



PREMIER NEWS

The Office of the Prime Minister's electronic newsletter, January-April 2018, Vol. I | Issue No. 3

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SACCO for the
Public Service**

From the Desk of the Acting PS



**Acting Permanent Secretary,
Mr. Indongo Shivute**

On 18 April 2018, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) had its annual staff address by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. The Prime Minister spoke about a kaleidoscope of issues. These, inter-alia, encapsulated; being a model institution for the Public Service in terms of performance, optimizing e-governance system and the issue of work ethics and professionalism.

I believe, the issues raised by the Prime Minister should serve as pointers of the national political will. Hence, it is important for all of us to find time to internalize her message and above all to take the necessary actions. And, perhaps, this should further be understood in accordance with the OPM's new 2017/2018 - 2021/2022 Strategic Plan.

The home-grown Strategic Plan has Four (4) Strategic Pillars, Seven (7) Strategic Objectives and Twenty Six (26) KPIs, which I would like every OPM staff member to understand and align their various department's operations to.

The Strategic Plan encapsulates the priorities of OPM for the next 5 years, direction on pertinent issues of coordinating Government business, and the call to action for each one of us, including myself. My sincere gratitude goes to the Consultant Mr. Chris Tenga, management and staff of the OPM, without their hard work and dedication the planning process would not have been that successful.

Let us all work together to embrace these high-level statements and together soldier on to deliver, deliver and deliver! As we venture into the uncharted journey in the new financial year, each one of us should introspectively ask him or herself this question: what am I going to do differently this year to serve Namibians in line with the PAs we signed recently NIPAM.

Enjoy Vol. 1, Issue 3 of the OPM's electronic newsletter and find time to make contributions so that we can have regular editions.

PREMIER NEWS

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THE PUBLIC SERVANT

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We welcome news items, press releases, letters, feature articles and photos relating to public service matters. Any contributions and enquiries should be addressed to the editor.

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Editor's Note



Rhingo Mutambo (CPRP)

Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 3 of the electronic newsletter of the Premier News, the official newsletter of the Office of the Prime Minister.

In this edition we bring you a number of interesting stories including articles on the GBR workshop, Prime Minister's staff address, and various appraises on the Prime Minister's engagements.

We will also give you the latest update on NEEEF, the 2018 Africa Public Service Day and a heads-up on a novel initiative that will help you save your hard earned cash. This initiative is called Savings and Credit Co-operatives (SACCOs). Let me dwell on this for a while.

SACCOs is necessarily not a new concept in Namibia. In fact, there are provisions in Namibia's legal framework for the establishment of a SACCO.

Hence, it is high time that Public Servants are mobilised to rally behind this low interest rate credit union to save themselves from credit sharks in the private sector. Let me whisper something in your ear: *micro-lenders primary concern is to milk us dry.*

It is a pity that most public servants are unwittingly enticed into an endless web of borrowing at high interest rate by micro-lenders. At face value, this appears like an opportunity to get out of financial trouble for some people, while it is actually a trap that ensnares you into a life-time borrower.

In lieu of the above understanding, the Office of the Prime Minister has been hatching eggs on strategies to stimulate debate on how a savings and credit co-operative movement in Namibia can be rekindled as one way of deepening financial inclusion in the country and provide a low interest rate credit scheme, particularly for the Public Service. Read more on this interesting development on page 12.

Enjoy reading the *Premier News* further.

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‘Embracing gender equality is the right thing to do,’ says PM.



Deputy Minister in Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama (centre) and the out-going UNDP Resident Representative to Namibia Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho flanked by participants from OPM and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare at the GRB Workshop at NIPAM on 23 April 2018.

Represented by the Deputy Minister in Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama, Prime Minister (PM), Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said embracing gender equality, through gender-smart fiscal policies, is the right thing to do.

“The world has changed in dramatic and sometimes unexpected ways. Plenty of positive changes have been observed, such as improvements in technology or medicine. However, we still face daunting challenges with inequality and the environment. The evolving situation of women at work remains an important policy issue,” she said.

She made this remark at a five (5) days’ workshop training held at NIPAM on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) hosted by the OPM as the Chair of the High Level Gender Advisory Committee on Monday, 23 April 2018. The out-going UNDP Resident Representative to Namibia Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho also spoke at the event.

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is part of a much broader agenda, namely gender mainstreaming. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality. “There is sufficient evidence on the channels through which women’s development and the reduction of gender inequality lead to more rapid economic growth,

improved labour productivity, healthier children, and more responsive government,” emphasised the PM.

The concept of bringing gender issues into the mainstream of society was clearly established as a global strategy for promoting gender equality in the Platform for Action adopted at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing (China) in 1995.

GRB highlighted the necessity to ensure that gender equality is a primary goal in all areas of social and economic development.

On the other hand, GRB aims at integrating a clear gender perspective within the overall context of the budgetary process through special processes and analytical tools, with a view to promote gender-responsive policies. GRB contributes towards realizing gender equity through the recognition that the needs, preferences and interests of women and men often differ. It is also a catalyst to the achievement of good governance through improving the delivery of goods and service to women, men, girls and boys in a fair, just and responsible way.

It is further believed to enhance accountability and transparency by tracking how allocated funds are spent by the availability of gender-disaggregated data.

OPM bids farewell to Hon. Christine //Hoebes



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila hands over a present to Deputy Minister: Hon. Christine //Hoebes.

President Hage Geigob recently appointed Hon. Christine //Hoebes - a Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and a Member of Parliament as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation.

She now Deputizes the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

At a recent staff address, the Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila bid farewell to the Deputy

Minister and congratulated her for her new responsibility.

Responding to the farewell message, Hon. Christine specifically thanked the Prime Minister for support and mentorship and said the OPM and specifically the Prime Minister groomed her for a political career. "When I am faced with a challenge in my new job, I become the Prime Minister. I remember everything she taught me," she said.

Hon. Christine //Hoebes has experience and knowledge in local governance, educational matters, national and international political affairs, labour relations and public administration, coupled with extensive skills in planning, effective communication, negotiation, public speaking and diplomatic protocol.

She has qualifications in basic education, international relations, management, leadership and diplomacy from the Windhoek College of Education, University of South Africa and University of Namibia between 2001 to 2013 respectively.

She served as a Major of Witvlei Village Council in 1992 at age 23, youngest in the country and the time, and was also a Member of the Management Committee of the Witvlei Local Authority Council.

Prior to assuming her job as the Deputy Minister she has diligently served as both Senior Special Assistant and Special Advisor to Namibian's second President H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba.

HELP DESK



Staff reminded to use the Service Desk

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) has implemented the Centralized Service Desk for IT Support at the Department Public Service IT Management (DPSITM).

The Service Desk acts as the central point of contact between IT support staff, service providers and users on day-to-day basis. It is also a focal point for reporting incidents and service requests. Additionally, it can provide interfaces for other IT service management activities (such as change problem, configuration, release, asset and continuity management).

Staff members in the OPM are continuously reminded to make use of this platform effectively to report all technical related incidents and/ or IT service requests. Staff members can do so by using any of the following three channels of communication:

1. Sending an email to itsupport.gov@opm.gov.na that fully describes your incident or service request
2. Calling the Service Desk Support line. Telephone number: 061 205 6231 or simply call the extension: 6231
3. Or submit the queries via the system by typing in the URL: <https://servicedesk.gov.na> (username and password is the same as your domain log in details). Please remember to select your correct domain.

All OPM staff members are preferably not advised to call the OPM IT Technicians directly but to use the above mentioned methods.

For more information, the Service Desk Manager: Mr Daniel Nelumbu can be contacted at 061 287 2922 or email him at Daniel.Nelumbu@opm.gov.na.

OPM NEWS FLASH FROM THE ARCHIVES

KNOW YOUR LEADERS - DEPUTY MINISTERS SINCE 2015



DEPUTY MINISTER:
Hon. Christine //Hoebes
2015 - 2018



DEPUTY MINISTER:
Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief
Ankama
2018 -

India donates towards drought relief



Indian High Commissioner to Namibia, His Excellency Mr. Kumar Tuhin (right) officially handed over the last consignment of a 1000 tons of rice donation to Namibia towards drought relief on Tuesday, 06 March 2019, part of which was donated last year. The donation is mainly ear-marked for Erongo, Khomas and Kunene regions.

Mr. Tuhin said the donation which forms a part a myriad support announcements made by the Indian President during his visit to Namibia last year, is a symbol of friendship between the two countries. He further said there are other donations on the way including medicine procurement under the Harambee Prosperity Plan as well as the idea to set up a state-of-the art IT centre of excellence in Namibia. The High Commissioner also

alluded to the continuation of the annual scholarship donation to about 150 Namibian beneficiaries.

Receiving the donation, the Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama concurred that the donation; "is a great gesture of a long standing good friendship".

He said India was one of Namibia's earliest supporters during the Namibian liberation struggle and it was the first country to host a Namibian Consul in the 1980's.

"Let us keep up the good friendship and build bridges were our two peoples can cross-over to strengthen bilateral ties," said Ankama.

Progress UPDATE on NEEEF

• Rhingo Mutambo



H.E. President Hage Geingob and Prime Minister. Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila during the latest update on NEEEF, on 27 February 2018

A Cabinet workshop held on 27 February 2018 at the State House, recommended a number of amendments to the original NEEEF draft to ensure inclusivity and improve on the language and quality of both the Framework and the Bill.

The objective of the workshop were, *inter-alia*, to seek confirmation on issues that required a policy position, report on the substantive matters raised during nationwide stakeholder consultations on NEEEF and NEEEB and to consider proposals made and interrogate practical implications of the proposals in a Namibian context. Some of those key amendments made, *inter-alia*, include the following:

- Changing NEEEF name to the “National Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework” to align the Bill to its overarching national objective. NEEEF was initially known as the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework.

- The definition of Previously Disadvantaged Persons (PDP) be made sufficiently clear NOT to include those that were not prejudiced by the apartheid policy, and to ensure that the right people benefit from [NEEEF].

- The definition of Private Sector Enterprise be replaced with the generic term “business enterprise” which denotes any business carried on for gain or reward by an individual, a body corporate, an unincorporated body of persons or a trust in production, supply or distribution of goods or the provision of service;

- A generic pillar package be developed with clear scoring,

weightings, empowerment standards and targets that will determine a positive or negative NEEEF compliance. This will steer NEEEF away from the overemphasis on ownership equity and the specificity of a 25% divestment. Instead, compliance is based on all pillars and the score/weighting allocated to each and the total rating it attracts.

- The workshop firmly proposed that any Government related procurement, in its various formations, especially resource based interaction must require a positive NEEEF compliance. Regarding compliance for businesses that do not rely on Government procurement, the workshop agreed with a proposal that enterprises that fall in this category be subjected to their industry specific sector charters.

- The Bill make provisions for financial institutions, such as the Development Bank of Namibia to open window of opportunities to fund empowerment schemes. Other financial institutions such as commercial Banks, be required to develop funding solutions specifically for commercial viable empowerment deals; and that

- NEEEB be aligned to the provisions of the Namibia’s Industrial Policy and Growth at Home Strategy as well as the National Policy on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

The Bill is expected to be tabled in National Assembly by the end of 2018.

The workshop was attended by the Head of State, Vice President, the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Presidential Advisors and Permanent Secretaries.

OPM welcomes Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama



Deputy Minister, the linguist; Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama

• By Rhingo Mutambo

The Office of the Prime Minister now has a new Deputy Minister, the linguist; Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama. He was transferred by President Hage Geingob in the latest Cabinet restructuring from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources where he has worked as a Deputy Minister since 2012.

Born on 27 October 1957 at Otshaandja, Oshakati West, Oshana Region Hon. Dr. Ankama attended kindergarten

and Primary Education at Uuladhi Roman Catholic School and Oniimwandi Government School respectively between 1967 – 1975.

He further attended his Form 1 at David Sheehama SSS in Ombalantu. In 1976 he was banned never to attend any other school by the apartheid system due to his involvement in politics at a younger age.

As a young man with keen interest in education at the time he pursued his Standard 8 Certificate through distance education in 1978 and completed his High School Certificate through distance education in 1982.

Obtaining a Primary Education Certificate in 1980 at Ongwediva Teachers' Training Centre, opened the doors for many other future studies. In 1983 and 1994, he obtained a Diploma in Expert Photography at Africa United Colleges (RSA) and a Certificate in Youth Ministry at Khanyisa Institute of Southern Africa, Durban under the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference.

As an Educationalist by profession with an itching interest in languages, he returned to his career in education and went to further his studies at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) in 1989 with a scholarship by the British Council where he obtained his Bachelor of Education in English Language Teaching and later his Masters of Arts in Education with specialization in English Language in 1996 at University of Warwick, Coventry (UK) sponsored by the Council of British Teachers (CfBT).

Ankama has been a teacher at various schools in Namibia such as the Oniimwandi Lower Primary School for two



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (centre) speaking at the Office of the Prime Minister's (OPM) annual staff address on 18 April 2018, while the staff listen attentively. Seated with her at the high table are Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama Deputy Minister in OPM and the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation; Hon. Christine //Hoebes.

years (1977 - 1978), Okatana Senior Primary School from 1982 to 1983, and at Iipumbu Senior Secondary School (1990 - 1995).

His career in education also granted him opportunities to, *inter-alia*, become a Lecturer at Ongwediva Teachers' Training College in 1985. He was among the first Namibian teachers who were requested by the then Bantustan Education Authority to teach in Ongwediva Training Centre, after some of the South African Defence Force Members who taught there were withdrawn.

After several Ongwediva College students' clashes with the Bantu Education Authority, Ankama was accused of leading the student uprisings, therefore harassed and detained continuously by the Koevoets and SADF members. He was later kicked out of education and told never to teach again.

It was only when the Catholic Priest Father Franz Houben managed to sneak him to Windhoek (Dobra), he became a Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) employee and meanwhile taught at the CCN sponsored evening School at Katutura Community Centre. The Council of Churches in Namibia School was established to cater for those learners who were kicked out from education by the apartheid government due to their participation in the liberation struggle for Namibia's independence.

Moving with Education, Ankama was appointed Facilitator for English Senior Secondary Education for Ondangwa West (1993 – 1995), Education Officer (1995 – 1998), Lecturer at University of Namibia (UNAM) Northern Campus (1998 – 1999) and Deputy Director of UNAM Northern Campus from 2000 to 2001.

Samuel Chief Ankama as he is popularly known, is

currently a PhD holder in Language, Literacy and Culture from University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), USA, where he studied from 2001 to 2003 with a J. William Fulbright scholarship award.

Apart from his inspiring path in education, Hon. Dr. Ankama is a notable stalwart in the Namibia political landscape. He was an information Officer (PLAN Intelligence) 1984 -1990 SWAPO's Department for Information and Publicity (received training in Zambia and Botswana), was second secretary to the Secretary General of the Council of Churches in Namibia from 1985-1986.

Because of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Churches in Namibia and the National Union of Namibian Workers during the struggle against apartheid in Namibia before independence, Ankama was transferred by request of the National Union of Namibian Workers to serve its Education Department as Co-Editor and Photo-Journalist of its newsletter The Namibian Worker during 1987.

He is the founder Mayor of Oshakati Town and first chairman of the Council Management Committee. He has been a Member of Parliament since 2005; Member of SWAPO central Committee since 2007 up to 2017, Member of SWAPO Party Think Tank in 2008, Deputy Minister of Works and Transport from 2010 to 2011. Dr Ankama is instrumental to the establishment of the University of Namibia's Northern Campus also known as Oshakati Campus. First chairperson and Convener of the UNAM Northern Campus First Advisory Committee (UNCAC).

He served in many community organisations and at various positions amongst others; NANSO, NANTU, NACAYUL and many more.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah welcoming the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif (FE: 3rd from left) and his delegation to Namibia on 12 April 2018.

Preparation for the 2018 APSD under way



Mr. Morris Likukela, Deputy Director for Human Resource Development

The Head of Namibia's 2018 APSD Secretariat Mr. Morris Likukela, Deputy Director for Human Resource Development says preparations for the 2018 Africa Public Service Day (APSD) are at an advanced stage and a fruitful meeting took place to brief the new Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama on 06 March 2018. "The Deputy Minister is ready and willing to coordinate the APSD," said Likukela.

The 2018 APSD is expected to officially commence on 20 June 2018 and end on the 21 June 2018 at Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region. Political leaders of the government of the Republic of Namibia; senior government officials, including prominent Public Officials and Chief Executives of Public Organizations and Private Sector, Academia, and many other stakeholders in the Public Service of Namibia are expected to participate. During the celebration, there will be two major events running concurrently, namely; the symposium and exhibition.

The African Union (AU) has already requested Africa Public Service Day (APSD) Celebration Service Champions (Namibia, Tanzania and Ghana) to make suggestions towards local themes for the 2018 APSD. As per the practice, the theme should be in alignment with the AU theme of the year 2018 which is: *"Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation"*.

The Sub-themes is "Combating Corruption in the Public Service Institutions through Stakeholder Participation and Promotion of Ethical Leadership to realise the objectives of Agenda 2063 and the SDGS."

The chronology of the Africa Public Service Day

The African Public Service Day Celebration, affectionately known as the APSD, is now an entrenched strategic event on the African Union calendar. Emanating from the declaration of the first Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public/Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco in 1994, the Ministers agreed that the 23rd of June every year should be celebrated as Africa Public Service Day to "recognize the value and virtue of service to the community". The Decision was later adopted by the African Union policy making organs.

The APSD initiative is part of the Continental strategies to boost Public Administration programmes, public sector performance and good governance. The commemoration of the APSD takes place at two levels, namely: at national and continental levels. The continental celebration is a biennial event while AU Member States are mandated to celebrate the National Day, every year.

The continental APSD has been celebrated six times; in Namibia (2007); in Tanzania (2009 & 2011), in Ghana (2013) and in Congo (2015) and Rwanda (2017).

Namibia started celebrating the Africa Public Service Day in 2001. During this event, the charter for the Public Service in Africa was displayed alongside the Namibian Public Service Charter and 11 customer service charter. The theme was "Windhoek declaration – implementation for the Public Service in Africa". That event was marked in Namibia as the 7th anniversary of the APSD Celebration.

In 2003, the theme was "Improving service delivery". A number of service delivery initiatives were launched by the then Rt. Hon, Prime Minister on that day.

The theme for 2004, was "Performance Management" highlighting envisioned Performance Management system for the Public Service of Namibia.

The 2005 was celebrated under the theme "e-governance support innovation, modernisation and change in civil service". The e-governance policy was launched by the then Rt.Hon. Prime Minister.

In 2006, the then Hon. Deputy Prime Minister was elected to serve as SADC chairperson for the APSD in recognition of good work of Namibia public service reforms initiatives. The theme was "building an ethical public service to improve service delivery in Africa" and the sub - themes were "Reconstruction of Public Service in Africa in line with the unique challenges facing Africa", "Promotion of good governance in public service" and "empowering citizen through access to information".

The theme for 2007 APSD Celebration was "Promoting Good Governance with emphasis on Anti-Corruption and ethics". This was further informed by sub - themes such as "Enhancing Transparency and Good Governance as a tool for effective and efficient service delivery to citizen", "building public trust through zero tolerance to corruption practices" and "promoting the highest level of integrity among public servants to serve the citizens better"

The theme for 2008 was "From policy to result based

implementation” which was informed by sub - themes such as “Policy implementations the key towards the realization of Vision 2030” and Promoting good governance through effective public service delivery.

In 2009, the theme was “Fostering partnership and collaboration for sustainable development and improved service delivery in Africa”. The sub - themes were capacity development for the future capability of the Namibian Public Service and “strengthening the interface between the political and administration divide to meet the citizen expectation.

The theme for 2010 was “Strengthening leadership and management for improved service delivery in Africa”.

Most events took place in Windhoek until 2011 when it was proposed that the APSD should take place on a rotational basis in the regions.

In 2011, for the first time, the APSD was celebrated at regional level in Karas Region. The theme of this celebration was “Transformational leadership in public in public administration and innovation governance: creating a better life for all”. The sub - themes were such as “empowering regional and local authorities to ensure quality service delivery for the public”, “enhancing e-governance capabilities at regional and local government level for improved service delivery” and “the charter for the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration in Africa – unique tool to increase and enhance service delivery in Africa.

In 2012, APSD was held at Gobabis, Omaheke Region under the theme “Capacity Development for implementation of Africa charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration towards capable development state”. The sub - themes for Namibia was “empowering regional and local authorities to promote” and “provide quality public service to citizenry”.

In 2013, APSD celebration was held at Swakopmund Erongo Region under the theme “Africa Public Service in age of open government: giving voices to citizenry”. The sub - themes being “strengthening citizen participation”, “enhancing

accountability transparency and integrity”, “enhancing access to information empowering management development institute to build capacity in public service”.

The theme for 2014 was “Africa Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration: A tool for enhancing governance in open government era. The event was hosted at Rundu in Kavango East Region.

In 2015, the event took place at Eenhana in Ohangwena Region under the theme, “The role of the Public Service in women empowerment, innovation and accessible service delivery in Africa”. The theme was premised on the fact that the year 2015 was declared by African Heads of States as “2015 a year of women empowerment and development towards Agenda 2063.

In 2016, the event was held at Ongwediva in Oshana Region under the theme “Public Governance for inclusive Growth: towards the Africa we want”. The sub themes were “the role of the Public Service in stimulating economic development and growth on African continent, “Women rights are human rights: positioning the Public Service towards African agenda 2063. The themes were aligned to AU theme of 2016 “2016 the year of Human rights with specific focus on women rights.

In 2017, the celebration took place at Nkurenkuru Kavango West Region under the main theme “Entrenching a citizen-centered service delivery culture: Partnering with the youth for Africa’s transformation”. The rational for this theme was premised on AU’s aspirations as stipulated in 2063 Agenda whereby Africans desire to have a continent that puts its citizens at the center of all programs and projects and the decision of the African Union Heads of States declaring 2017 as the year of “Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth”. The following were sub-themes: - Partnering with the youth to build a responsive and sustainable Public Service; Nurturing a culture of professionalism and ethical values in Africa’s Public Service; Promoting self-reliance and empowerment of African youth for socio-economic development; and Leveraging ICT skills for quality service delivery.



OPM Trade Fair Committee during the 2017 APSD Celebration in Nkurenkuru, Kavango West last year.

OPM proposes a SACCO for the Public Service

Rhingo Mutambo



Consultant Mr. Peter Kimotho from Kenya (seated) with participants from various OMAs at the SACCOs Founder's meeting on 28 March 2018.

The Office of the Prime Minister held a Founders Meeting on 28 March 2018 at the Office of the Labour Commissioner in Windhoek on Savings and Credit Co-operatives (SACCOs) for the Public Service.

The event was attended by 36 representatives from various government Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs). While there are about 146 different types of co-operatives registered in Namibia, it was the first time a SACCO for the Public Service was introduced after it was thoroughly conceptualized by the Office of the Prime Minister.

The OPM enlisted the expertise of a Consultant, Mr. Peter Kimotho through the Kenyan Government to conduct a feasibility study on the viability of a Savings and Credit Co-operatives (SACCO) for public servants and make recommendation to Government on the benefits of a SACCO and how best it can be implemented.

Kenya is one of the countries in Africa where co-operatives have contributed to an inclusive economy and transformed people's lives. The Consultant completed the study, and the findings were present at the Founders Meeting. A SACCO is a private member-owned and member-controlled co-operative which mobilises funds from members and lends the same to members at affordable interest rate.

The idea to establish as SACCO for the Namibian Public Service is the brain-child of Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, when she was the Minister of Finance. The concept is aimed at encouraging a savings culture among Namibians. This is to be achieved through financial literacy and provision of access to financial services.

In his presentation, the consultant informed participants that a SWOT analysis conducted during the study indicated a huge

interest by public servants in the SACCOs opportunities and the strength of the initiative. One of the strengths is that SACCOs are provided for within the Namibian legal framework. Article 98 of the Namibian Constitution, dealing with the principles of economic order, recognizes co-operative as one form of economic ownership.

In fulfilment of this constitutional requirement, Parliament passed the Co-operatives Act, 23 of 1996. In the State of the Nation on 11 April 2018, President Hage Geingob emphasized the need for a "savings culture to enable investment into productive assets of the Namibian economy".

This became evident in the overwhelming support from the workshop participants who made themselves available in setting up a SACCO for the Public Service. The proposed name for the SACCO is: Namibia Savings and Credit Co-operative (NAM-SACCO). Founding Board of Directors were already nominated at the workshop.

Some of the products which will be offered by the SACCO include; development, travelling, school/college/university fees, emergency and consolidation loans, to which registered members contribute to and are allowed to borrow from after six (6) months. A membership admission fee is only a N\$ 100.00, while members must pay a monthly contribution totaling N\$ 2 000, payable over a period of 12 calendar months. This will be deducted from member's monthly salary which makes it convenient.

The benefits to the SACCO members will, *inter-alia*, include; becoming a shareholder and a customer in their own organization, making savings through payroll deduction which makes it simple and convenient, access to affordable loan facilities with no extra charges, low interest of 15% and being paid dividends on shares and interests on savings respectively.

Office engagements at glance!

Chinese Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Zhang Yiming paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on Wednesday, 07 March 2018. During the meeting they discussed a range of issues relating to building stronger bilateral relations and a win-win situation through a South-South Cooperation.



First Japanese Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Hideyuki Sakamoto bids farewell to Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on Wednesday, 07 March 2018. He informed the Prime Minister that his term of service which mainly constituted the setting up of the Japanese Embassy in Namibia has come to an end, and reassured the Prime Minister that his successor will continue to strengthen bilateral relations with Namibia.



Indian High Commissioner to Namibia, His Excellency Mr. Kumar Tuhin (left) speaking with the Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama, during a hand-over of the last consignment of 1000 tons of rice donation to Namibia, on 06 March 2018.



The Japanese government donated 400 metric tons of wheat worth N\$ 4.7 Million to the Namibian government towards drought relief efforts on Friday, 09 March 2018. Receiving the donation Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said the donation is yet another 'reaffirmation of excellent relations' between the two countries. The out-going Japanese Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Hideyuki Sakamoto handed over the donation.



Mr. Indongo becomes OPM's Acting PS



Mr. Indongo Shivute

Mr. Indongo Shivute is now the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Before his appointment as Acting Permanent Secretary Mr. Shivute was a Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Department of Administration and IT management from 01 December 2015.

Mr. Shivute is a client-driven and a solution-focused person with a proven record of success in increasing levels of responsibility. He is a teachable person who demonstrate a high-level of commitment and a broad administrative and financial/budget know-how.

Indongo has served as a member of the Tender Board of Namibia

and a Chairperson on various committees. He has also been recognized at numerous occasions for his ability to manage multiple responsibilities. His work experience speaks volume as follows:

DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY:

Department of Administration and IT management
Office of Prime Minister
01 December 2015 until now.

DIRECTOR:

Directorate of Administration & General Service
and Financial Advisor
Ministry of Gender Equality & Child Welfare
01 March 2012 to November 2015.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE:

Ministry of Safety and Security
Department of Police: 01/02/2007 until 28/02/2012

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

Ministry of Regional, Local GRN, Housing & Rural
Development, Oshikoto Region: 01/01/2004 until 31/01/2007

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT:

Ministry of Home Affairs (Civic Affairs Department):
01/05/2001 until 31/12/2003

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT:

Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of
Police) 01/05/98 until 30/04/2001

ACCOUNTANT:

Ministry of Higher Education: 01/04/96 – 30/04/98

Senior Assistant Accountant:

Ministry of Health and Social Services: 01/01/91 - 31/03/96



Staff members in the Office of the Prime Minister listening attentively to a presentation by the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) on Tuesday, 06 March 2018.

The purpose of the presentation was to ensure that staff members fully understand GIPF rules, procedures and policies, as well as their retirement benefits.

The facilitators, reminded staff members to verify their GIPF information and update their beneficiaries at least once a year.

GIPF is a government institutions Fund established in 1989 to provide pension benefits to Namibian civil servants.

For more information , please feel free to visit the GIPF's revamped website: www.gipf.gov.na

PM bid farewell to Mr. Kimotho and Ms. Gbeho



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa - Amadhila and Mr. Peter Kimotho

On 26 April 2018, Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila bade farewell to Mr. Peter Kimotho a Consultant from Kenya on the Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) for the Public Service. She also bade farewell to the out-going UNDP Resident Representative to Namibia Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho on the same day.



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa - Amadhila and Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho

Office of the Prime Minister's 2018/2019 Performance Agreements (PAs) signed on 16 May 2018 at NIPAM, after a three (3) days Strategic Review Workshop at NIPAM. Here Directors, Deputy Directors and Chiefs are seen signing their PAs with the Acting Permanent Secretary Mr. Indongo Shivute and Deputy Permanent Secretary Ms. Tuyakula Haipinge.

