



# PREMIER NEWS

The Office of the Prime Minister's official e-newsletter, April - July 2023

VOL. 6 / ISSUE NO. 1



## APSD RECOGNISES BEST PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS

4

*No political involvement for top Govt officials*

5

*Emerging leaders hails Commonwealth Conference, an 'eye opener'*

6

*'Unity and patriotism, befitting way to honour our Heroes' says PM*



Office of the Prime Minister OPM\_Namibia

## From the Desk of the ED



**Mr. I-Ben Natangwe Nashandi**  
Executive Director

The year is fast approaching the end. This should serve as a constant reminder that we should look back over our shoulders to gauge whether or not we are still on the right track in achieving those targets we have set for ourselves in our revised Strategic Plans and Annual Plans.

Achieving every target in our corporate plans is at the centre of service delivery to meet the needs of our people. Often times management seem to pinpoint mistakes, but oblivious to good performance. Hence, I thought in this edition I want to commend all the staff members of the Office of the Prime Minister.

The impact of the Office of the Prime Minister is often invisible yet pivotal as it speaks to a numerous high level reform initiatives, professional public service management, instilling the ethos of ethics and integrity, promoting digitalization of public services and implementation of Innovation and revised National Food and Nutrition Security Policy.

As a collective, we have seen V-shaped improvement in the manner in which do we things in the Public Service, thanks to a number of Business Process Re-engineering. That is also a very good indicator that as the Public Service and as the Office of the Prime Minister, we are receptive to embracing change as a vehicle to improved service delivery. The milestone has been beneficial, particularly in as far as administration, planning, customer service and leveraging on technology solutions as an Office.

Our continued commitment to good governance, transformation and service excellence is at the centre of why we wake up daily to go to work. All these are visible from management structures all the way to the least graded stall compliments, as well as in strategic priorities we set for ourselves.

Let us continue to position OPM as the centre of expertise, the trendsetter and achieve a Public Service we all want to see.

I thank you.

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The *Premier News* is one of the channels through which information and news about the Office of the Prime Minister is disseminated in and around Namibia.

The editor welcomes 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)**  
Chief Public Relations Officer

Hello family!. Welcome to Volume 6 Issue 1 of the electronic newsletter of the Premier News- the official quarterly newsletter of the Office of the Prime Minister.

In this edition, we bring you stories on the just ended APSD 2023 held at Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region, PM's views on culture, government partnership with stakeholders on MSMEs, Namibia's initiatives on desertification, nationwide Drought Relief Programme, historic news flashes from our archives and tips on how avoid oversharing of information online to stay safe.

We will also give you a brief update on the successful Prime Minister's local and international engagements which, *inter-alia*, relates to regional visits and the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Two of our staff members, Mr. Sennen Mukulu and Mr. Mervin Katjivikua also made us proud, and we are proud to share their story relating to their educational tour to Canada.

My usual food for thought: next time you expect people around you to be good enough to work with, how about you begin to be that person others want to work with too.

Enjoy the readings!!

## Contents

3. APSD recognises best public service providers
4. Cultural Exhibitions preserves and promote Namibian culture
4. No political involvement for top Govt officials
4. FNB and First Rand Foundation pledged N\$ 250,000 towards disaster relief
5. Emerging leaders hails Commonwealth Conference, an 'eye opener'
5. Zim Public Service Commission (PSC) paid courtesy call to OPM
6. 'Unity and patriotism, befitting way to honour our Heroes' says PM
6. GRN to roll out nation-wide Drought Relief Programme
7. FNB commended for robust GRN partnership on MSMEs
7. Namibia open to initiatives to combat desertification
8. PM meets King Charles III
9. GRN advocates for locally driven economic growth
10. Office engagements at a glance!
11. APSD 2023 in pictures

### PM SAYS:

“Tireless efforts’ to inculcate unity is the most befitting way Namibians can honor those whose blood waters our freedom.”



# APSD recognises best public service providers

By Rhingo Mutambo

**Best public service providers have been awarded for best performance in various categories during the just ended commemoration of the Africa Public Service Day (APSD) that was held at Katima Mulilo in Zambezi Region from 24-27 July 2023.**

In her message for the event, the Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila urged Public Servants to possess appropriate capabilities and skills to operate public institutions and systems, to enable the Public Service to be effective, efficient and responsive.

She made this remark during the APSD official opening held at Katima Mulilo on 27 July 2023 in a statement read on her behalf by Hon. Verna Sinimbo, Deputy Minister of Industrialization and Trade. This year's commemoration was under the theme: "The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will require a fit for purpose African public administration to succeed".

Prime Minister emphasized that AfCFTA will rely on the competence and skills of public servants in the member States to achieve its objectives of increasing inter-Africa trade and thereby accelerating economic development in the African Union (AU) member States.

The African Continental Free Trade Area promote access for member States to markets on the continent, thereby, promoting opportunities for increased trade and economic growth. The Prime Minister says, however, this requires preparedness through capacity building, development of public systems and institutions amongst others.

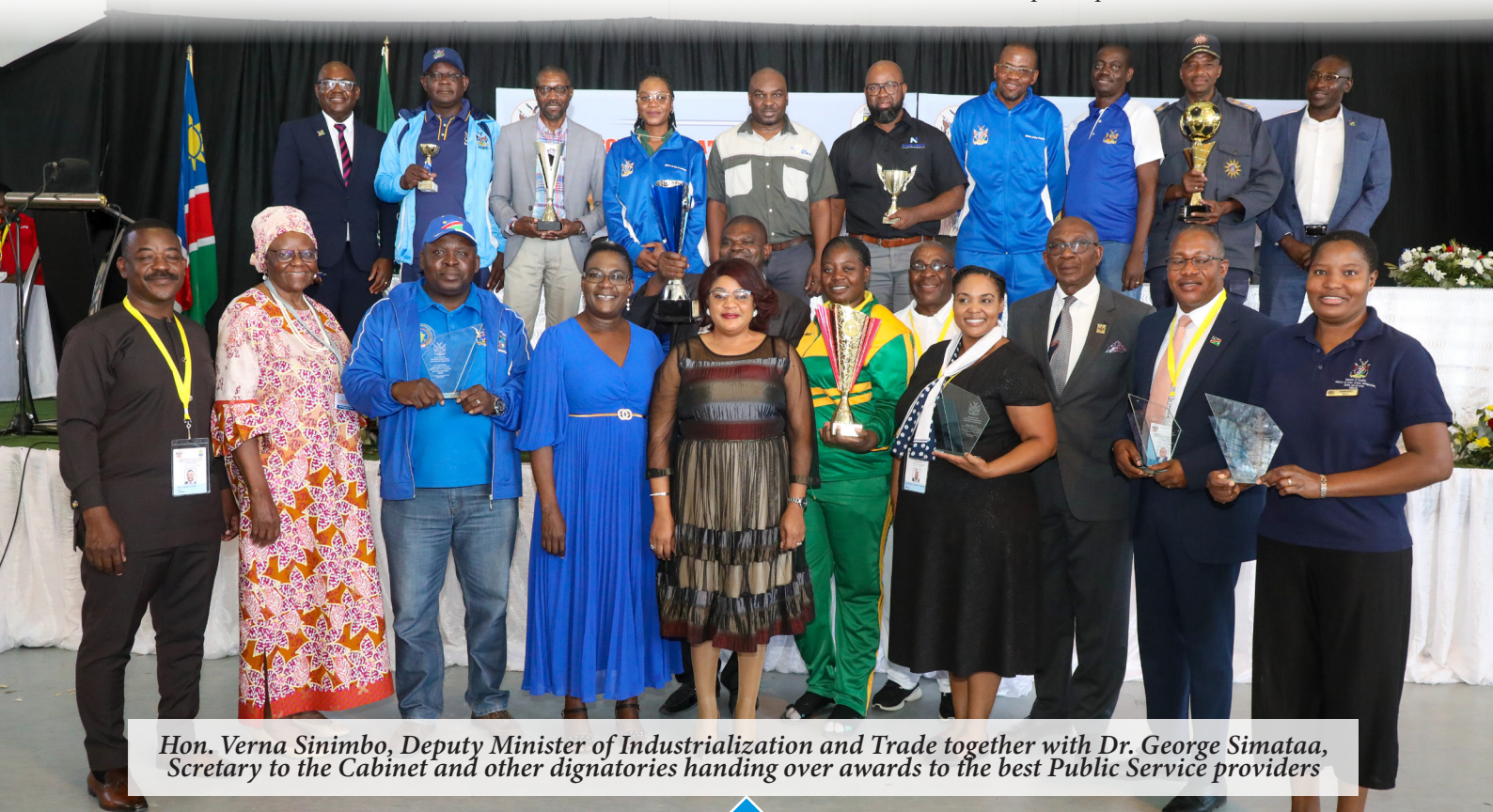


**Hon. Verna Sinimbo,  
Deputy Minister of Industrialization and Trade**

Some of the key roles that public administration can play towards the success of AfCFTA include; modernizing the public service delivery spheres, through innovation and transformation, simplification and re-engineering of public service processes, harmonization of services and processes between public services and with other countries to ease the travel between nations.

The APSD was characterized by various activities such as panel discussions, presentations by various experts, sports activities, recognition awards and exhibitions of government services by various Offices/Ministries/Agencies (OMAs).

Government institutions used the opportunity to showcase their innovations, projects and onsite services to the members of the public. Over 47 exhibitors attended the event with over 1000 participants.



**Hon. Verna Sinimbo, Deputy Minister of Industrialization and Trade together with Dr. George Simataa, Secretary to the Cabinet and other dignitaries handing over awards to the best Public Service providers**

# Cultural Exhibitions preserves and promote Namibian culture

By Maxmus N. Halwoodi

“Cultural Exhibitions such as, Ehao Cultural Expo are important for our society because they help preserve and promote our Namibian cultures, safeguarding our identity as a society and also attracting local and international tourism” said Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

She made these remarks during the official opening of the 2nd Edition of Ehao Cultural Expo 2023 that took place on 27 June 2023 at Okahao in Omusati Region.

Prime Minister stated that initiatives such as Ehao Cultural Expo are in line with the government’s goal to promote the development of growth poles around our 14 regions and optimize the potential of the rural economy to lift the livelihoods of the rural communities, stem rural to urban migration and optimize the contribution of the rural economy to national economic growth and development.

During the event Prime Minister encouraged all Namibians to support the preservation, promotion and development of their cultures, not only to help safeguard the cultural identity, but also to ensure that the country optimizes benefits from its cultures and traditions through generations.



Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (in red) during the official opening of the Ehao Cultural Expo

The event which is held under the theme “Connecting businesses towards creating the future” aims at bringing businesses together to create a brighter future for local businesses as well as focusing on growth and sustainability, hence exhibitors are urged to optimize their participation at the expo to increase their trade and forge new partnerships, as well as to come up with innovative ideas in order to add more value to their products.

## No political involvement for top Govt officials



Secretary to the Cabinet, Dr. George Simataa

By Maxmus N. Halwoodi

Secretary to the Cabinet Dr. George Simataa released a circular on 07th August 2023 that clarifies and explains that government employees in managerial positions are not allowed to partake in activities that supports political party ideology.

The circular states that according to the Public Service Act (Act No. 13 of 1995), to ensure the partiality of the Public Service, a staff member who holds any post in the management cadre of the public service may not preside at a public political meeting or draw up or publish any writing or deliver a public speech or make a public statement with the intention to promote or prejudice the interest of any political party; be an office bearer of whatever designation of a political party.

“I therefore urged the Executive Directors / Accounting Officers to sensitize staff members and managers alike on the provisions and ensure adherence,” says Dr. George Simataa.

## FNB and First Rand Foundation pledged N\$ 250,000 towards disaster relief

By Rhingo Mutambo

The Executive Director, Mr. I-Ben Nashandi received a donation of N\$ 250,000 on behalf of the Prime Minister, towards disaster relief efforts in Namibia from FNB, First Rand Foundation.

“We believe in the responsibility of all organizations to assist where they can during challenging times like this,” said the Mr. Bolle Hans, First Rand Foundation, Manager: Public Sector Branding. Receiving the donation, Mr. Nashandi said the donation has come at the right time due to climatic change and unexpected prospect from last year’s Vulnerability Assessment.

“The Vulnerability Assessment done last year indicated that we were going to have good rain. Unfortunately, the reality is now being reversed. Instead, we are now seeing delayed rain,” he said, adding that even the areas that we would have expected to have good harvest, are not so good.



Mr. I-Ben Nashandi, the Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister receiving the donation

# Emerging leaders' hails Commonwealth Conference, an 'eye opener'

By Rhingo Mutambo

Two staff members in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Sennen Mukulu and Mr. Mervin Katjivikua attended a two weeks Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study 2023 Conference (CSC) in Canada, Montréal in June 2023.

Mukulu and Katjivikua received a special invitation to the conference which brought together nearly 300 of the world's most promising emerging youth leaders from business, government, labour, and the community sector.

The two staff members felt that the conference was a wonderful learning experience, an eye opener and great opportunity to join fellow commonwealth young leaders around the globe.

"The greatest surprise of my life was the Summer Solstice (24 hours of night concurrently for six (6) days). The landscape was breathtaking, but the remoteness was isolating, generally the Canadians were extremely friendly and keen to engage and hear our stories," said Mukulu.

The conference exposed each member to new experiences, provoking arguments and different perspectives, so that the quality and relevance of their decision-making as leaders would be improved.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference takes place every four (4) years. Since the first conference in 1956, more than 8,000 young leaders have been through the global, national and regional affiliates programmes.



Mr. Sennen Mukulu and Mr. Mervin Katjivikua



Inter-ministerial delegation from Zimbabwe with delegates from PSC Namibia.

## Zim Public Service Commission (PSC) paid courtesy call to OPM

By Rhingo Mutambo

On 6 July 2023, Office of the Prime Minister received an inter-ministerial delegation from Zimbabwe for a benchmarking visit led by Mr. George Chigora, Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwean Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Mrs. Melody Chaurura to, *inter-alia*, compare notes on condition of services and benefits of Public Service as well as share best practices on Human Resource issues in the Public Service.

The delegation met with the Public Service Commission of Namibia, its technical support Departments and is scheduled to meet the Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. I-Ben Nashandi.

# 'Unity and patriotism, befitting way to honour our Heroes,' says PM

By: Maxmus N. Halwoodi

Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, in the Ovaherero traditional regalia, called on Namibians to unite and achieve a nation where no one feels left out.

She hastened to emphasize that 'tireless efforts' to inculcate unity is the most befitting way Namibians can honor those whose blood waters our freedom.

"It was unity of purpose and action that enabled them to remain resilient in their fight against invaders of our ancestor's land," said Prime Minister during the 127th commemoration of the Late Chief Omuhatamunua Hiakungairi Kahimemua Nguvauva held at Okahandja on 11 June 2023.

"We, therefore, say to all our heroes and heroines whose blood waters our freedom, that the land that you laid down your precious lives is now free and independent. Continue to rest in peace and we shall endeavor to take this country to prosperity," vowed the Prime Minister.

She reminded the nation that its patriotism that drove our ancestors to resist the invasion and occupation of the land by foreigners, and through their brave resistance, they inspired the next generation of Namibians to fight against colonialism, a fight from which the Namibian people emerged victorious, ushering in the birth of a free and independent Namibia.



Vice President Dr. Nangolo Mumba and Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Prime minister called on Namibians from all walks of life to remember, celebrate and continue honoring the late Chief for his bravery and patriotism, as this is a reminder of the bravery of our forefathers who stood up against colonial occupation.

Chief Nguvauva, of the Ovambanderu-Ovaherero community, was executed by the German colonial soldiers in 1896 at Okahandja, because of his fierce resistance to colonialism and foreign occupation.

## GRN to roll out nation-wide Drought Relief Programme

By: Rhingo Mutambo

Government will roll-out the biggest Drought Relief Programme in recent history, following the launch of the Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) and the 2023/2024 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Food Insecurity Communication Report, on 30 August 2023.

The 2023/24 VAA is an assessment that collects and analyzes livelihood and food security data, to inform policy and further aid the understanding of threats of natural and socio-economic disasters to food and nutrition security.

The assessment was conducted between May and July of 2023 and covered both urban and rural areas in all 14 regions. The primary data collected was supplemented by secondary data from key sectors. Launching the report, Mr. I-Ben Nashandi, Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister said the findings indicates that Namibia experienced below normal and sporadic rainfalls which culminated in a combination of flash floods and dry spells in some parts of the country.

"This has subjected communities to prospects of lower crop yields, impacts on livestock, and ultimately reduced household food stocks compromising food security at household levels. Poor grazing conditions in most regions across the country has also been observed," he said.

The 2022/23 food security and crop harvest situation report, estimates that the nation has harvested 153,000 Metric Tons, which is 9% less than the harvest of 168,200 Metric Tons from previous season (2021/22) due to poor rainfall in the crop growing regions, thus lowering cereal production expectations.

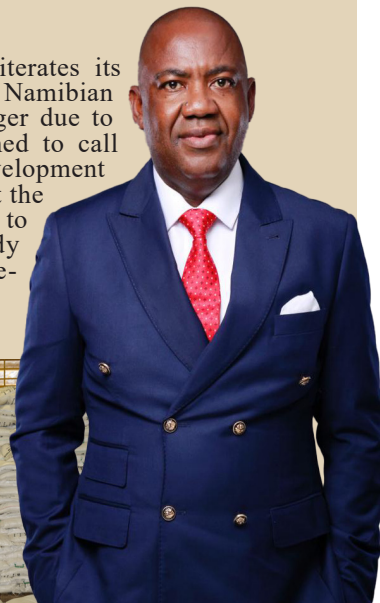
The report indicates that between the months of July to September 2023, approximately 579,000 people in Namibia (22% of the popu-

lation) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. It further projects that during the period October 2023 – March 2024, the number of people expected to experience food insecurity would further rise to 695,000 people (26% of the population). The projected population of 491,000 anticipated to be in Phase 3 or above during April to June 2024, is likely to increase.

The programme which is expected to cost government N\$ 892,4 million is two-pronged; the Drought Relief Programme and the Livestock Support Programme. The drought relief programme is effective from 01 October 2023 to June 2024, while livestock support programme will be implemented from 01 October 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The drought relief programme consists of food relief distribution coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister and implemented by Regional Councils across the country in all 14 regions, Water Provision, Livestock support such as marketing incentives, subsidies on lease of grazing, subsidies on transport to grazing areas and subsidies on fodder purchased.

Mr. Nashandi said government reiterates its commitment of ensuring that no Namibian citizen will die as a result of hunger due to the disasters. He, however, hastened to call upon the business fraternity and development partners to come on board and meet the government halfway in responding to this phenomenon. Some have already done so, and we express our appreciation.



Drought relief consignment at the warehouse

# FNB commended for robust GRN partnership on MSMEs

By Rhingo Mutambo

**Launching the FNB's Groundbreaking Occasion and Credit Guarantees Schemes for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), on 17 April 2023 in Windhoek, Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila commended the bank's partnership with government for a robust partnership with government to assist MSMEs in Namibia to access financing and re-launch of the MSME value proposition.**

During the launch the Prime Minister commended the bank for the initiative and its past efforts to support MSMEs development in the country.

"We are pleased to note the bank's commitment to partner with government to promote a robust MSMEs sector that offers an opportunity for emerging entrepreneurs to enter the mainstream economy, especially for our youth to deploy their creativities to transform the Namibian economy," Says Prime Minister.

Speaking at the same event, was the FNB CEO Erwin Tjipuka who mentioned that the bank's initiatives are geared towards equipping Namibian Entrepreneurs with the necessary financing opportunities needed to grow their businesses and boost country's economy.

"We believe these will help increase the level of MSMEs activity and create a culture of entrepreneurship in the country," says Erwin Tjipuka.



*Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (far right) after speaking at the First National Bank's Groundbreaking Occasion for the Credit Guarantee Schemes together with the Governor of Khomas Region; McLeod Katjirua and FNB management representatives ,on 17 April 2023.*

## Namibia open to initiatives to combat desertification



*Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila*

By Maxmus N. Halwoodi

"Namibia remains committed to supporting like-minded parties and collaborating with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat to identify tools to enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems". Says Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of Namibia.

The Premier made these remarks during the high level event to mark Desertification and Drought Day 2023 that took place on 16 June 2023 in New York, United State of America held under the theme "Her land, Her rights: Advancing gender equality and land restoration goals".

She further urged policymakers to go beyond immediate food needs and rather prioritize the empowerment of women and focus on long-term solutions for food shortages and enhancing national preparedness.

In accordance with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Decision 23/COP.11 taken during the COP11 in Windhoek, in

2013, on combating desertification, Namibia has thus made significant progress in achieving its Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets by targeting restoration actions in seven land degradation hotspots. Namibia endorsed the UNCCD in 1997 and has been actively implementing the Convention through its Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.



**SCAN  
FOR OUR  
CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARTERS**

# PM meets King Charles III



By Maxmus N. Halwoodi

Right Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (3rd row: 10th ) together with other 56 leaders of Commonwealth member states met with His Majesty King Charles III on the 5th May 2023, ahead of his Coronation at Marlborough House, the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Member States then met to discuss issues of mutual interest focusing more on initiatives to support the empowerment of young people, as this year has been designated the Commonwealth Year of Youth.

This year's gathering also marks the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter, which reaffirms the values and principles of the Commonwealth as well as its aspirations.



Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila with other delegates during the event

## HELP DESK

### AVOID INFO OVERSHARING ON ONLINE

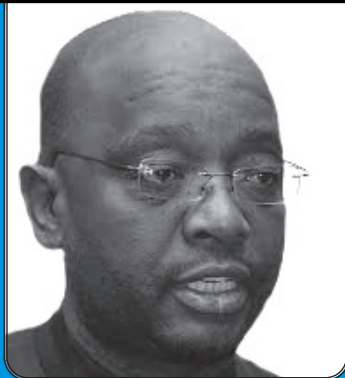


#### 3 TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID INFORMATION OVERSHARING ONLINE AND STAY SAFE

- 1. Keep very personal information offline** - Personal facts may make it easier for identity thieves and hackers, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. Hence, reconsider sharing things like full name, birth date, current employer, family member names, ID, driver's licence, phone numbers and, of course, your home address.
- 2. Think hard about the photos you post** - Next time you're uploading a photo, make sure that there is absolutely no personal information in sight.
- 3. Turn off location-based apps** - If you haven't turned the setting off, posting a status update from the couch may broadcast your address to the world. Thieves may use your address as one of the necessary pieces of financial data to potentially verify and steal your identity. Know how to turn off geolocation on all of your apps before posting your thoughts on social media.

Source: <https://www.allstate.com/resources/identity-protection/avoid-oversharing-online>

# OPM NEWS FLASH FROM THE ARCHIVES



Mr. Gerson Hizembi Kamatuka who is now a Commissioner at the Public Service Commission of Namibia served as Deputy Director for Division: Marginalised Communities Programme (formerly known as the Division: San Development Programme) in the Office of the Prime Minister from February 2006 – 2021 before the Division was moved to the Office of the Vice President in 2020.

He is one of the Commissioners that were appointed by the President this year at the PSC for a renewable five year term from 2021-2025, to, *inter-alia*, advise the President and the Government on any matter in relation to the appointment of suitable persons to specified categories of employment in the public service, with special regard to balanced structuring, disciplinary control, remuneration and retirement benefits.

## GRN advocates for locally driven economic growth



Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila visting exhibitors' stands during Opuwo Trade Fair

By Rhingo Mutambo

Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila encouraged the leadership and residents of local authorities in Namibia, to embrace resilience in their pursuit of prosperity for their towns, adding that Government (GRN) shares in their passion to bring development down to the people.

In essence, she emphasized, “the government’s development policy advocates for a locally driven economic growth that optimizes welfare conditions of Namibians.

The Prime Minister made this remarks during the official opening of the 10<sup>th</sup> Jubilant Celebration of the Opuwo Annual Trade Fair, at Opuwo on 24 May 2023.

She further said government leverages on the country’s abundant natural resources, harnesses the energies and creativities of our youth, and optimizes the opportunities for increased trade brought about by regional integration and globalization.

She made this, in view of positive recovery in the economy after a prolonged economic downturn occasioned by weather related emergencies and Covid-19.

The recovery presents an opportunity for new emerging businesses to enter the market and for the existing businesses to turn around their

businesses which were negatively impacted by these emergencies.

Government has launched several initiatives aimed to support economic and business recovery and to promote the development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as drivers for job creation and entry points for aspirant entrepreneurs into the main stream economy.

It also reviewed the kind of support that it provides to businesses and worked out measures to improve them. Some of these measures, *inter-alia*, include the establishment of the Business Rescue Fund to give businesses the much needed relief, so that they can turn around their fortunes and help consolidate the economic recovery and put the economy back on a higher growth trajectory. The government also continues to use public procurement to provide an off take market for local producers.

As a proponent for locally sourced products, the Prime Minister further urged Namibian businesses to venture into local production in order to take advantage of the opportunities created through public procurement.

She posits that the disruptions in supply chains which has caused shortages of critical supplies and price hikes in basic products have highlighted the vulnerability of our economy due to reliance on imports and the need to build national resilience by developing self-reliance in basic commodities.

Hence, she says, it is important that, as Namibians, we buy locally made products as this supports local enterprises development, promote job creation and economic expansion and reduce reliance on imports which exposes us to shocks from external factors.

It is also important for the resilience of our economy that we engage in value addition. The natural resources offers a basis for industrialization through processing of raw resources.

By adding value to our natural resources, we optimize opportunities for job creation and increase earnings from processed resources, thereby optimizing the benefits from the country’s natural resources. The Namibia government will continue to support the local businesses and foreign investors in order to promote increased investment in the country.



## Office engagements at a glance!



Right Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila received a courtesy call by UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Hopolong Phororo on 26 June 2023. The two had an in-depth discussion on how best United Nations and Namibia can counter pressing issues like youth unemployment, gender base violence as well as deepening ongoing partnerships.

Right Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila met with Alar Karis, the President of Estonia at their High Commissioner in London, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations shared between the two states, on 07 May 2023.



On his three day visit to Namibia, President of Finland, H.E. Sauli Niinisto paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila at State House, on 28 April 2023.

Turkish Ambassador, H.E. Feral Çekerek Oruçkaptan paid courtesy call to Right Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on 14 April 2023.

The two leaders updated each other on matters of common interest, Turkish activities in Namibia and bilateral relations. They further discussed cooperation in the area of housing, agriculture, trade and investment.

“Investment and trade would provide prosperity, economic opportunities and alleviate poverty between our two countries. we look forward to your office to facilitate this cooperation initiatives,” said the Prime Minister





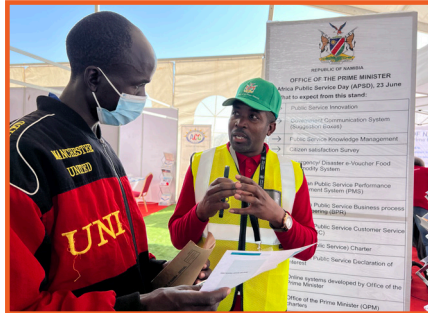
# COMMEMORATION OF THE 2023 AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY

24-27 JULY 2023,  
KATIMA MULILO - ZAMBEZI REGION



Zambezi Regional Council

# APSD 2023 IN PICTURES





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