substance Use Programme adopts a holistic individualized approach to substance use. Programme's aim is to address lifestyle discrepancy in the work, leisure, emotional, legal, financial, relationship as well as mental and physical health domains, amongst others.

8.6.3 Another structured rehabilitation programme is The Managing My Substance Use Programme, which convince offenders to understand their pattern of substance use as well as the motives behind their use of substances. Awareness is the focal point as offenders are likely to face risk situations forcing them to substance dependence or use and also introduced to problem solving skills in order to be in the right path.

8.7 Religious Programmes

8.7.1 To ensure that the fulfillment of the spiritual aspect of the offenders, different religious groups are allowed to give biblical teaching to them as this plays part in reshaping and their lives to become changed in better and responsible manner citizens when reintegrated back to the society.

8.7.2 The delegation was informed that, religious programmes had placed focus on restorative and pastoral counselling since the authorities are convinced through research that, there is evidence demonstrating their efficacy in promoting desistance from offending.

8.8 Structured Day Programmes

- 8.8.1 Windhoek Correctional Facilities. offers some limited arts and crafts activities such as small item handmade items which are sold at a later stage.
- 8.8.2 Structured day programmes, ensures that there is a balance between structured rehabilitative activities and leisure time.
- 8.8.3 The delegation was introduced a new programme of Gender-responsive exclusively designed for female offenders to cater for their needs with the objectives listed below:
- a) Provides women with information that will increase their understanding of the contextual, situational and personal factors that contribute to criminal behavior;
 - b) Invites women to identify and build upon strengths and competencies; and
 - c) Optimizes social and instrumental functioning by providing women with a number of adaptive skills.

9. Facilities Tour

- 9.1 During the oversight, the delegation toured key places within the facility such as the clinics, some selected cells, kitchen, workshops, such as the tailoring, wood work, farms where they produce foods and upholstery divisions.
- 9.2 Kitchen is another component within the facility which is fully equipped and has a bakery. In most cases all the kitchen equipment was in good working condition except in some police stations that need extensive maintenance.
- 9.3 Tailoring division is fitted with industrial sewing machines. The delegation observed that these machines are used for manufacturing Correctional Officers uniforms as well as training inmates for tailoring courses as part of vocational training. The delegation observed the finished Correctional Facilities. uniform packet in boxes ready to be dispatched to other Correctional Facilities. .
- 9.4 Wood work division manufacture and repair wooden items such as chairs, tables for both the public and private entities through set up procedures.

Upholstery Division deals with:

- a) Repairing of old and broken sofas;
- b) Spray pPainting Division;
- c) Mechanic Division; and
- d) Welding Division.

9. CHALLENGES

The Committee learned that challengers were crosscutting across all the Correctional Facilities. and Police Cells as outlined below:

- a. Shortage of Transport, as most of the facility's fleets were grounded due to lack of spare parts while cars in a running condition on the road every day to transport offenders to various towns for court and hospital.
- b. Malicious damage to government properties by inmates, items such as blankets, Close-Circuit Television (CCTV), light bulbs, walls, while polish is used as a source of fire to burn items.
- c. Manpower shortage and therefore a one on one offender ratio is not possible;
- d. Most police stations were under staffed according to the Regional Commanders and Station Commanders; under the circumstance it makes it even more difficult for police officers to look after the detainees the lack of support staffs such as cleaners and cooks means that at most of the smaller stations the police officer also have to perform the auxiliary support duties.
- e. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI) present a challenge on where to place them. However, there was a Commissioner-General Directive on how to manage the aforesaid inmates that ensure that they are separated from those that might harm them.
- f. Another common challenge is that of offenders pretending to be sick while not because they just want to go outside and try to escape from custody.
- g. Gangs formed in prison that require new offenders to join, however they are required to commit crimes in order to be accepted as gang member. These gang members were identified by tattoos which are permanent drawings on the bodies.

E.H
TAPC
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- h. In most Correctional Facilities. and Police Cells there were no provisions made for women incarcerated or convicted with small children and required to be with the baby as provided by the United Nation Bangkok Rules. There were no small beds for the babies.

10. CONCLUSION

11.1 The oversight visit to the selected Correctional facilities and to the selected cells was a success in all aspects. Committee Members are very grateful to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security for their arrangements put in place, to ensure that all the Officers in Charge of the Correctional Facilities. and Police Regional Commanders of all the Regions were informed and were ready for the oversight visits and have shared information as much as possible. At all facilities visited, a detailed presentation with accurate data which corresponded with what the Ministerial Senior Officials presented to the Committee was presented.

11.2 The Committee has found that the NCS had implemented most of the recommendations forwarded to the Ministry by the predecessor Committees with only recommendations that required large funding to implement still pending, such as the large scale renovation of all key facilities and establishment of remand centres for trial awaiting inmates.

11.3 The overcrowding in all Police Holding Cells remains a major challenge for the Ministry, more specifically in the four Northern Regions as opposed to the other Regions. This is believed to be due to high crime rates recorded in the regions ranging from petty crimes to serious crimes and that most accused persons are not able to pay bail, thus being kept in holding cells longer. Other contributing factor as reported by the Station Commanders is the repeated postponement of cases by the courts and most inmates have multiple pending cases.

11.4 There is clear evidence that NCS has developed and grown the agricultural sector with limited resources at its disposal in some facilities to ensure self-sustainability and self-sufficient by supplying pork meat and Wheat Flour, Beef, Maize Meal, Chicken, Vegetable and Fruits to other Correctional Facilities. and Police Cell across the country.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee has for consideration and implementation by the and by relevant Offices, Ministries and Agencies the following recommendations.

- 12.1 That Namibia Correctional Services and the Namibian Police Force make provisions for the women that are incarcerated with small children that require to be with their mothers for a short period of time as provided for in Bangkok Rules.
- 12.2 The NCS and NAMPOL make budgetary provisions for the procurement and installations of CCTV systems at all Correctional facilities and Police Cells to ensure proper control and monitoring of offenders and state property.
- 12.3 That the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Ministry of Finance, and other role players consider building new Correctional facilities since most of them are in a very bad state and need to be renovated or revamped.
- 12.4 That the Ministry considers relocating most of the Correctional Facilities. that were built in towns to the outskirts of towns for easy control and management.
- 12.5 That the NCS and NAMPOL find resources to fill all vacant positions in the institutions to ensure proper control and management of offenders and awaiting trial inmates.
- 12.6 That the NCS and NAMPOL to come up with strategies on how to manage and control the rising gang activities in Police cells and Correctional facilities.

12. REPORT SIGNING OFF

13.1 The Standing Committee Members unanimously adopted this report during the Standing Committee Meeting held on **01 October 2025**, Sea Side Hotel, Swakopmund, Erongo Region.

13.2 This Study Visit Report was signed by **Hon. Phillemon Ndjambula**, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs in WINDHOEK on this 03 day of November 2025 