



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

11 June 2018

In line with Article 78 (5) of the Namibian Constitution, Namibia has made the monumental move to establish an independent body for the administration of justice, called the '*Office of the Judiciary*'. The Office of the Judiciary was established by an Act of Parliament, namely the Judiciary Act, 2015 (Act No. 11 of 2015).

Although this Office is functionally and financially independent from the Ministry of Justice, section 9 of the Judiciary Act endows the Ministry of Justice with the task of taking care of the development/capital projects of the Office of the Judiciary, thus effectively taking care of the acquisition, renovation and upgrading of the buildings from which the Office of the Judiciary operates.

It is in light of this responsibility that the Ministry of Justice has, upon the request of the Office of the Judiciary, embarked upon the renovation project for the Magistrate's Court seat at the corner of Sam Nujoma Drive and Bismarck Street. The upgraded premises is the result of a joint collaboration between the City of Windhoek, the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecutor-General and the Ministry of Works and Transport. This premises houses two court rooms, a cash hall and administrative office block, offices for the prosecutors, legal aid counsel and magistrates respectively.

On behalf of the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Judiciary, I would hereby like to thank the City of Windhoek for its unwavering commitment to make this initiative a reality. The City has availed the premises free of charge for a minimum of 10 years in terms of the Memorandum of Agreement signed today and has also built two court rooms for conducting hearings in traffic cases and cases involving transgressions of municipal by-laws. This is a milestone collaboration in bringing up to date the backlog experienced in traffic cases for the Magisterial District of Windhoek and in enhancing the enforcement of the traffic laws in Namibia.

It is our joint responsibility to bring justice to the people and to ensure that the delivery of justice is not delayed. This is how we as stakeholders in the criminal justice and local authority sector has proven that it is possible.

Operational date for court: 02/07/2018.

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Mr. I.V.K Ndjoze


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Permanent Secretary

Council at its meeting held September 2014 resolved 270/09/2014 to enter into MoU with the Ministry of Justice in order to ensure effective administrative of justice and law enforcement.

Council further resolved to avail the premises at the corner of Sam Nujoma Drive and Bismark Street to be used as a special court for adjudication of Traffic and other By-Law cases in order to address the issues of backlogs of such cases at the current magistrate court.

The parties engaged in negotiations on logistics and administrative procedures to be followed in order to establish such a court.

Eventually, the parties agreed at a stakeholders meeting held on 9th May 2018 on the terms and conditions for the operations and administration of the court. The premises was also gazetted on 30 April 2018 as a Magistrate Court by the Ministry of Justice.

Hence, today we are here to witness the signing of the MoU between the Council and the Ministry of Justice.

I thank you,