



6th National Council

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS, SECURITY, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS ASSESSMENT OVERSIGHT VISITS TO THE SELECTED NATIONAL BORDERS POSTS

Dates: 18 August-09 September 2025

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30 October 2025
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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 The National Council Standing Committees on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs undertook an assessment oversight visit to the selected National Border Posts from 18 August to 09 September 2025 as part of the Standing Committee's Annual Plan for 2025/2026 financial year.

1.2 The assessment oversight visits to the borders were deemed vital to collect post-intervention data and to assess whether issues raised over years by the previous National Council Standing Committees were addressed and whether the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security has improved its service delivery in terms of border security, handling of immigrants and processing of travel documentation.

1.3 Given the background and the available baseline information, the 6th National Council Standing Committees Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs undertook oversight visits to the following border posts:

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| a) Mata-Mata Border Post | - | Hardap Region |
| b) Klein Mannase Border Post | - | //Kharas Region |
| c) Trans Kahlari (Buitepos) Border Post | - | Omaheke Region |
| d) Sarusungu Border Post | - | Kavango East Region |
| e) Mohembo Border Post | - | Kavango East Region |
| f) Katima Border Post | - | Zambezi Region |
| g) Ngoma Border Post | - | Zambezi Region |
| h) Nkurenkuru Border Post | - | Kavango West Region |
| i) Oshikango Border Post | - | Ohangwena Region |
| j) Kashamane Border Post | - | Omusati Region |

1.4 The Committee's assessment oversight visits activities in the Regions commenced with courtesy calls to the Governors in the regions. Governors welcomed the Committee Members

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while expressing gratitude for the work done by the Committee. In their brief discussions, Regional Governors shared some of the key development and economic challenges the regions are facing in terms of ensuring citizens have access to public services.

1.1. 1 Composition of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is composed as follows:

Committee Members

Hon. Ndjambula Philemon	Chairperson
Hon. Amundjindi N. Andreas	Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Hainghumbi Elkan	Member
Hon. Hukura Israel	Member
Hon. Kuuoko Tjimutambo D	Member
Hon. Mavara K. Filipus	Member
Hon. Beukes Anseline	Member

Committee Secretariat

Ms. Koopman Fiona	Chief Legal Officer
Ms. Kausiona Windeline	Chief Parliamentary Clerk
Mr. Amadhila Bonifacius	Parliamentary Clerk
Mr. Hangula Rafael	Chief Information Officer

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1.1.2 Terms of References

The Standing Committee's oversight activities during the period of 18 August to 09 September 2025 were guided by the following terms of references.

- a) To conduct a final consultative meeting with the O/M/As operating at the borders posts to brief the Committee on the progress made regarding improving the state of the national borders as per the recommendations forwarded by the Standing Committee.
- b) To ascertain whether the National Planning Commission has conducted assessment oversight joint ministerial meetings with the O/M/As to monitor and guide the implementation of the joint action plan aimed at budgeting and implementing the Standing Committee's recommendations to address various issues that were raised.
- c) To conduct a final inspection in loco at the border posts that were visited in 2022 with the aim to compare the status of the borders between then and now after three (3) years and to ascertain which recommendations were implemented by the respective O/M/As and which ones are still pending for consideration and implementation; in terms of physical infrastructure, safety and security, required number of staff and staff development, physical and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure; and
- d) Lastly, to compile assessment visits report for tabling in the National Council to give update on status of the border posts since 2022

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1.1.3 Objectives of the Assessments Oversight Visits to the Border Posts

The objectives of the assessment oversight visits were:

- a) To determine whether the Standing Committee's oversight efforts over the past three (3) years have brought significant changes to the state of the border posts in the areas identified in the terms of references.
- b) To continue holding the O/M/As accountable to improve the state of the borders posts until all border posts are meeting the required national and international standards.

1.1.4 Methodology

1.1.4.1 The Committee collected information through conducting consultative assessment oversight in-person meetings with Senior Officials from the O/M/As, on-site inspections and observation at the border posts and engaging with the Managerial and Operational level officials at the border posts.

2. FEEDBACK FROM THE MINISTRIES, AGENCIES AND OFFICES (O/M/AS) ON THE LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Standing Committee conducted its final join ministerial stakeholder engagement session with the Senior Officials from the key O/M/As operating at the border posts to ascertain the progress made by the O/M/As in terms of addressing the border posts issues as per the recommendations and the National Action Plan on addressing the state of the border posts.

2.2 The Senior Officials representing the following Ministries were engaged by the Committee during the Session:

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, represented by the Executive Director and Senior Management Officials responsible for the operations at the border posts;

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- b) Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, represented by the Deputy Executive Director;
- c) National Planning Commission, represented by the Deputy National Development Advisor;
- d) Ministries of Works and Transport and Ministry of Finance failed to honor the Standing Committee's invitation to account for the Ministerial responsibilities as set out in the National Action

2.3 Feedback Reports of from the Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies

The summary below provides the responses from the O/M/As to the key questions posed by the Standing Committee, with the intention of identifying the activities completed by the O/M/As according to the jointly developed Action Plan.

2.3.1 Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security

- 2.3.1.1 The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security presented a detailed status update on the implementation of the Standing Committee's Recommendations as laid out in the National Action Plan.
- 2.3.1.2 The records presented to the Committee indicates that the Ministry has implemented most of the recommendations that the Ministry has direct control over such as ensuring the appropriate display of symbol of authority, procurement of the uniforms for both Immigration Officials and Border guards, partial filling of key positions at the border which is ongoing, partial procurement of vehicles for day to day operations at the borders which is ongoing, installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance Systems at busy border posts and operationalization of Regional Tribunals in all Regions with exception of Kunene Region.
- 2.3.1.3 In terms of the capital projects aimed at addressing adequate accommodation, sanitation, portable water supply, the Ministry has partially addressed the challenges by constructing prefabricated housing, renovated existing accommodation facilities at some borders. The

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2.3.2.6 The de-bushing of the borderlines is underway in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security. The Ministry has also reported that they have started with the rehabilitation of the border beacons where the de-bushing program has commenced specifically at the Katima Mulilo Border Post.

2.3.2.7 On addressing shortage accommodation for the Ministry's staff borders, nothing has been done thus far. No staff of the Ministry have been trained on Customer Care as well, however the Ministry has reported that it is in the process of coming up with the training program that will be submitted to the Standing Committee.

Detailed report of the Ministry is attached. (**Annex. II**)

2.3.3 National Planning Commission

2.3.3.1 The National Planning Commission Executive Director's report to the Standing Committee stated that the institution was still in the process of reviewing background information related to the National Action Plan. Given this the Commission was not in the position to provide anticipated feedback neither the reports to the Standing Committee.

2.3.3.2 The NPC reported that the Office of the ED was not aware that coordinating the harmonisation of key Ministries' work at national border posts was its responsibility. Nonetheless, the NPC assured the Standing Committee that a meeting with the Executive Directors will take place before the end of November, and its report will be submitted to the National Council as required.

2.3.4 Ministry of Finance: Namibia Revenue Agency (NAMRA)

2.3.4.1 The Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises Executive Director's office informed the Standing Committee that the National Action Plan was unknown to them, even though supporting documents were provided on three occasions. This suggests the Ministry did not coordinate with the Namibia Revenue Agency regarding improvements at national

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border posts outlined in the Action Plan. The Ministry directed all border operation inquiries to NAMRA, which addressed them as follows:

- a) In terms of the previous finding of the Committee on faulty Electronic Scanning Equipment and foreign nationals operating the machines, NAMRA reported that they are in the process of upgrading and modernizing the scanning equipment at all major ports of entry. On the capacity development of local staff to operate the machines, NAMRA provided the Committee with detailed information indicating that nine (9) scanner operators from various border posts to attend two-week training at Nuctech Factory, Beijing, China in November/December 2025. The training covers image analysis, latest scanner technologies, and system supervision (train-the-trainer) modules. Thirty-nine (39) more staff are expected to be send to South Korea for training.
- b) In terms of the basic Customer Care Training, NAMRA indicated that most of the officials were trained on Customer Care Services as part of the institution's training plan.
- c) Staff Uniforms issue, NAMRA indicated that they procured eleven thousand, nine hundred and seven (11,907) uniforms that were to be used for two (2) years. The agency was still looking for the possible suppliers to procure uniform for the next two (2) years.
- d) On Staff Housing Several border staff members live in outdated or inadequate accommodation, affecting morale and productivity. NAMRA maintains 199 housing units across 15 border posts and offices nationwide for Customs, Excise, and Domestic Tax staff. Accommodation includes houses, flats, and barracks, tailored to each post's operational need arrangements.
- e) Accommodation at border posts like Katima Mulilo, Oshikango and Trans/Kalahari will be address in the infrastructural plans of the implementation of the One Stop Border Post. Refurbishment plans for older units and construction of new facilities at other border posts is an ongoing exercise and is expected to be addressed in the coming financial year. Expected result: improved staff welfare, and service efficiency.
- f) Filling of Vacant Critical Positions, NAMRA operates across 18 border posts and offices with a total workforce of 297 staff and 89 vacancies as of October 2025. NamRa had

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Ministry is at the advance stages of securing funds to continue addressing the housing shortages across the board.

2.3.1.4 In terms of addressing the Standing Committee's recommendation on possibility to gazette additional border posts to address illegal border crossings, the Ministry has reported that additional five (5) border posts in Kunene, Kavango East, Zambezi Regions has been gazetted however these border posts are not operationalized yet.

The detailed status report tabled by the Ministry is attached for reference. (**Annex. I**)

2.3.2 Ministry Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform

2.3.2.1 The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform presented a detailed status update on the implementation of the Standing Committee's Recommendations as laid out in the National Action Plan.

2.3.2.2 The records presented to the Committee indicates that the Ministry has implemented most of the recommendations and projects outlined in the National Action Plan. In terms of the uniforms for the staff, procurement process has been completed with dispatching of the uniforms to various borders post scheduled to take place during the month of November.

2.3.2.3 In terms of addressing shortage of vehicles, the Ministry has provided 40 vehicles to veterinary services, with 20 more in process of being procured for border use. The Standing Committee will be updated once procurement is complete.

2.3.2.4 To address chronic staff shortages at the border, the Ministry indicated that funds were solicited, and they had approved some positions that were advertised in the government circular of September 2025 and from that number, some will be allocated at the border posts.

2.3.2.5 On the recommendations of rehabilitation of the veterinary fences, the Ministry provided the figures of work teams deployed all around the Regions where severe damages to the fences were reported. This process is indicated as ongoing until all fences have been rehabilitated.

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sufficient employees until three (3) border posts were transformed from 12 hours' operation to 24 hours' operation that required more manpower, however they were busy soliciting funds and fill the vacancies that will cost the agency N\$58.95 million.

g) On the issue of presence of private security at the national borders, NAMRA stated that private security officers were hired at national border posts because their officials face daily threats, border guards are sometimes overwhelmed, and continuous security is needed to protect staff and state revenue. The statistics of the private security offices at national border posts were presented to the Committee as follows:

- Contracted by NAMRA at the Border Posts, Nam that, there is a presence of security officials at all border posts. HKIA (2), Luderitz (2), Noordoewer (4), Ariamsvlei (4), Katwiti (3), Muhembo (3), Katima (4), Ngoma (5), Oshikango (8), TKAL, Ngoma (5), Oshikango (8), Omahenene (10), Kashane (0).

h) NAMRA stated it is working to resolve border branding issues and will standardize branding at all posts, similar to Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno. The next two posts slated for major changes are Otjikango and Katima Mulilo, with branding planned as part of a coordinated process.

The detailed report of the work done by NAMRA since 2022 to date will be submitted to the Committee Secretariat.

2.3.5 Ministry of Works and Transport

2.3.5.1 The Ministry of Works and Transport failed to attend all three stakeholders engagement sessions and therefore all activities outlined in the National Action Plan that the Ministry was responsible for to execute remains unaccounted by the time this Committee has concluded its legislative work for the 6th National Council.

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3.OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT OVERSIGHT VISITS TO THE BORDER POSTS

- 3.1 The Committee was received by the Senior Border Officials at all border posts visited where they and held a brief meeting with the officials, clearly stating the Committee's terms and references. Officials were given opportunity to reflect on the state of the borders in 2022 and versus now in 2025.
- 3.2 Officers were questioned on specific issues related to the safety and security, staff recruitment in all departments operating at the border posts, physical and ICT infrastructure were post to the Officials with the aim to collect required data at all border posts.
- 3.3 The Committee undertook physical inspections to ascertain the status of the key areas at the border posts that were inspected in 2022 which covered:
- a) Border Fences;
 - b) Security Rooms and Screening Equipment;
 - c) Border Surveillance Control Rooms;
 - d) Arrival and Departure Halls;
 - e) Incoming and Outgoing Vehicles and Trucks Parking Areas;
 - f) Display Area for National Symbols (flags), border signages upon entry into the Namibian borders;
 - g) Boom Gates;
 - h) Ablutions Facilities;
 - i) Accommodation Facilities for all staff employed at the border posts; and
 - j) International Boundary Beacons.

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3.1 Inspection at Mata Mata Border Post

The Committee noted that there were no notable alterations at this border post, either in the physical condition of the infrastructure or in the operational processes conducted at the border. The challenges faced by the officials in terms of the operations of the border post remains unchanged since 2022.

3.1.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed;
- b) The national flag at the border was replaced;
- c) No official vehicle has been allocated to the officials at the border for day to day operations, neither is there a patrol vehicle to conduct periodic borderline patrol as required since 2022 to date;
- d) Insufficient number of officials per shift remain as is since 2022 to date as no new recruitment was reported;
- e) No electronic screening of equipment at the border, screening is still done manually;
- f) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- g) There is no signage at the border post identifying the border by its country and name;
- h) No official provision of portable water for the officials and visitors until now. The officials and visitors are dependent on the private person's bore hole with salty water;
- i) Constant power outages still exist since 2022;
- j) There is still no network coverage at the border making official communication difficult from the border to the regional headquarters; and
- k) Lack staff accommodation at the border remains unaddressed.

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3.2 Inspection at Klein Manasse Border Post

The Committee noted that there were no notable alterations at this border post, either in the physical condition of the infrastructure or in the operational processes conducted at the border.

3.2.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed;
- b) No official vehicle has been allocated to the officials at the border for day-to-day operations, neither is there a patrol vehicle to conduct periodic borderline patrol as required since 2022 to date;
- c) Insufficient number of officials per shift remain as is since 2022 to date for all the departments except Road Fund Administration that has recruited additional staff;
- d) No electronic screening equipment at the border, screening is still done manually;
- e) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- f) There is no signage at the border post identifying the border by its country and name;
- g) No official provision of portable water for the officials and visitors until now. The officials and visitors are dependent on the private person's bore hole with salty water;
- h) Constant power outages still exist since 2022;
- i) There is still no network coverage at the border making official communication difficult from the border to the regional headquarters;
- j) Lack staff accommodation at the border remains unaddressed; and
- k) Lack of road infrastructure alongside the borderline remains a challenge for even foot patrol by the border guards.

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3.3 Inspection at Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno (Buitepost) Border Post

The Committee observed significant changes at the border post both in physical appearance of the infrastructure and from the engagement with the border post officials.

Most of the previously reported challenges by the officials in 2022 have been addressed with the changed of the border post status to a 24/7 one-stop border post. Although the border post is already operational, the Committee was informed that the official launch of the first ever one-stop border post in Namibia is envisaged to take place in October 2025.

3.3.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed;
- b) There are eight (8) official vehicles allocated to the border though none of the vehicles at the border are fit for border patrol and this remains a major concern;
- c) Most of the vacant critical positions were filled and extra personnel were deployed to partly meet the staffing requirements of the new status of the border. Recruitment process has been reported as ongoing;
- d) The Government has purchased the land alongside the borderline to address border encroachment by private farmers which was a challenge in 2022;
- e) Staff Accommodation was partly addressed with the building of prefabricated houses as per the Committee's recommendations in 2022. However not all required number of houses were build resulting in wastage of prefabricated materials which has been stored in the open harsh conditions for the past two (2) years;
- f) The physical infrastructure of the border has been totally rebuilt and rebranded as per the international border identification standard;
- g) Provision of sufficient parking bays for both arriving and departing trucks is in progress;
- h) Power outages are still being experienced, more often now than in 2022 due to the change in operational hours of the border. The border post still depends on a private power transformer;

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- i) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- j) There is still unstable network coverage from all network service providers at the border which is affecting the electronic border management system; and
- k) The water supply issue at the border has worsen since 2022 as the bore holes' water level as very low and some has dried up according to the report from the officials.

3.4 Inspection at Sarusungu Border Post

The Committee noted that there were no notable alterations at this border post, either in the physical condition of the infrastructure or in the operational processes conducted at the border.

The challenges faced by the officials in terms of the operations of the border post remains unchanged since 2022.

3.4.1 Findings

- a) Old National Flag was replaced with the new one;
- b) The borderline fence has been repaired and is in good condition compared to the state that it was in 2022;
- c) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed;
- d) No official vehicles have been allocated to the officials at the border for day-to-day operations, neither is there a patrol vehicle to conduct periodic borderline patrol as required since 2022 to date;
- e) Insufficient number of officials per shift remain as is since 2022 to date for all the departments except Road Fund Administration that has recruited additional staff;
- f) No electronic screening equipment at the border, screening is still done manually;
- g) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- h) No official accommodation in Rundu for the border officials until now;

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- i) There are still no spotlights to provide sufficient lighting at the border; and
- j) No security surveillance to date.

3.5 Inspection at Mohembo Border Post

The Committee noted that there were no notable alterations at this border post, either in the physical condition of the infrastructure or in the operational processes conducted at the border.

The challenges faced by the officials in terms of the operations of the border post remains unchanged since 2022.

3.5.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed partially. Some departments did not receive full uniforms forcing staff to mix uniforms;
- b) There is only one (1) official vehicle at the border assigned to NAMRA Officials which is not available for use to other border agencies;
- c) No periodic borderline patrol has been conducted as required since 2022 to date;
- d) Insufficient number of officials per shift remain as is since 2022 to date for all the departments except NAMRA that has recruited additional staff;
- e) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- f) Constant power outages still exist since 2022;
- g) Insufficient staff accommodation at the border remains unaddressed as most staff members are sharing accommodation; and
- h) Cargo Screening is still being done manually in the open.

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3.6 Visit to the Katima (Wenela) Border Post

The Committee noted that there were no notable alterations at this border post, either in the physical condition of the infrastructure or in the operational processes conducted at the border.

The Committee was informed that the next border posts that will be upgraded to the 24/7 border post is the Katima Border hence no significant change at the border was observed both in physical appearance of the infrastructure and from engagement with the border post officials on key findings from the previous visit to the border.

The challenges faced by the officials in terms of the operations of the border post remains unchanged since 2022 but with the pending upgrade the officials have expressed hope for that some of the key Committee recommendations will be addressed as the border is expected to follow the same infrastructural design and operations as the Trans Kalahari Border Post (Buitepos).

3.6.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed partially. Some departments did not receive full uniforms forcing staff to mix uniforms;
- b) Security screening equipment that was operated by Chinese national in 2022 is now being operated by a trained Namibian. The Chinese expert is only coming upon request to attend to major technical issues that staff at the border are unable to attend to;
- c) Majority of the officials operating at the border post were trained in customer care service, however the new recruits are yet to be trained;
- d) There are three (3) official vehicle at border but none of the vehicles are in a good condition neither fit for border patrol;
- e) No periodic borderline patrol has been conducted as required since 2022 to date;
- f) No recruitment was undertaken hence the insufficient number of officials per shift remain as is since 2022 to date for all the departments. except NAMRA that has recruited additional staff;
- g) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;

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- h) Constant power outages still exist since 2022;
- i) Insufficient staff accommodation at the border remains unaddressed;
- j) Borderline fence has not been rehabilitated and remains damaged since 2022; and
- k) Absence of parking bays for incoming and outgoing trucks remains as it was since 2022.

3.7 Inspection to Ngoma Border Post

The Committee noted that there were no notable alterations at this border post, either in the physical condition of the infrastructure or in the operational processes conducted at the border.

The challenges faced by the officials in terms of the operations of the border post remains unchanged since 2022.

3.7.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed partially;
- b) There is only one (1) official vehicle at border assigned to NAMRA Officials which is not available for use to other border agencies;
- c) No periodic borderline patrol has been conducted as required since 2022 to date;
- d) Insufficient number of officials per shift remain as is since 2022 to date for all the departments except NAMRA that has recruited additional staff;
- e) The border guard has completely abandoned the night shift and as a result, the border security at night is in the care of the private security personnel recruited by NAMRA;
- f) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- g) Constant power outages still exist since 2022;
- h) Weak network coverage has not been addressed to date;
- i) The issue of limited staff accommodation at the border has not yet been resolved;

- j) The Committee found the boom gate of the border severely damaged unguarded which was not the case in 2022;
- k) The boom gate that was in order in 2022 was damaged and remains unreplaced;
- l) Cargo Screening is still being done manually in the open;
- m) The border is fully covered with NAMRA branding from entrance to the inside with no visible national border post signage causing confusion to visitors; and
- n) Lack of portable water at the border remains a challenge since 2022.

3.8 Inspection at Nkurenkuru Border Post

The Standing Committee observed no significant changes at the border post both in physical appearance of the infrastructure and from the engagement report with the border post officials other than the visible structural improvement on ablution facilities, replacement of the old national flag.

Most of the major challenges faced by the officials in terms of the operations of the border post remains unchanged since 2022.

3.8.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed;
- b) No official vehicle has been allocated to the officials at the border for day-to-day operations, neither is there a patrol vehicle to conduct periodic borderline patrol as required since 2022 to date;
- c) Insufficient number of officials per shift remain unresolved since 2022;
- d) No electronic screening equipment at the border, screening is still done manually;
- e) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- f) No official accommodation in Rundu for the border officials until now;
- g) There are still no spotlights to provide sufficient lighting at the border;

- h) No security surveillance to date; and
- i) The border is still facing high volume of illegal immigrants due to absence of border fence and overcrowding of the police cell remains a challenge until now.

3.9 Inspection at Oshikango Border Post

The Committee noted that there were no notable alterations at this border post, either in the physical condition of the infrastructure or in the operational processes conducted at the border.

The Oshikango Border Post now operates on a 24-hour schedule rather than the previous 12-hour arrangement and has been designated as a site for comprehensive upgrades. Senior border officials have emphasized forthcoming improvements to both infrastructure and operational procedures, with the objective of transforming the border into a one-stop facility similar to the Trans Kalahari Border Post.

Most of the previous findings remains the same with few changes observed as outlined in the findings below.

3.9.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed;
- b) Security screening equipment that was operated by Chinese national in 2022 is now being operated by a trained Namibian. The Chinese expert is only coming upon request to attend to major technical issues that staff at the border are unable to attend to;
- c) Majority of the officials operating at the border post were trained in customer care service and the training is ongoing until all departments are trained fully;
- d) There are six (6) official vehicles at the border but none of the vehicles are fit for border patrol even if the departments would want to share the resources;
- e) No periodic borderline patrol has been conducted as required since 2022 to date;

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- f) Most of the departments have recruited new personnel to meet the 24/7 border operations however there is still a shortage from the border guards and immigration officers as they still do not meet the required number of guards per shift;
- g) No de-bushing along the borderline has been done since the Committee's last visit to the border in 2022;
- h) Insufficient staff accommodation at the border remains unaddressed;
- i) Borderline fence has not been rehabilitated since 2022;
- j) The boom gate was fixed but got damaged again; and
- k) Absence of parking bays for incoming and outgoing trucks remains as is since 2022;
- l) CCTV Cameras at the border are fully operational as opposed to how they were in 2022, however the cameras are not sufficiently covering all the key areas of the border;
- m) The police accommodation was still in deplorable condition since 2022; and
- n) There is no proper control over human movement that are crossing the border post.

3.10 Inspection at Kashamane Border Post

Kashamane Border Post is one of the border post visited in 2022 which did not have any major issues related to physical infrastructure as well as the operations and human capital due to its low volume of traffic.

The key issues were mostly related to the high volume of increased illegal crossings that are taking place between the Kashamane and Okapalelona crossing point with only police presence.

The Committee also observed an illegal water pipe connection form the Namibian site into Angola.

3.5.1 Findings

- a) Provision of staff uniforms has been addressed fully.

- b) There are sufficient vehicles at the border for all departments however none of the vehicles are fit for border patrol;
- c) No periodic borderline patrol has been conducted as required since 2022 to date;
- d) There are enough officials per shift at the border hence operational challenges are rare; and
- e) Cargo Screening is still being done manually in the open.

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4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 In conclusion, the Standing Committee's final assessment oversight visits to the selected borders and stakeholder engagement session was fruitful as the Standing Committee achieved its objective as the Committee could see some tangible results at some borders while at some borders not much has been done.
- 4.2 Since 2022, only the Trans Kalahari Border post has shown significant infrastructural improvements, while other border posts have made smaller yet meaningful progress as observed by the Standing Committee. Minor changes at all borders include the mass procurement of vehicles with Ministry of Agriculture in the process of getting 20 new cars earmarked for allocation to the border, the Home Affairs need to reallocate some of their new cars to the borders.
- 4.3 Some of the major achievement stemming from the Standing Committee's oversight activities and recommendations are the gazetting of the additional border posts in the Kunene Region, commencement of the construction of the road to Impalila Island and construction of the Floating Docking Harbour.
- 4.4 Other notable changes observed at all visited border posts were the partial filling of key positions, staff training for security screening at the two busiest borders, ongoing fence repairs, provisions of official uniforms thought not sufficient for Ministry of Home Affairs, procurement and distribution of complete uniform sets for all customs and excise staff at the borders. NAMRA's technical training program for its key staff members to be trained in China and South Korea to be trained in operating the scanning equipment and envisaged upgrading and modernization of the scanning equipment at key ports of entry are some of the major improvements that were verified through Committee engagement and on-site visits undertaken.
- 4.5 The Committee observed that, despite an agreement among the previous Ministers and previous Executive Directors to share resources at the border posts for effective operations, this has not been implemented due to ongoing bureaucratic barriers the operational staff are

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faced with. The lack of follow-up meetings after the Action Plan was submitted might be the contributing factor to this challenge.

4.6 From the face-to-face stakeholder engagement sessions conducted, the Committee noted that the Action Plan was not cascaded down to the operational level in some O/M/As, while the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, and Safety provided complete answers, despite leadership changes. This suggests the Action Plan reached operational levels given that the new ED was briefed on the existence the Plan and progress unlike in the other O/M/As.

4.8 Based on the above analysis, the Standing Committee notes that continued oversight until the National Action Plan is fully implemented may help bring border status in line with international and national standards. This could also impact community safety near border posts, reduce illegal crossings and activities, and potentially increase revenue collections.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on status update reports from relevant ministries and border inspections, the Committee recommends that the following priorities be addressed by the O/M/As during the continued implementation of the National Action Plan to address the state of border posts.

5.1 Coordination of O/M/A's Efforts to address Challenges at Border Posts

5.1.1 The Committee is recommending that the National Planning Commission convene the follow-up meetings as resolved and as laid out in the National Action Plan and submit the outcome reports to the National Council for ongoing oversight over the national border posts.

5.1.2 That the respective Executive Directors of the O/M/As ensure cascading of the National Action Plan to the Strategic Plans of the O/M/As for streamlined budgeting and execution of required projects aimed at addressing the state of the border posts.

5.2 Acquisition of Vehicles

5.2.1 Although the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security received funds to address the vehicle shortage for operations and border patrol, it did not prioritize dispatching vehicles to the borders or procure any patrol vehicles as planned. It is recommended that the Ministry reallocate the existing fleet, so each identified border receives at least one or two vehicles for daily operations.

5.2.2 In terms of the absence of a single patrol vehicle at all the borders until to date, the Committee recommends that the Ministry prioritize procuring and allocating patrol vehicles to all border posts to help address current challenges.

5.3 Provision of Adequate Housing and Portable Water

5.3.1 The Employer is required by Section 28(2) of the Labour Act 11 of 2007 to provide adequate housing, sanitation, and water for employees living at the workplace. O/M/As continue to violate this law for years now. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations inspect border posts facilities and direct non-complying employers, in terms of Regulation 31(2) of the Labour Act, to take such steps as the inspector/s considers necessary to enable the employer to comply with the provisions of the Labour Act and the Regulations to the Act.

5.3.2 The Committee recommends that all O/M/As consider combining resources and initiating the necessary processes to acquire land from relevant local authorities and start the required groundwork towards addressing the chronic shortage of adequate housing. Where accommodation facilities already exist, these should be prioritized for renovation.

5.3.3 The Committee recommends that the respective O/M/As coordinate when determining the construction sites for housing at border posts. This coordination will ensure that in future the plots earmarked for accommodation for the border guards are located near the border as it will facilitate prompt responses to security emergencies at the border.

5.3.4 The Committee recommends that, to address the ongoing challenges related to the provision of clean running water at most of the visited border posts, the Ministry of Agriculture should prioritize the implementation of water purification systems and initiate the drilling of new boreholes where current ones have been reported as depleted.

This recommendation aligns with the employer's statutory obligations as outlined in the referenced Act of Parliament and requires full compliance by all O/M/As.

5.4 On-going De-bushing and Rehabilitation of Veterinary Fences

5.4.1 The Committee applauds the joint operations undertaken by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security with clearing of the vegetation along the borderline at Katima Mulilo Border Post. It is however recommended that the O/M/As reach out to Correctional Services to support the initiative to fast track the de-bushing campaign.

5.4.2 The Committee advises the Ministry of Agriculture to create a practical plan for maintaining rehabilitated fences to ensure their long-term durability as well as the boundary beacons as the Ministry continues with the project.

5.5 Display of Symbols of Authority at the Border Posts

5.5.1 Although the O/M/As have addressed the provision of official uniforms that display the symbols of authority and replaced old flags, the border posts signages are fully branded with NAMRA corporate identity which is not the standard of national and international display and branding of borders. The Committee recommends that NAMRA employ the procedures previously utilised during the Agency's facilitation of branding for the Trans Kalahari border post, and implement these processes consistently across all border locations.

5.5.2 In addition to the above recommendation, the Committee is recommending that the NAMRA branding only be visible at the respective counters inside the arrival and departure halls and not at the border entrance nor on the doors of the arrival and departure halls.

5.6 Addressing illegal crossings in and out of the country and gazetting of additional border posts

5.6.1 The Committee commends the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security for gazetting five additional border posts to address illegal crossings where official entry points are far apart from each other. However, the Committee urges the Ministry to expedite

making these border posts operational or increase security along borderlines to prevent illegal crossings.

5.7 Lack of Coordination

5.7.1 Regarding the observed lack of coordination among the O/M/As, the Committee recommends that the National Planning Commission fulfil its coordination responsibilities for the implementation of the National Action Plan and submit quarterly reports to the National Council.

5.7.2 The Committee recommends that the respective Executive Directors ensure that the National Action Plan on Addressing the State of the National Borders is integrated into strategic plans and appropriately budgeted for by the O/M/As.

5.8 Continuity of Oversight Activities by the Standing Committee Regarding National Border Posts

5.3.7 To ensure that the extensive oversight work done by the 6th National Council Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs is not lost due imminent changes that comes with elections, it is recommended that the incoming National Council Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs continue to monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan and hold the Executive accountable until the national border posts meet the national and international standards.

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6. SIGNING OFF THE REPORT

This report has been discussed by the Standing Committee Members and content thereof has been verified and agreed upon.



Hon. Philemon Ndjambula

03.11.2025

Date

Chairperson: National Councils Standing

Committee on Home Affairs, Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs

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