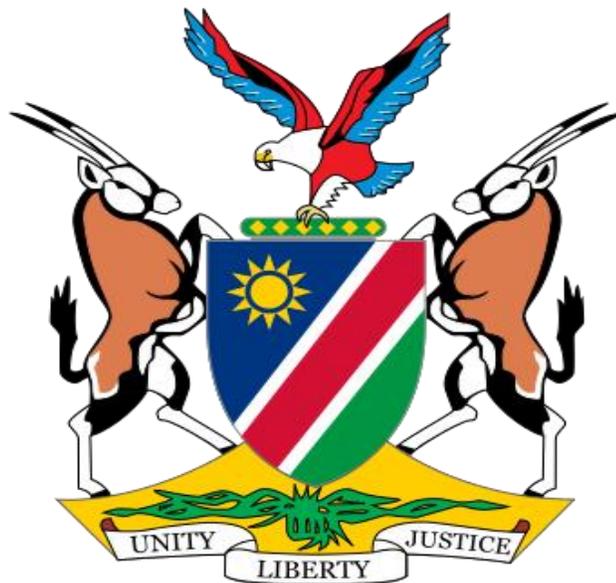


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

**VISIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILLOR,
HOACHANAS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE**

28 May 2018

All media

1. **Hon. Sakeus Shanghala, MP, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Namibia met with the Regional Councillor, Mr Simon Dukeleni; Chief Kooper; the Settlement Development Committee; members of the Hoachanas Traditional Leadership; and members of the community in Hoachanas on 28 May 2018.**
2. The Honourable Minister felt compelled to visit Hoachanas after members of the Office of the Regional Council and the Traditional Authority travelled to Windhoek on 23 April 2018 to direct their concerns to him in person.
3. Councillor Dukeleni indicated that at present the periodic court at magisterial level is located at Derm. He further indicated that for the residents of Hoachanas it is often impossible to arrange transport to appear in court on the given court date. Resultantly, the court finds the residents to be in contempt of court and issues fines which the residents are unable to pay. This situation is the antithesis of the meaning of access to justice.
4. Due to this unacceptable situation the Honourable Minister undertook to meet with the members of the Office of the Regional Council at Hoachanas to resolve the issue.
5. During the meeting and subsequent town hall meeting with the residents, the Honourable Minister clearly and carefully explained what the Ministry of Justice was willing and able to achieve in terms of resolving the inconvenience experienced by the residents within the prevailing tough financial constraints.
6. He also commended Hoachanas and urges other local authorities in other regions that require Government services, to: “follow the example of Hoachanas”. The Regional Councillor approached the Ministry with a clear problem statement, a suggested solution and is willing to provide land to the Government to erect a temporary court structure as well as staff

accommodation. The Ministry of Justice will no longer purchase land from local authorities to erect buildings for Government services. The value that services bring to the community outweighs the cost of the land and local residents ought to appreciate this fact.

7. The outcome of the meeting and town hall discussion is that the Ministry of Justice will make the necessary arrangements for a periodic court to be erected at Hoachanas. The periodic court at Derm will remain and continue to function as it is. The permanent periodic court at Hoachanas will provide judicial services in English, being the official language of Namibia, and although it provides ample opportunity for employment to the people of Hoachanas, the court will be representative of all Namibians in terms of the staff complement.
8. Hoachanas is a sterling example of what can be achieved if one learns to work with what one has and offers collaboration in terms of infrastructure and human resources. Such an attitude increases turn-around time for the provision of services and in this case ensures true access to justice.
9. The Ministry of Justice is dedicated to provide access to justice. This meeting with the Hoachanas community is evidence of the Honourable Minister's commitment and will to find solutions that are in line with the Government's austerity measures.

END