

## **Namibia and Angola sign MoU in legal matters**

Justice Minister Sakeus Shanghala of Namibia and his Angolan Justice Minister counterpart, Francisco Manuel Monteiro de Queiroz, were set to sign two agreements in Windhoek on Wednesday, 04 April 2018. The agreements included one that allows nationals of the two countries to serve their sentences in their native countries.

However, the signing of the transfer agreement had to be postponed because of technicalities.

The Namibian Justice Minister, Sackeus Shanghala said the agreement has already been prepared, and was ready for signing as soon as the technicalities were resolved. After the technicalities are resolved, the two countries will then enter into discussions in terms of cooperation on the enforcement of maintenance orders, foreign judgements and reciprocal service of civil process, Shanghala said during the signing ceremony of only one agreement.

The two ministers signed a general cooperation agreement between their ministries for the improvement of cross-border access to justice.

Shanghala said justice should not only be understood as improving and implementing laws, but that it should also tackle a bigger question on how to build more just societies, and that partnerships like the ones the two countries concluded this week created platforms for knowledge, skills and experience sharing. Minister of Justice and Human rights of Angola, De Queiroz, said with more than 100 000 Angolans living in Namibia, it was necessary to keep track of them as they needed to be identified and issued with documents.

He added that it is important to harmonise the countries' economic and justice systems. He also invited Shanghala to Angola to familiarise himself with that country's legal system.

Speaking at the occasion, Namibia's deputy justice minister, Lidwina Shapwa, said because of the two countries' deep cultural, political, economic, social and historical ties, it was necessary to examine the "agreements in place between the ministries to facilitate legal relationships between our citizens".