



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

NEWSLETTER

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STOP

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

VISION

A caring and inclusive society where all Namibians enjoy a dignified life.

MANDATE

To ensure gender equality, poverty eradication and socio-economic development of targeted groups.

MISSION

To create, promote an enabling environment and equal opportunities for sustainable socio-economic development for the wellbeing of targeted groups.

PILLARS AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. Gender Equality and Related Human Rights Advocacy
2. Accelerate Socio-Economic Development and Integration of women, girls and boys, marginalized communities and persons with disabilities
3. Stakeholder Coordination
4. Institutional Excellence

CORE VALUES

Integrity
Teamwork
Empathy
Inclusivity
Professionalism
Accountability
Accessibility

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY, POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



Hon. DOREEN SIOKA
Minister



Hon. BERNADETTE JAGGER
Deputy Minister



Hon. ALEXIA MANOMBE-NCUBE
Deputy Minister
Disability Affairs



Hon. ROYAL /Ui/o/oo
Deputy Minister
Marginalised Communities



Ms. ESTHER LUSEPANI
Executive Director



Ms. MARTHA MBOMBO
Deputy Executive Director

CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION SERVICES



Ms HELENA ANDJAMBA
Director
Child Welfare Services

POLICY, PLANNING AND RESEARCH



Mr WILBARD NASHANDI
Director
Policy, Planning and Research



FILIMON SHIIMI
Deputy Director
Policy and Planning

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Mr VICTOR SHIPOH
Director
Gender Equality & Research



Ms PENOSHINGE SHILILIFA
Deputy Director
Research & Legislation

SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES

Ms VALENTINA MULONGENI
Director
Social Protection Services

Ms LOURENCIA TJIHO
Deputy Director
Grant Reconciliation

Mr ALBERT BIWA
Deputy Director
Social Assistance

DISABILITY AFFAIRS AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

Ms NIITA IIPINGE
Director
Disability affairs and
marginalised communities

Ms MERCY KUFUNA
Deputy Director
Disability Affairs

Mr GERSON KAMATUKA
Deputy Director
Maginalised Communities

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION



Ms ROSINA MUBONENWA
Director
Gender Mainstreaming



Mr JOSIA KAVAA
Deputy Director
Community Empowerment



Ms LOIDE VELISHAVO
Deputy Director
Early Childhood Development

ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL SERVICES



Mr NICHLAS MBINGENEKOO
Director
Admin & General Services



Ms ALISA KANUTUS
Deputy Director
Finance



Mr SACKARIA SHEEHAMA
Deputy Director
HR Management



Mr JOHANNES K. EMBULA
Deputy Director
General Services

FOREWORD

As the presidency lifted the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Ministry was quick to recall all its staff members to report for work. I am pleased to welcome all staff members back as they proved resilient during tough times. The COVID-19 State of Emergency severely affected life and work as to how we know, yet through the comfort of homes, staff members still reported for duty and got the job done.

Despite the lifting of the Covid-19 State of emergency, cases are still on the rise nationwide, Henceforth, staff members of the Ministry are encouraged to follow the rules laid down by the authorities and take precautionary measures such as hand sanitizing, practicing social distancing, wearing of protective masks and avoiding overcrowding at the workplace, among others, in order to contain the outbreak.

The Ministry is mandated to ensure gender equality, poverty eradication and socio-economic development of targeted groups. I, therefore, appeal to all staff members to redouble efforts in ensuring operational excellence because the benefit of the equitable socio-economic development of women, men and children is not a benefit earmarked for some only, but an extension of services to all.

Thus, in the quest for service excellence, we must take special care to warrant inclusion of everyone, not withholding marginalized communities and persons with disabilities



seeing that the pandemic has brought additional barriers to them. I further urge all staff member to adhere to set protocols to ensure that we keep safe and render exceptional services during these trying times. With the recent surge in gender-based violence acts that have wreaked havoc across the county, may we be reminded that we are public advocates, we should be at the forefront in speaking out against these heinous acts and confront the destructive stereotypes that serve to normalize rape and gender inequality.

Let me reiterate that we have been entrusted with the mantle to ensure equity for all, including persons with disabilities, reintegrate marginalized communities into the mainstream economy, address the plight of children living and working on the street, eradicate poverty and end GBV to mention but a few. Therefore, let us not grow weary in doing good.

Regards,

Esther Lusepani
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT



Hon Doreen Sioka with Ms Esther Lusepani, Exetutive Director, and Mr Moses Ndumba, Principal: Cocoma Primary School.

On 29 September 2020, Hon. Doreen Sioka addressed Parliament and shone the spotlight on social media saying, “there have been many critics that have worked against the gains and efforts aimed at nation building, particularly through social media which some consumers have used as their primary source of information which is many at times not verifiable and thus pose a great threat of dissemination false information and rumours.”

A few months ago, many people were in dismay when a clip of Lukas Tsamseb, also known as Irivari, went viral on social media showing him abusing alcohol as well as smoking cigarettes at the pleasure of onlookers.



Lukas Tsamseb

Judging from the dialogue, Tsamseb displayed traits of an intelligent person, which could possibly be harnessed to give him the greater chance in life and in so doing contributes to building the greater Namibian House. Efforts were made by Government and good Samaritans to reintegrate him into school and re-unite him with his family. COVID-19 however had a negative effect on him since school closed and he had to resort back to life on the street.

Hon Sioka further mentioned that since the restart of face-to-face learning, Tsamseb has gone back to school and efforts are now underway to ensure that he and the parents receive their national identity documents. That will allow the Ministry to register him on the Disability Grant. In addition, she highlighted

that according to the report by the social worker assigned to Tsamseb, was not happy when people posted videos of him on Facebook and YouTube without his consent which is a clear infringement of his privacy. “According to the Namibian Constitution - Chapter 3: Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms guarantees the protection of the ultimate rights and freedoms of all legal persons in Namibia and shall be respected and upheld by all” she concluded.

The case of Cocoma Primary School

Recently, there was a video of Cocoma Primary School, Kavango East circulating on social media. It depicted dilapidated hostel facilities, which caused a public outcry. It was further alleged that the school was replacing learners from marginalized communities. On 17 September 2020, the Ministry visited the school and found that the video in question was captured in 2016 and not in 2020 as portrayed.



Cocoma Primary School return for face-to-face learning

The school which began as a mobile school initiative and was shifting from one village to another, until in 2008 when a permanent school was set up at Cocoma, mainly because the area had adequate water. Due to distance, communities came up with an initiative to build a hostel. Although the material used was substandard, it improved retention and the school population grew from 24 learners in 2014 to 233 in 2020.

In addition, a good Samaritan helped construct two hostel blocks using corrugated iron. The delegation of the MGEPSW met a dedicated Principal, Mr. Moses Ndumba, who is taking care of the San children who are registered at the school. The

2 hostel blocks that were constructed by a good Samaritan lack floors and the children do not have beds, mattresses and beddings. They cook on open fires and have no designated kitchen facilities and sanitation facilities. The Ministry will work together with the Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture to find a solution to the plight of the learners of Cocoma Primary School.

Hon Sioka said, "Social media has both the power to act as a catalyst for nation building or division. Thus, care should always be exercised to ensure that you as an informer do not distribute distortions of facts."

The same goes for the consumer, it is important to filter information and not just consume it blindly, this is because most stories on social media do not have credible sources, gatekeepers and is not subjected to ethics."

Hon. Sioka also questioned some reports by the traditional media citing a report that was aired on NBC TV on 07 September 2020. The State broadcaster reported on a man with physical disability, from Groot Aub, that was not receiving Government assistance. However, after follow-up it was found that the client was provided with prostheses, a wheelchair, and crutches.

The finding indicated that some relevant information pertaining to his well-being was omitted. She thus requested media houses to accord relevant Ministries a fair chance to the right of reply to assure balanced and fair reporting. "I would like to also caution the public from using media as a tool to garner sympathy and fundraise for issues that have already received solutions too," she remarked.

Hon Sioka was pleased with the efforts by the State broadcaster in bringing information to the public. She alluded to the Sunday, 06 September 2020 report of 36-year-old Matengu from the Zambezi region who is wheelchair bound and paralysed from the waist down. "I visited Mr. Matengu who resides in Bukalo to assess his situation. I found him suffering from family neglect since he only depends on good Samaritans to assist in cooking and caring for him. His wheelchair is in a deplorable state and needs a new wheelchair urgently".

The Minister reported that efforts by her Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Social Services are underway to organize a wheelchair for him. This will include psychosocial support and registration for the Food Bank.

GBV

Gender Based Violence (GBV) continues to raise its ugly head in Namibia, especially during the past few weeks since the state of emergency was lifted. On 14 September 2020, a 12-year old minor girl was raped in the presence of her mother and younger sister. The incident occurred at around 03:00 at their residence in Kamanjab Street, Havana informal Settlement, in Windhoek in which suspects allegedly took turns to rape the girl before robbing the family of their belongings.

Speaking in Parliament, Hon. Doreen Sioka, mentioned that it is "... disheartening to note that the lives of women and children are still in danger at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them. The rights of women and children are in no way less than those of any other citizens. What is the gratification of raping a woman, a child and/or a baby who are during their physical and mental development? This type of act leaves a scar that will last a lifetime."

Recent incidents have proven that it is not only women and children that are at the risk of having their rights violated, citing the senseless attack on Mr Andy Kazekondjo (29), who was shot and killed while trying to save his sister from allegedly being raped in Windhoek's Havana informal settlement. This was further exacerbated by the rape of a 21 years old man who was allegedly raped and robbed while he was on his way home.

Hon. Doreen Sioka thus strongly condemned all such incidents since they are a violation of fundamental human rights as enshrined in, inter alia, the Namibia Constitution, the Combating of Rape Act 2000, (Act No. 8 of 2000) and Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 (Act No. 3 of 2015). Namibia should be a place where people should feel safe within the confines of their homes and in public places.

Hon. Doreen Sioka mentioned that the Ministry, with its stakeholders, remains committed to ensuring that victims of Gender Based-Violence, Trafficking in Persons, Violence Against Children and all such barbaric and horrendous acts of violence receive the necessary psychosocial support, and that culprits are brought to book. "We plead with the public not to shelter or hide criminals or wanted persons. Victims are encouraged to seek justice. It is time to speak out against abuse and take a zero-tolerance stance. Together, we shall do a lot to inform, educate and prevent abuse in Namibia", she concluded.

DAY OF THE NAMIBIAN CHILD



Hon. Doreen Sioka, Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare

Namibia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the 28 September 1990. Consequently, the date was declared a national day for the Namibian Child by Cabinet in 2000.

It has since then become a culture to celebrate it yearly, focusing on different themes aimed at raising awareness on the rights and responsibilities of the Namibian child. As a norm, the theme for the African Child Day, which is commemorated on 16 June, is replicated to the Day of the Namibia Child. This theme is proposed by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare for the Child.

The theme for 2020 is “Access to a child-friendly justice system in Africa” and was endorsed by the Executive Council on its 34th ordinary session in February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation, the theme was dubbed “Access to Child-friendly Justice in Namibia during COVID-19 pandemic”.

Speaking at the occasion, Hon. Doreen Sioka, Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, mentioned that a child-friendly justice system should serve and protect all children irrespective of their socio-economic or cultural backgrounds. She further noted that social workers and other protection organizations continue to ensure that children have access to justice and other services.

She further mentioned that the Child Justice Bill, a legal document that makes provision for dealing with all children who come in conflict with the law, is under discussion. If passed, the Child Justice Bill envisions to establish a distinct criminal justice system for children and proposes a reviewed minimum age of criminal capacity. In summary, the Child Justice Bill will create special rules for a child justice court and addresses issues of legal presentation for children, sentencing options and appeal procedures.

Some of the highlights shared are that more diversion programs should be developed to effectively deal with children that come into contact with the law; increased parental involvement and a wish to see the Child Justice Bill passed as soon as possible. It was suggested that mentors should be identified to get involved to guide and support children; and that social ills such as child poverty should be addressed as it sometimes is the driver of criminal activities for children.



Mrs. Helena Andjamba, Director: Child Welfare Services on Good Morning Namibia.

A banner for the COVID-19 Communication Centre. It features the Republic of Namibia coat of arms and the text 'COVID-19 Communication Centre'. Below this, it says '28 September 2020 | 15h00 SESSION'. A red box indicates 'Discussion will focus on: Namibia commemorates day of the Namibian Child'. Four circular portraits of panelists are shown: Ms. Amelia Musukumbili (Deputy Director/Child Welfare), Ms. Ellen Twapewa Shipona (Public prosecutor), Hon. Rivaldo Kavanga (Chairperson: Health Committee), and Ms. Kumbee Tjirongo (Childline Radio Presenter). A red box at the bottom says 'Live streaming on media TV channels, radio stations and social media platforms' with social media handles @MICTNamibia, @MICTNamibia, and @mict_namibia. At the bottom, it says 'Toll-free info or queries, Email: Covid.Nam@mict.gov.na' and lists logos for the Ministry of Health and Social Services, My Namibia, PEPFAR, UNAM, and the United Nations.

A panel discussion titled ‘Namibia commemorates Day of the Namibian Child’ followed and it was presented by a child moderator, Mr. Abraham Angula; two child panellists: Mr. Rivaldo Kavanga, a member of the Children’s Parliament and Ms. Kumbee Tjirongo, a ChildLine radio presenter. Additionally, the panel included Ms. Ellen Twapewa, Katutura Magistrate Court Public Prosecutor and Ms. Amelia Musukumbili, Deputy Director of Child Care Facilities and Protection Division who joined the meeting virtually.

Mrs. Rahimisa Kamuingona, Control Social Worker: Child Welfare concluded the day on the special children bulletin on NBC television.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

On 30 July 2020 Namibia Commemorated the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Speaking at the occasion, Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Hon. Doreen Sioka, mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic is putting the world under enormous strain, affecting the life of everyone. This impacts the capacity of governments, civil society organizations to provide essential services to victims of trafficking in persons.

However, "there should be no fear that COVID-19 will undermine the role of first responders, as the Government of the Republic of Namibia is ready to explore all possible essential and practical operations to render support" she narrated. Hon Sioka further emphasized that there is a need to double efforts in combating trafficking in persons.

The keynote speaker at the event, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations And Cooperation mentioned that this year's commemoration is under the international theme: "Committed to the Cause - Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking." It focuses on the first responders to human trafficking. These are the people at the forefront of work; such as Police, Health Workers, Social Workers and borders personnel. This personnel in different sectors are at the forefront of identifying, supporting, counselling and seeking justice for victims of trafficking and challenging the impunity of traffickers.

"Trafficking in persons is a crime against human dignity and freedom for women, men and children. You will agree with me that human trafficking has become a huge global modern-day slavery, which calls for raising awareness, encouraging vigilance and intensively supporting the interventions that are focused on the prevention thereof," Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

In cementing the awareness, the UN early in 2000 adopted the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons and criminalize all acts of trafficking which includes forced labour, slavery, sexual abuse, and that governments in their response should incorporate the '3P' aspects which are: Prevention, Criminal Prosecution and victim

Protection.

Furthermore, she mentioned that trafficking in persons is an organized, multi-billion dollar criminal industry. It is a global problem and needs global attention and solution. She, therefore, called on all countries to work together, by putting domestic and international laws in place that criminalize trafficking in person, raise awareness to their people to prevent the increase of trafficking in persons locally and abroad.

It is against that background that Namibia enacted the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 (Act No. 1 of 2018) which came into force on 6 April 2020. Information on trafficking in persons should be shared widely with all people so that they know the acts of trafficking in persons when they see it.

"Human trafficking is not only practiced by outsiders, it could also happen within the country knowingly or unknowingly. I, therefore, call on all Namibians to be aware of this law and trafficking activities to report any suspicious acts of trafficking in persons," she added.

Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah mentioned that she was delighted for Namibia to have reached Tier 1. However, that does not mean that the country is 100% perfect but has tried to put mechanisms in place to protect our people from becoming victims of trafficking.

As a country, Namibia has, inter alia, -

- Put in place regulations which enabled the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 (Act No. 1 of 2018) to come into force;
- Significantly increased the number of prosecutions, convicted and sentenced one trafficker;
- Improved our mechanisms to identify victims;
- Referred to a higher percentage of identified victims to care, and partially funded two NGO shelters that provided protective services for victims;
- Facilitated the voluntary participation of more victims with law enforcement investigations and provided victim-witnesses with protective services;

- Launched a nationwide awareness campaign in collaboration with an international organization, increased training of front-line responders to prevent trafficking; and
- Continued to utilize the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional data collection tool to gather and organize clear trafficking data.

"Hard work and collaboration are needed to strengthen and maintain our accomplishments, especially with regard to increasing awareness country-wide to ensure that trafficking in persons is understood and recognised by all citizens," she remarked.

Prosecutor general Martha Imalwa echoed the same sentiments adding that working on the frontline to end human trafficking requires people to work smart. That is, smarter and faster than the trafficker to win the fight to end human trafficking.

According to statistics, Ambassador Lisa Johnson, US Ambassador to Namibia, mentioned that there

is an estimate of 25 million victims of trafficking throughout the world, no country is untouched by its reach.

Lt.Gen. Sebastian Ndeitunga, OMS, Inspector - General of the Namibian Police mentioned that a robust approach by all stakeholders is very essential for the Police and the prosecution authorities to secure justice for the victims of trafficking in persons."

Also, Ms Florence Situmbeko, IOM Namibia, narrated that during this COVID-19 crisis, all stakeholders must join efforts in sensitizing the general public of trafficking in persons, for them to either identify potential victims of trafficking or become vigilant in informing authorities or to decrease the utilization of products or services that may be linked to trafficking in persons.

Trafficking in person is commemorated on 30 July each year to intensify and create awareness to prevent issues of human trafficking.

HOUSES FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN KAVANGO WEST REGION



Hon Doreen Sioka delivering her speech as she handed over the 32 low-cost housing units to marginalized communities in Kavango West Region, Nkurekuru.

The Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Hon. Doreen Sioka, handed over 32 houses to marginalized community members living in Kavango West Region, Nkurekuru, (Mayara and Siurungu villages) on 18 September 2020.

The provision of housing aims to alleviate poverty and destituteness in the San community.

Hon Sioka expressed dissatisfaction with the prevailing high level of 'stigmatization towards marginalized communities which requires a rigorous behavioral change model from the rest of community members within Kavango West Region and Namibia as a whole.

Hon Sioka thanked NORED (for pledging to electrify the village), the Headman, Kavango West Regional Council and Nkurenkuru Town Council for their assistance in availing land and their services in assisting vulnerable people.



PAYING HOMAGE

Hon. Bernadette Maria Jagger rendered her condolences to the family of the late Andy Kazekondjo (29), who was shot and killed while trying to save his sister from allegedly being raped in Windhoek's Havana Informal Settlement. Hon. Jagger accentuated that the late Andy Kazekondjo paid the highest price, and it is indeed sad to have lost his life in the way he did. She urged the family to take comfort in the memories they shared and condemned the senseless act of violence and assured them that the Ministry would assist them appropriately.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS) FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

A scope study for establishment of a digital and integrated management information System for social protection in Namibia was conducted. The scoping study analysed the MIS landscape in Namibia, the study identified key issues, it also set the objectives for integration and it proposed the MIS model for integration.

BASIC INCOME GRANT

The interim report of the Basic Income Grant (BIG) feasibility study in Namibia was developed and it is to be discussed with stakeholder. The study's overall objective is to determine the viability of providing a Basic Income Grant to vulnerable Namibians (unemployed and those in severe poverty) between the ages of 19 and 59 not covered by any existing social grants.

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NATIONAL DISABILITY DAY CELEBRATION



Hon Alexia Manombe-Ncube,
Deputy Minister: Disability Affairs

Namibians celebrated the National Disability Day under the theme, “Ensuring Inclusivity in the Fight against COVID-19” In the capital on Tuesday, 22 September 2020. Speaking during the event, Hon Alexia Manombe-Ncube, Deputy Minister, said she is honoured and privileged to address the

celebration of the much delayed National Disability Day. The event usually takes place between 10 June and the end of July each year.

This year the event was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic which also affected attendance. “For months now, the pandemic has challenged all of us to think outside the box, to become innovative and creative to ensure that we continue to deliver the best possible services to the Namibian nation. Today we are indeed witnessing extraordinary plans that were made to celebrate National Disability Day in a different fashion”, Hon Alexia Manombe-Ncube said.

Hon Alexia Manombe-Ncube, mentioned that Inclusivity is a cornerstone word and action in the Human and Developmental Rights Agenda for Persons with Disabilities. Inclusivity should be included in all aspects of life, be it education, culture, health, politics, sport, the labour market and all others.

She thanked various individuals and organizations, such as the media, artists, sign language interpreters who made special efforts during this time to ensure that COVID-19 messages reached persons with disabilities.

Hon Alexia Manombe-Ncube, further handed over the donation of a hundred food parcels, hundred blankets, sanitizers and face masks to various vulnerable members of the disability community as identified through the various organizations of persons with disabilities in the Khomas Region.

She appreciated the Chairperson of Disability Trust, Mr. Tamani Ndauendapo, who donated fifty parcels of food, blankets, masks and sanitizers to the Council to be divided amongst the most vulnerable persons with disabilities as identified through their various respective OPDs for this particular purpose. She also commended the National Disability Council of Namibia for adding to the fifty donated parcels to bring this number of parcels to hundred to cater for an additional 50 beneficiaries.

Hon Alexia Manombe-Ncube expressed the hope that these parcels, although few, will make a big difference in the lives of the beneficiaries, while at the same time calling upon the affluent members of society to work together with the National Disability Council to assist vulnerable members of our communities with disabilities for the duration of this pandemic.

She, in conclusion, cautioned the organizations of persons with disabilities to ensure that these parcels reach the intended beneficiaries. She urged all Namibians, especially persons with disabilities, to follow the prevailing guidelines on combating the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid situations leading to being infected with the virus.

KINSHIP CARE

CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION ACT, 2015 (ACT 3 OF 2015)

Kinship care is an ancient practice which has in Namibian been formalized through the enactment of the Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 (Act 3 of 2015), hereinafter referred to as the Act. The Act defines 'kinship Care' as the care of a child by a member of the child's family or extended family other than the parent or guardian of the child or a person who has parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

It is a voluntary arrangement made between family members. The biological parents or any person who hold parental rights in terms of a child can nominate a relative to be a kinship caregiver. A court can order a placement in kinship care if the child is in need of protective services, where this would be in the child's best interest.

For example, this could apply in a situation where the child cannot be adequately cared for by the parents because they are ill and there is a suitable family member who is willing to take on the responsibility of the child.

WHAT IS A KINSHIP CARE AGREEMENT?

A kinship care agreement is an agreement between a child's parent or guardian and the kinship care-giver about the child's care. It is a legally binding document which outlines the responsibilities of the kinship care-giver and the biological parent/guardian. Kinship care can be long term, but it is not the same as adoption in that kinship care does not affect parental responsibilities and rights.

A kinship care agreement may, inter alia, cover:

- Where and with whom the child lives;
- Payment of maintenance;
- Schooling and religious upbringing;
- Rights and responsibilities that the parent or guardian is temporarily delegating to the kinship care-giver; and
- Contact with the child by parent or other relatives.

A kinship care agreement must be in writing, and it must be signed by two witnesses. It should be made with due consideration of the views of the child, depending on the child's age and maturity

HOW TO FINALISE A KINSHIP CARE AGREEMENT

There are two options, namely kinship care agreements can be kept private within the family or kinship care agreements can be registered at the Children's Court.

A kinship care agreement **MUST** be registered at the Children's Court if the kinship care-giver wants to receive a state grant on behalf of the child. The registration process is intended to make sure that a grant paid for a particular child goes to the person who is caring for that child.

CHANGING OR CANCELLING A KINSHIP CARE AGREEMENT

Either party to a kinship care agreement may change or cancel it at any time. The kinship care-giver does not have to agree to a parent's change or cancellation, because a kinship care-giver does not have the same rights and responsibilities over the child as a parent.

Similarly, because kinship care-givers do not have parental rights and responsibilities, they do not have to continue caring for someone else's child if they choose not to. If the kinship agreement is registered with the Court, the person making the change must notify the Court of the change or cancellation within seven days.

PERMANENT TASK FORCE



Key stakeholders in child protection across Namibia

The Second Quarterly Permanent Task Force (PTF) meeting for 2020 took place on 23 July 2020 at Avani Hotel, Windhoek. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders in child protection across Namibia and was made possible with the generous support of Project Hope Namibia.

The overall theme of the PTF meeting was to discuss the COVID-19 responses by the different stakeholders. Presentations were made by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication

and Social Welfare (MGEPSW), the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS), the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MOEAC) and Project Hope Namibia (PHN). Among the highlights were the development guidelines on child protection and case management during COVID-19 by MGEPSW. The MEAC reported that

the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the postponement of face-to-face teaching. The MOHSS shared the objectives of the psychosocial support programme that enhances the social functioning of people in distress for them to deal with their needs and problems to cope with their stressful situation.

The PHN shared that they distribute comfort packs to active DREAMS project beneficiaries aged 10 – 24. The contents of the comfort packs included sanitary pads and condoms.

CASE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONAL MANUAL



Supervisors Training on Supervision Guidelines as per Case Management Operational Manual Training

The Ministry, in collaboration with Project Hope Namibia has been collaborating on the DREAMS programme, which targets Adolescent Girls and Young Women in particular. The programme has been operating in Zambezi, Oshikoto and Khomas regions, respectively.

During the weeks 06–18 July 2020, the Ministry conducted the Supervisors training on supervision guidelines as per Case Management Operational Manual. Two trainings were conducted for fifty (50) senior level staff in the Directorate, which included Control Social workers, Chief Social workers, Senior Social workers, and the Senior Administrative Officers. The first training took place

during the week of the 6–10 July 2020 whilst the second training took place on the 13-17 July 2020 in Windhoek, respectively.

Group one participants were from the following regions: Oshana, Ohangwena, Kunene, Omusati and Hardap, Oshikoto, Kavango East, whilst group two participants were from Khomas, Zambezi, Omaheke, Karas, Otjozondjupa and Kavango West.

The training objectives were to review the implementation of the case management system in each region, orient Control, Chief and Senior Social Workers and Senior Administrative Officers on supportive supervision as a reflective practice and supportive process, provide a framework for the Control, Chief, Senior Social workers and Senior Administrative Officer for supportive supervision to social workers and administrative officers in a standardized manner, define practice, types, models and tools for supervision, align the process of supportive supervision with the case management process, define roles and responsibilities of each actor involved in different levels of supervision, review the role of supervisors in statutory reports and to highlight the importance of supportive supervision in grant administration.

TRAINING ON CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION Act, 2015 (Act 3 of 2015)

The Ministry, with support from UNICEF, conducted a two-day training session for the Clerks of the Court who specifically work in the Children's Act and orientate them on the provision of the Act. The training focused primarily on the role of the Clerks of the Court in child protection proceedings as well as an overview of all essential provisions of the Act.

During the same week, a total of 35 social workers were also trained on the provision of the same Act with the assistance of the Legal Assistance Centre. The aim of the training was to build the capacity of



Capacity building with staff members from the

Child Care Services Directorate

social workers as Trainer of Trainers on the Act, who will in turn train other staff members within the Ministry.

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Supervisors Training on Supervision Guidelines as per Case Management Operation's Manual Training

The Ministry, in collaboration with Project Hope Namibia has been collaborating on the DREAMS programme, which targets Adolescent Girls and Young Women in particular. The programme has been operating in Zambezi, Oshikoto and Khomas regions, respectively.

During the weeks 06–18 July 2020, the Ministry conducted the Supervisors training on supervision guidelines as per Case Management Operational Manual. Two trainings were conducted for fifty (50) senior level staff in the Directorate, which included Control Social workers, Chief Social workers, Senior Social workers, and the Senior Administrative Officers.

The first training took place during the week of the 6–10 July 2020 whilst the second training took place on the 13-17 July 2020 in Windhoek, respectively. Group one participants were from the following regions: Oshana, Ohangwena, Kunene, Omusati and Hardap, Oshikoto, Kavango East, whilst group two participants were from Khomas, Zambezi, Omaheke, Karas, Otjozondjupa and Kavango West.

The training objectives were to review the implementation of the case management system in each region, orient Control, Chief and Senior Social Workers and Senior Administrative Officers on supportive supervision as a reflective practice and supportive process, provide a framework for the Control, Chief, Senior Social workers and Senior Administrative Officer for supportive supervision to social workers and administrative officers in a standardized manner, define practice, types, models and tools for supervision, align the process of supportive supervision with the case management process, define roles and responsibilities of each actor involved in different levels of supervision, review the role of supervisors in statutory reports and to highlight the importance of supportive supervision in grant administration.

STAFF MOBILITY

(a) Recruitment

No	Types of Recruitment	Number of staff members
1	Normal Retirement	1
2	Internal promotion	1
3	Resignation	2
4	Transfer from other OMAs/RCs	3
GRAND TOTAL		7

OSHANA GENDER PERMANENT TASK FORCE

The Directorate of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment held a Gender Permanent Task Force workshop with the leadership of the Oshana Regional Council aimed at reviving the Oshana Regional Gender Permanent Task Force (RGPTF). Speaking at the occasion, Hon Elia Irimari, Governor: Oshana Region, stressed that the RGPTF platform serves as a means for mainstreaming gender at all levels and it also serves as a platform for addressing regional gender issues using a multi-sectoral approach and gender-responsive planning and budgeting.

He further stated that the coordination mechanism uses a multi-sectoral approach and serves as a guide for the implementation of gender programmes. The National Gender Policy and its Plans of Action require demanding efforts from all stakeholders and institutions through the Regional Gender Permanent Task Force. All members of the RGPTF and representatives of relevant institutions are required to immediately start convening their Task Force Meetings and discuss how the Regions will address gender issues at all levels.

SERVING CHILDREN ON THE STREETS

The After School Centre in collaboration with the Windhoek City Police conducted a street visit operation aimed identifying and assisting persons and children living and working on the streets. This included visits at hotspots like shopping malls, street corners, dumpsites, and riverbeds. A total of 12 children (10 boys and 2 girls) were removed from the streets.

Intervention services included providing information regarding the dangers of being on the streets, educate and warning parents who were sending their children to the streets or dumpsites, and linking children to further services. In addition, food parcels and toiletries are also given to households of such children in order to keep them off the streets.

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY

November 2019

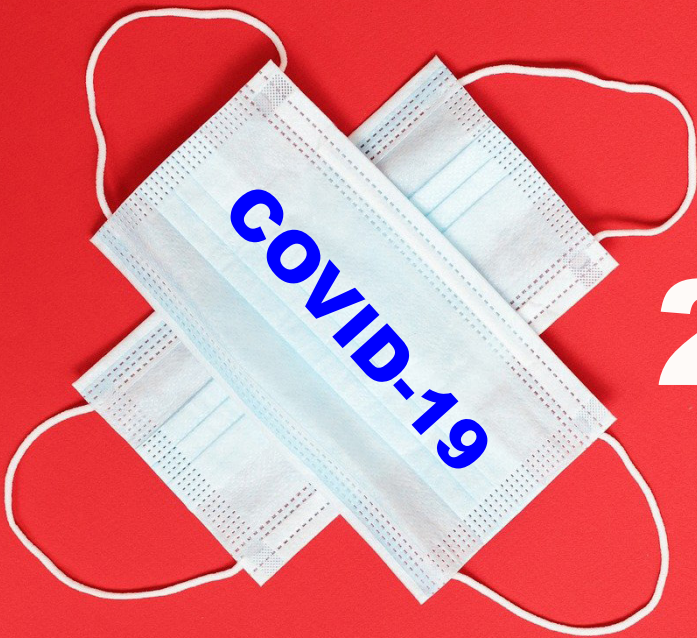
SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY FOR NAMIBIA

In May 2020, the Ministry submitted the Social Protection Policy to Cabinet for approval. The Social Protection Policy seeks to resolve the existing problems in the provision of social protection, including fragmentation, weak coordination and coverage, inadequacy of benefits and the absence of integrated management information systems for social protection. The policy puts emphasis on the life cycle approach, thereby ensuring that the different vulnerabilities faced by people from young age, through to old age are adequately addressed. A Cabinet decision is likely to be made before cabinet close business for this year.

BENEVOLENCE

On 25 July 2020 Bakpro donated 180 loaves of bread to the After School Centre (ASC). The bread was given to children in the school integration program during home visits, children found on the streets, wrestlers and boxers. On 28 July 2020

Salute Boxing Academy disinfected the After School Centre boxing and gym hall. The academy works in partnership with the ASC Boxing Club to promote amateur boxing amongst children aged 7-18 years. The Ministry herewith extends special gratitude to Bakpro and to Salute Boxing Academy for their support.



1 Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

2 Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and others. Why? When someone coughs, sneezes, or speaks they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person has the disease.

3 Physical distancing alone can't prevent COVID-19 transmission, it is important that it is combined with other public health measures, such as hand and respiratory hygiene, environmental clean-up and disinfection of commonly touched surfaces and objects, ventilation, wearing face masks and a policy of staying at home if unwell.

4 Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and infect you.

5 Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze

6 Maintain a healthy diet - What we eat and drink can affect our body's ability to prevent, fight and recover from infections.

7 Avoid hazardous and harmful alcohol use and tobacco.

8 Regular physical activity benefits both the body and mind. It can reduce high blood pressure, help manage weight and reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and various cancers. People with pre-existing medical conditions appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

**Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication
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