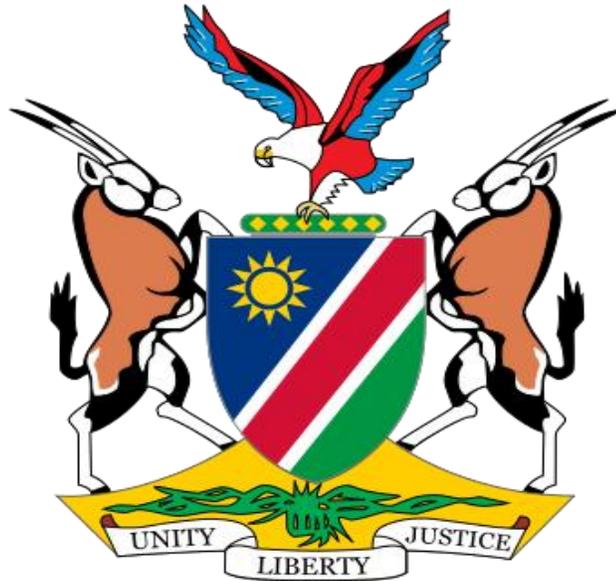


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

BILATERAL MEETING

BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, JUSTICE AND SECURITY

OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA AND

THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,

GABORONE, BOTSWANA

11 September 2018

All media

1. **The Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Botswana, being neighbours, have very similar country laws and structures within the Ministry. The drafting of the legislation and the efficient functioning of the structures within the Ministry is however different. On 10 and 11 September 2018 the Minister of Justice, with a delegation from the Ministry of Justice, was in Gaborone, Botswana to meet with the Honourable Minister of Defence, Justice and Security for the Republic of Botswana, Mr Shaw Kgathi.**
2. The purpose of the visit was twofold.
3. First the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Safety signed an Extradition Agreement and an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Republics. Such Agreements are essential to give effect to successful arrests and law-enforcement procedures followed by the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
4. Second, a select delegation from the Directorate: Legislative Drafting undertook a benchmarking exercise at the Office of the Attorney-General in Gaborone. Namibia is facing seemingly insurmountable challenges with training and retaining skilled legislative drafters. Without skilled drafters, the legal landscape in Namibia cannot be shaped and molded as required in a rapidly changing society.
5. The respective meetings proved to be highly successful, enlightening and rejuvenating. The Ministries in Namibia and Botswana share the same problems of loss of staff to the private sector and inadequate funding.
6. Meetings such as this enable us to generate solutions tailor-made to our countries and maintain friendly relations between the Ministries.
7. The Ministry of Justice, through the steps it is taking to review the legislative drafting process and the manner in which laws are made available, is proving its stoic resolve to serving the Namibian nation by making access to justice a reality.

END