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2024 THROWBACK EDITION

Ministry of Justice Relocates Head Office to Tallas Building Amid Justitia Revamp

• Edmund Khoaseb

As we look back at some of the key events that shaped the Ministry of Justice in 2024, one of the most significant milestones was the relocation of the Ministry's Head Office. In October 2024, the Ministry successfully moved from the Justitia Building on Independence Avenue to the Tallas Building (formerly FNB) as part of an extensive revamp project.

The renovation project for the Justitia Building commenced in September 2024 and is scheduled for completion in March 2027. This modernization effort aims to introduce improved office spaces, enhanced accessibility, and upgraded infrastructure to support the Ministry's continued commitment to providing high-quality legal services.

Reflecting on the relocation, Executive Director of the Ministry of Justice, Gladice Pickering, highlighted its dedication to service excellence: "This move, while necessary, is not merely about relocating offices—it's about ensuring that we continue to serve the public efficiently. The revamp of the Justitia Building is a long-term investment in the Ministry's ability to provide accessible and high-quality legal services. We appreciate the patience of our stakeholders as we work towards a more modern and efficient justice system."

As we reflect on 2024, the Ministry remains dedicated to maintaining seamless operations throughout the renovation. Stakeholders are encouraged to take note of the new location when accessing services. For further updates, the public is advised to visit the Ministry of Justice website and social media platforms.



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WELCOME BACK, TEAM MOJ

The Minister of Justice, Executive Director, and Management wish all Ministry of Justice Staff a warm welcome back to the office.

We hope your festive season was filled with rest, joy and quality time with loved ones.

Now, it is time to gear up for another exciting year with renewed dedication, energy and focus

Together, we look forward to achieving even greater success in 2025!



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As we step into 2025, we do so with renewed energy and an unwavering commitment to progress. The past year has been a testament to our resilience, innovation, and dedication to justice for all Namibians. From pioneering initiatives like the E-Legal Aid Application System to strengthening public engagement through legal awareness campaigns, we have laid a strong foundation for the future.

We embraced transformation through Business Process Re-Engineering, ensuring faster and more efficient service delivery. Our participation in key events, such as the Windhoek Agricultural and Livestock Show, brought legal assistance directly to the people, reaffirming our mission of accessibility. The successful launch of the revamped Ministry website and the completion of overdue Annual Reports showcased our determination to enhance transparency and efficiency.

Looking ahead, 2025 will see even greater advancements in justice services. The Legal Aid Customer Self-Service platform will be launched, allowing citizens to lodge applications and check their status online. The Namiblii website domain will now reside within the Ministry, ensuring better management and access to legal information. The Master of the High Court will transition to an online system, improving efficiency and customer service. Additionally, the decentralization of the Master of the High Court and Legal Aid will bring critical services closer to the people, enhancing accessibility nationwide. Finally, the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan will be finalized, setting a clear path for continued transformation and service excellence.

To our dedicated team and partners—your commitment and passion fuel our progress. Let's embrace this new year with purpose and determination, forging a justice system that truly serves and uplifts every Namibian.

Here's to a future of excellence, impact, and transformation!



Edmund //Khoaseb
Editor

NAMIBIA

A Return to the People



Photo: MoJ staff members at the Windhoek Showground

For over a decade, the Windhoek Agricultural and Livestock Show bustled on without the presence of the Ministry of Justice. This year, that changed. From 27 September to 05 October 2024, the Ministry stepped back into the public arena, ready to reconnect, educate, and serve.

This wasn't just about setting up a stall—it was about making a statement. A statement that justice is not confined to courtrooms and offices; it belongs to the people, where their stories, struggles, and triumphs are heard.

Under the vibrant blue skies of Windhoek, the Ministry planned an outdoor exhibition—a space designed to engage and inform. The Master of the High Court, the Maintenance Subdivision, and the Legal Aid teams were eager to showcase how their work supports families, children, and vulnerable citizens. With Central Administration providing vital logistical support, the team was poised to make an impact.

Then, the weather had other plans. Wind and rain swept through the grounds, forcing the team to abandon their carefully planned setup. What could have been a moment of defeat turned into an opportunity to adapt. In the true spirit of resilience, the Ministry relocated to a smaller indoor space. "We couldn't do everything we dreamed of, but we didn't let that stop us," said Edmund Khoaseb, Acting Chief PRO "The heart of our work is meeting people where they are, and that's exactly what we did."

For nine days, staff members from across the Ministry worked tirelessly, answering questions and addressing concerns from visitors. From explaining how to claim maintenance for a child to demystifying the Legal Aid application process, every interaction was a chance to bridge the gap between the Ministry and the public. Yet, a recurring theme emerged—many Namibians simply didn't know the Ministry of Justice was there for them.

The experience wasn't without its lessons. The weather, the limited space, and the lack of public knowledge about the Ministry's role were challenges that cannot be ignored. But they are also opportunities—opportunities to grow, to improve, and to dream bigger for the next time.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT H.E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB



The Ministry of Justice joined the nation in mourning the passing of Namibia's third president, H.E. Dr Hage G. Geingob, who was laid to rest on 25 February 2024, at Heroes' Acre.



In tribute to his visionary leadership and dedication to a unified Namibian House, the Ministry observed a period of reflection and shared heartfelt messages of remembrance with the public.



QUOTE

*"As we work for a better Namibia in which no one should feel left out, let us hold hands in the spirit of Harambee."
- Dr Hage. G. Geingob*





In May 2024, the Ministry of Justice held a Strategic Planning Workshop in Swakopmund, led by Honourable Minister Yvonne Dausab, to chart its vision for 2025–2030. The plan emphasizes public service, institutional efficiency, and adapting to emerging challenges like artificial intelligence, aligning with Namibia's Vision 2030 and NDP6 to improve access to justice and ensure a fair and transparent system for all Namibians.



From July 22 to August 9, 2024, the Ministry of Justice conducted its inaugural in-house training series in Swakopmund, focusing on enhancing communication, customer service, and professional practices among staff. This initiative underscores the Ministry's commitment to continuous learning and improved public service delivery.



In August 2024, the Ministry of Justice launched a revamped website to enhance access to legal resources and promote transparency. The user-friendly platform offers free access to court judgments, legislation, and government gazettes via NamibLII integration. Explore the new features at www.moj.gov.na.



In August 2024, the Ministry of Justice's Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR) Committee initiated awareness training sessions for management, focusing on refining processes to enhance service delivery and reduce costs. Chairperson Anneline Zaaruka emphasized that integrating advanced technologies, such as AI for legal research and online dispute resolution platforms, will significantly improve the speed and accuracy of legal services.



From September 24–26, 2024, Namibia hosted the Regional Workshop on Enhancing Equal Access to Legal Aid in partnership with UNODC. The event brought together delegates from Southern Africa to address legal aid challenges, reduce prison overcrowding, and promote justice for all, with a focus on supporting vulnerable groups.



On December 4, 2024, the Ministry of Justice's Directorates of Legislative Drafting and Law Reform Policy and Legislation co-hosted a training session at the Windhoek Country Club Resort. Led by Mr Charles Ugwanga and Ms Felicity Owoses, the event aimed to enhance stakeholders' understanding of explanatory memorandum in Namibia's legislative process.



On December 9–10, 2024, the Directorate of Law Reform, Policy, and Legislation hosted an induction workshop at Midgard Hotel for newly appointed Commissioners of the Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC). The sessions focused on the LRDC Act, outlining the powers, duties, and roles of the Commission and its members, and emphasized collaboration to strengthen Namibia's legal framework.

WELLNESS ENGAGEMENT IN KEETMANSHOOP

The Ministry of Justice held a two-day Wellness Engagement in Keetmanshoop from March 8–9, 2024, promoting the well-being of staff from southern Namibia. Activities included mental health and financial wellness sessions, led by Vaino Muvale and Eusebio Fredericks, alongside team-building exercises facilitated by Tura Bootcamp.



INTRODUCING THE MINISTRY'S NEW SPORTS KITS

In August 2024, the Ministry proudly unveiled new football kits for its sports teams. Designed in corporate colours, the kits symbolize teamwork, unity, and professionalism. Wellness Committee Deputy Chairperson Edmund //Khoaseb shared plans to procure additional kits for netball and volleyball teams, fostering a culture of health, camaraderie, and teamwork among staff members.



Year-End Health Check-Up

On 6 December 2024, the Ministry of Justice, in partnership with Namib Pharmacy, conducted a free health check-up for staff. The initiative aimed to prioritize staff well-being with screenings for conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes. It provided an opportunity for staff to step into the festive season informed and proactive about their health.





