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571 Resettlement Farms Acquired Since 1990



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■ Nghiinomenwa-vali Erastus

From 1990, the government, through its Land Reform Programme, has bought 3,4 million hectares of land (571 farms) at the cost of N\$2,4 billion.

It has resettled 5,458 beneficiaries after the first land conference in 1991.

This is contained in the Land Reform Statistics for the 2021/2022 financial year issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform with assistance from GIZ.

Due to colonial injustice, which was mostly embedded in resource ownership such as land, the government has embarked on acquiring land from various owners who acquired them during the discriminatory colonial era.

According to the Ministry, the government had targeted to acquire five million hectares of agricultural land since independence by 2020.

So far only, 3, 4 million hectares of land (69%) has been acquired in the 32 years - 1,6 million hectares are yet to be acquired in order to reach its agricultural land acquisition goal.

Since the first land conference in 1991 to 31 March 2022, at least 5,458 beneficiaries - including 2,188 males, 1,485 females and 30 juristic entities were settled.

For the 1,755 beneficiaries the gender was not recorded as these are group Resettlement and San Development projects under the Office of the President.

Beyond the government initiative to acquire farmland and resettle people, the government has also launched Affirmative Action Loan Scheme which has been used as a gateway for previously economically disadvantaged to purchase agricultural land.

According to the Land Reforms Statistics, the government has dished out through its agency, N\$726,6 million to 562 individuals to go buy commercial agricultural land.

These individuals have used their Affirmative Action Loan Scheme funding to acquire 3,1 million hectares of agricultural land - more of this land (541,746 ha) was bought in 2003 and it was the year more Affirmative Action Loan Scheme loans (98) were disbursed, valued at N\$156,1 million.

During the financial year 2021/2022 the government

was offered 394 farms to buy by private owners as required by the law that the private owners should offer the farms to the government first before going to the market.

The government has only acquired five farms (32 771,5ha), which were acquired at the cost of N\$55,5 million.

On average each of the acquired five farms commanded around N\$11,1 million from the Ministry, the statistics show.

In terms of resettlement for the 2021/22 financial year, the government has resettled 20 people through its National Resettlement Programme.

More of the 20 resettled beneficiaries were from Khomas (4), and Ohangwena (3), the rest of the regions had 2 or 1 beneficiary.

Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na



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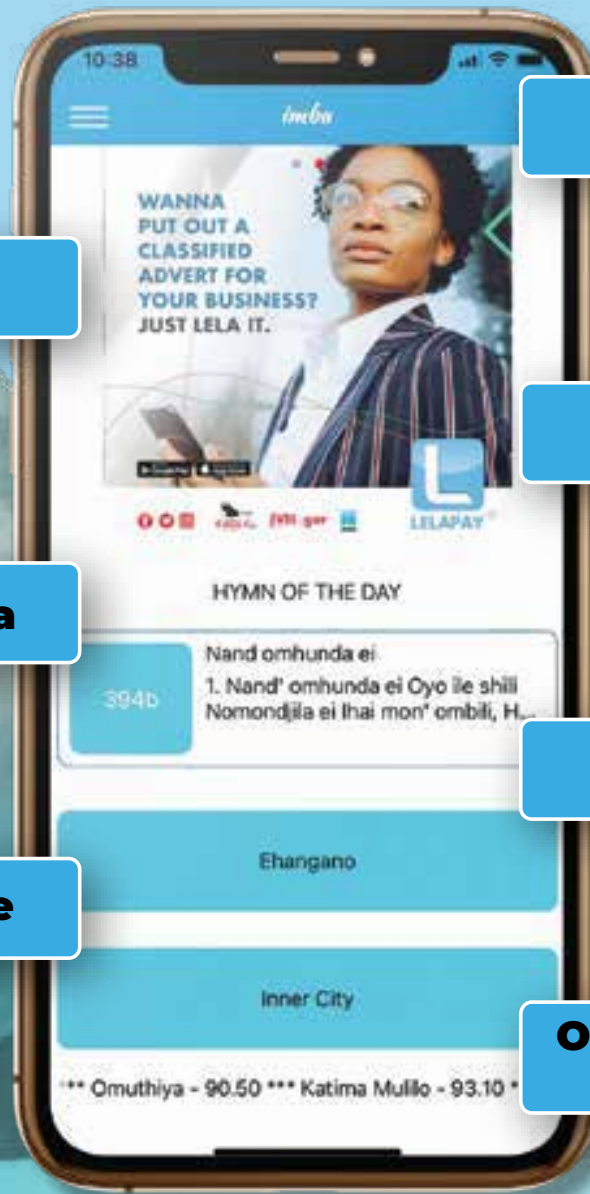


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NSFAF Non-Fees Payments To Be Monthly



■ Mauricia Koopman

Namibia Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) says it will cease paying out a lump sum to its beneficiaries and will instead be paying out the non-tuition refund on a monthly basis.

The move is because of economic reasons, according to acting Chief Executive Officer Kennedy Kandume.

The acting CEO said the Fund's allocation in the national budget of N\$1.6 billion for 2023/2024 financial year is not enough, despite a 30% increase in funding to higher education students this year compared to last year.

Last year, he said they needed N\$1.6 billion to fund students as there was only N\$1.4 billion available in the previous academic year of 2022.

However, he said the ministries of Finance and Higher Education will add additional funding to ensure each student gets their funding, which will take the allocation to around N\$2 billion.

This will be the first time NSFAF will be paying students non-tuition fees in this manner since the organisation was established.

The monthly payment will continue until the beneficiary's N\$17 000 non-tuition fee is exhausted.

The Fund received about 30,000 applications for the

year, of which 74% are eligible.

Students have a period of 60 days to sign the contracts, and if they fail to do so, will forfeit the financial assistance.

Last year, the fund received over 23,000 applications, of which 142 of these dropped out or received another sponsorship.

Of the students that will receive funding from NSFAF, 15,807 are undergraduates, 6,064 are from vocational training centres and 3,078 are post graduates.

A total of 22,178 students were accepted for funding and 7,900 were not accepted for student financial assistance.

"The process of the application process was quite a frustrating process as applicants did not provide all the information that was required of them," Kandume said.

Meanwhile, deputy Executive Director in the Ministry of Higher Education Raimo Naanda urged the students to use this partnership to their benefit.

"The students and the youth are the future of this country," Naanda said, adding that the government is committed to the student's education by sponsoring their education through NSFAF.

Naanda emphasised that the students should use this partnership to their benefit and that of the country.

Anti-Money Laundering Training Dubbed Unethical



■ Justicia Shipena, Hertha Ekandjo and Fransina Nghidengwa

Prosecutor General Martha Imalwa has told Namibian lawyers not to be afraid of prosecutors and magistrates being trained to make them “strong”.

On Tuesday various legal practitioners gunned for the PG’s office which is busy conducting an anti-money laundry training for several magistrates and prosecutors.

The training is said to have started on Monday and will conclude on 19 April in Windhoek and Keetmanshoop.

“These lawyers should not be afraid of prosecutors, they are making us strong,” Imalwa said.

According to her, the reaction by the lawyers is an insult to the magistrates participating in the training.

She added that if the lawyers want to be trained, her office will do so at no cost.

“That is an insult to the magistrate. We are here to train them, if they want to be trained. We are not going to charge them the way they charge the people; we are at the service of the public, including them,” she said.

Imalwa explained that every country in the world is applying a multi-sectoral approach to training.

She said if the members of the legal fraternity are interested in participating they can do so, adding that people who are training the prosecutors and magistrates are not prosecutors who deal with criminal cases.

CONTINUED ON PG.6

Anti-Money Laundering

“The influence is only coming when it is rational or it is not proper or unethical when prosecutors of Namibia are involved. Magistrates are legally trained who apply their minds to issues.”

Imalwa questioned why the lawyers think the magistrates will follow what the prosecutors say as their procedures are clear.

“If they lack knowledge and need to be capacitated, we are here. We can participate in the training. If they think the magistrate can just be influenced by the prosecutors, why can’t they be influenced by the lawyers?” Imalwa asked.

According to letters to the office of the judiciary dated 18 April 2023 in possession of The Villager, this would be a threat to the independence of the judiciary.

Lawyer Kadhila Amoomo said a trend has been created where Imalwa arranges training prosecutors and magistrates on various issues.

He said the trainings ranged from matters relating to the combating of rape, poaching and other animal protection cases.

He also raised concern about the bond between PG’s office and the Office of the Magistrate Commission, stressing that these offices should be independent from one another.

“This means that the office of the Prosecutor-General and the office of the Magistrate Commission are holding each other’s hands as far as understanding of these issues are concerned,” Amoomo said.

He said he finds it strange that legal practitioners never receive an invitation to these workshops.

Sharing the same sentiments, the lawyers at Murorua Kurtz Kasper Inc. law firm said the training is an unacceptable interference to shape the minds of magistrates.

“This is a serious threat to an unfettered and impartial mind magistrates are asked to bring to bear when he or she embarks on the duty to

adjudicate over matters when the said training is presented to them together with those who have to prosecute before them,” they said.

Ileni Gebhardt and Co. Inc. expressed that it is inappropriate, unethical and a threat to the independence of the judiciary to allow presiding officers to receive training from one of the parties in applications which they will be required to preside over.

The law firm explained that the independence of the judiciary is not only the cornerstone of constitutional democracy but is an integral requirement of the legal profession.

“As role-players in the legal system, we have a duty to guard against conduct that may result in one of the role-players or the public losing faith in the integrity and independence of the judiciary,” the firm stressed.

Ileni Gebhardt and Co. Inc. added that reasons of expediency and cost-saving should not be at the expense of important constitutional principles.

The legal practitioners have therefore requested the Office of the Judiciary to intervene and put an immediate end to what they term “abnormal and illegal” training.

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More Than Peace Needed For Dignified Life - Geingob



■ Uakutura Kambaekua

President Hage Geingob says government is aware that people need more than peace and harmony to live a dignified life.

Geingob said this recently while inaugurating the Community Legacy Centre at Etoshapoort near Outjo.

“Although we have enjoyed peace and harmony for over three decades, the government is aware that people require more than these conditions to live a dignified life. People need food, shelter, clothing and access to basic necessities such as water, electricity, schools and medical care,” the President said.

“Many of you present today are aware of that because it is the need for these critical necessities that gave birth to this Community Legacy Centre here in Etoshapoort,” he said.

The centre, which was constructed in the middle of the seven informal settlements of the town, will provide critical services to residents including municipal services, a library, clinic, ablution facilities, policing, and other essential services typically inaccessible to vulnerable community members.

Geingob said the government’s attention

CONTINUED ON PG.8

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Geingob

has turned towards ushering in an era of prosperity in Namibia.

“As we continue with our national developmental initiatives, our attention has turned towards ushering in an era of prosperity in Namibia. We have declared an all-out war on poverty, inequality and corruption. In order to buttress these efforts, we have ensured that we put in place robust processes, systems and institutions to firm up the foundation of our governance architecture,” he added.

Furthermore, he noted that development must be people-centred while lauding the municipal and the regional councils for delivering an institution to bring services closer to the people and improve the quality of life of the town’s residents.

“By listening to the needs of the people, you have delivered a facility that will make a significant contribution to improving the quality of life of the residents here in the Etoshapoort area,” he told the regional leadership.

The President further mentioned that a government should cater for those whose abilities allow them access to goods, capital and services as well as the less fortunate, who do not have the same opportunities to access goods, capital and services so that all the citizens of the country can live a dignified and respectful life.

“While we have an obligation to create within Namibia a conducive environment for business and investment-related activities, we also have an equally important task of ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable members of our society are taken care of,” he stated.

Geingob commented on those who have made the centre a reality. He called for the forging of allegiances to advance the development of the country with one initiative at a time, for the benefit of the current and future generations.

The actual funds for the construction of the centre are not yet known, but as per Outjo Constituency Councillor Johannes Antsino, various individuals including Cenored and Telecom Namibia contributed while another amount of N\$ 200,000 including the Councillor’s entertainment budget was also added to the project.

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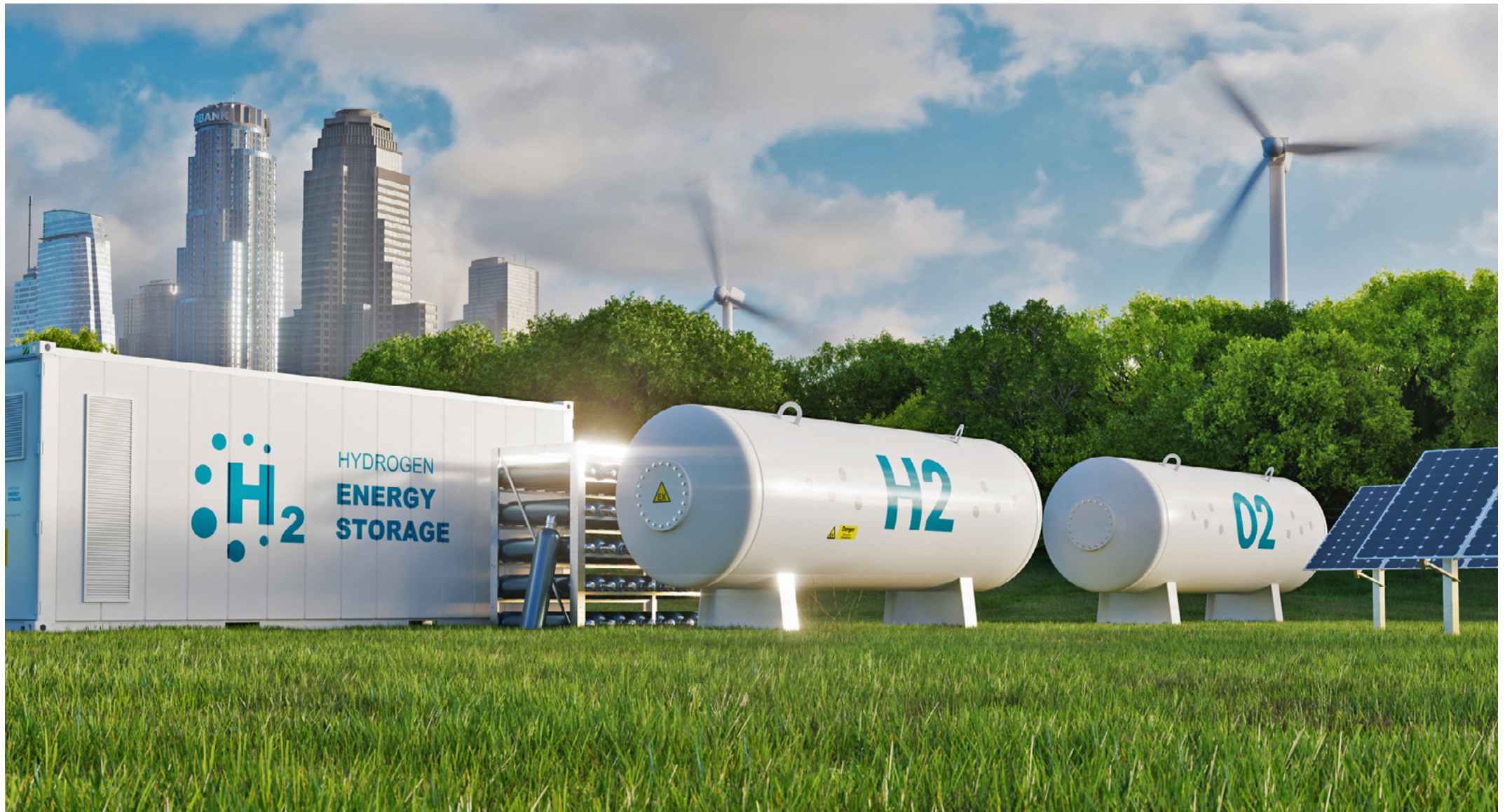
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Namibia Secures Funding For Climate Readiness Project

...Funding to support green hydrogen feasibility study



■ Justicia Shipena

A seven-month project by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) will support a feasibility study on the three valleys of the Green Hydrogen Strategy, among others.

The EIF on Tuesday announced it has successfully secured funds for the project titled, 'Green, Resilient Recovery Rapid Readiness Support in Namibia'.

The secured funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is valued at U\$300,000 (N\$5.4 million) and EIF says the funds were secured on 31 December 2021.

The GCF is a fund established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as an operating entity of the financial mechanism to assist developing

countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change.

At the Africa Energy Indaba 2023 summit in Cape Town, South Africa, last month, Namibia said it expects to sign the implementation agreement for the envisioned U\$10 billion green hydrogen project in the second quarter of 2023 and commence feasibility studies.

“The readiness and preparatory support project objective is therefore to support the feasibility study on the three green valleys as identified in the green hydrogen strategy,” said Lot Ndamanomhata, EIF Manager for Corporate Communications.

Ndamanomhata said the readiness and preparatory support programme has five main activities which include strengthening the National Designated Authority and focal partners, developing strategic frameworks, preparing entities for accreditation, developing

CONTINUED ON PG.10

Climate Readiness Project

pipelines, and sharing information and experiences.

Namibia aspires to create an at-scale green fuels industry with a production target of 10- 12 Mtpa hydrogen equivalent by year 2050.

To this end, Namibia will develop three hydrogen valleys in the southern region of Kharas, the central region including Walvis Bay port and the northern region of Kunene.

In addition, the country also aspires to establish an integrated, thriving green ecosystem across Southern Africa by creating synergies in shared infrastructure, manufacturing collaboration and power exports.

According to the Green Hydrogen Strategy launched last year, Namibia is rightly positioned to partake in reducing the anticipated global hydrogen demand-supply gap and lower the cost of the net-zero transition.

Net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible.

Following Cop26 in 2021, countries, Namibia included, were asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reduction targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century.

“Its natural endowments that Namibia enjoys gives Namibians a comparable advantage and enables the country to make tremendous contributions to the global transition to net-zero while addressing its socio-economic inequalities,” Ndamanomhata explained.

According to EIF, to date Namibia has received six readiness supported projects.



Namibia aspires to create an at-scale green fuels industry with a production target of 10- 12 Mtpa hydrogen equivalent by year 2050.



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Deputy Minister Threatens Stopping Of Children's Social Grants



■ Daniel Ndumba

Children's monthly social grant might be ceased if there is proof of misuse, Deputy Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Bernadette Jagger has said.

Social grants have gradually reached more children, yet the state budget allocation to child grants has not grown significantly over the past few years, according to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

A 2017 UNICEF report indicates that 23% of children in Namibia receive a social grant.

"If any parent makes him or herself guilty of misusing any grants from government, those grants might be stopped if there is proof that you have misused it," Jagger warned.

She cautioned parents from misusing the social grants which are intended for childrens' welfare.

"When children are entitled to certain benefits, they must benefit and not be barred from benefiting from those grants," she said.

She stressed funds must be used for the intended purposes, and not for those responsible for managing the grants such as the parents or guardians.

"We hear stories that parents are using the money for other things and the child does not benefit a single cent from the grant," she said.

Jagger added, it will not be nice for the government to stop grants for people who are supposed to benefit from those grants, but if there is proof that the grants are misused then the government will be left with no

CONTINUED ON PG.12

Children's Social Grants

other choice but to stop the grants for those found guilty.

Meanwhile, human right activist Linda Baumann, through an interview with The Villager, said stopping the misuse of social grants has been something that has been happening for years.

She said it is therefore vital that a warning is put out as soon as possible.

“We heard this years ago and these are realities that are being experienced,” she said.

Baumann added that the social welfare ministry has put in measures to double check as to which parents or guardians are suitable for receiving the grants.

“I also do believe that as community or family members, we need to know how to protect and ensure that the child’s money is used for all the expenses meant for,” she said.

She further said that although the money is not enough, the point still remains that the money should be used to meet the needs of the children.

“Those helpers misusing the money should be exposed by us as neighbours and family members,” Baumann urged.

Baumann further said the ministry should continue with the awareness campaign, urging the line ministry to elevate access to reporting lines so that people are able to blow the whistle on those believed to be misusing the grants.

In February, Finance and Public Enterprise Minister Ipumbu Shiimi announced an increase in social grants to cushion vulnerable members of society against the rising cost of food prices during the tabling of the 2023/24 budget.

Shiimi increased monthly grants for the old age grant, disability grant, and orphan and vulnerable children grant by N\$100 per month.

The disability grant for claimants under the

age of 18 has been increased from N\$250 to N\$1,400 per month, which came into effect this month.

The budget has allocated N\$69.8 million to broaden the coverage of the orphan and vulnerable children grant to include approximately 30,000 eligible children who are currently on the waiting list.

Community ac Julius Natangwe questioned as to what happens to the children should the grants be stopped.

He argued that people are forced to misuse these grants because of the conditions they live in and that the definition of “misuse” should be looked at.

“You stop the grant and help those kids how? Kids and their families in general are suffering on the ground. Sometimes people are forced to misuse and I am not of the view that the money must be used for alcohol. If the ministry has stopped that grant, the child will still continue to suffer,” he said.

Natangwe said government should come up with a formula of not giving the money directly to those believed to be using the money wrongly.



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Hundreds Of Tondoro Inhabitants Receive National Documents



■ Annakleta Haikera

At least 585 people in the Tondoro electoral constituency in the Kavango West region received identity documents at a belated Independence Day celebration last week.

This was revealed by Mankumpi Councillor and Chairperson of the National Council Lukas Muha when officiating at the event.

At least 2,552 inhabitants of the constituency have been assisted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security's (MHAISS) outreach programme aimed at getting them their national documents since 2016.

"This outreach programme was for everyone, including the San community," he said.

The MHAISS's outreach programme, held twice annually, refers to efforts that connect the ministry's ideas or practices to the public.

Muha previously stated that, at the regional offices at Rundu and Nkurenkuru, only 25 to 30 national documents were issued a day. Many in the two regions have previously complained of not having national documents, which leads to challenges in them getting benefits such as grants.

Muha also noted the centers visited from 12 to 25 March were Murarani, Mpempo, Katjinakatji, Kasikili, Satotea and Nzovhu.

"We managed to assist with 346 birth certificates and 239 identity documents," he said.

The councillor said the Mankumpi constituency established bodies or structures such as the Constituency Development Committee, Constituency Disaster Risk Management and Constituency Aids Coordinating Committee - all of which are functional.

Muha also said community meetings are conducted in every village in the constituency annually to attend to queries and to provide relevant information.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's ambassador to Namibia Hishamuddin Ibrahim, who attended the gathering, stressed the importance of unity to overcome challenges.

"Malaysia has been blessed with political stability since their independence, and this stability, in addition to racial harmony, have assisted us in maintaining peace, developing economically, while ensuring consistent socio-economic development for our people. Indeed we see the same conducive environment existing in Namibia," Ibrahim pointed out.

The Mankumpi constituency is still faced with challenges such as distance to the nearest pay points, distribution of food to San communities, as well as stateless and undocumented people.

Lack of national documents is causing a family in Kavango West Region to live in abject poverty.

Kavango West is still very rural, with high levels of poverty and unemployment, especially among the youth. In this regard, the region identified growth points that can be developed into settlements and towns, with the main purpose of bringing basic services and facilities like water, electricity, education and health facilities, housing, communication and roads infrastructures to these villages to stimulate their economic growth.

However, many localities are without water and more than 121 youth enterprises promised to youth countrywide were not funded to date.

The constituency is also experiencing theft of solar water pumps from boreholes.

FNB To Re-Purpose SME Value Proposition To Expand SME Success



■ Fransina Nghidengwa

First National Bank Namibia, on Monday relaunched an updated SME value proposition to further support small-medium enterprises (SMEs).

FNB Namibia Chief Executive Officer, Erwin Tjipuka said they are also launching the Credit Guarantees Scheme to assist SMEs with access financing.

These solutions are aimed at equipping Namibian entrepreneurs with the necessary financing opportunities needed to grow their businesses and boost the economy.

“We believe these will help increase the level of SME activity and create a culture of entrepreneurship in the country,” he said.

Tjipuka says SMEs grow and scale successfully only with dedication toward their common goals.

In 2020, FNB and Development Bank of Namibia

partnered to help entrepreneurs with the collateral constraints they faced to cover loans up to 60%. The size of the loan facilities ranged between N\$50,000 to N\$1,000,000.

“SMEs are the backbone of the Namibian economy and the growth of the SME sector which plays a vital role in employment creation as well as the social and economic development of the country. Namibia can gain much from optimising the capabilities of the SMEs through training, skills development, and access to the right financing,” Tjipuka said.

These, he says, will help them develop these capabilities, and help ensure Namibia remains well-equipped for the challenges that lie ahead.

Tjipuka emphasized how shared value thinking leads to sustainable decisions and actions which lead to sustainable growth, for the current and future stakeholders, the organization as well as society as a whole.

CONTINUED ON PG.15

FNB To Re-purpose

“We are creating a platform of hope for people to fulfill their dreams,” he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said the government will help to prepare a robust SME sector that offers an opportunity for emerging entrepreneurs, especially youth, to enter the mainstream economy.

“As the economy starts to recover from a Covid-19-induced downturn, it is important that the financial sector renders appropriate support to businesses and thus supports the full recovery of the economy and propels it to a higher growth trajectory while addressing the inequities and strengthening the resilience of the economy to external shocks,” she said.

Echoing the government’s position, Deputy Minister of Youth, Sport and National Service, Emma Kantema Gaomas, encouraged financial institutions and stakeholders to support initiatives which empower young entrepreneurs.

“We are reminded of the harsh reality of youth unemployment with the youth unemployment rate standing at 46.1,” she said.

“
We believe these will help increase the level of SME activity and create a culture of entrepreneurship in the country.

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The discovery of oil and gas in Namibia last year, generated so much debate within the country and heightened the public interest in the sector. As a result of this hot debate and discussion, the NUST Foundation hosted Public Lectures to provide a platform for better understanding of the sector, raise awareness and to provide information about the Oil and Gas sector.

The Public Lectures brought about notable speakers and attracted hundreds of participants. Therefore, the public lectures on Petroleum Activities in Namibia will continue, for this year. It is equally important to note that the NUST Foundation will facilitate and provide an opportunity for the public to know where Namibia is on its timeline. Furthermore, the lectures will unpack the recent discoveries and ongoing exploration activities both onshore and offshore, as Namibia continues to become an active role-player in the global Oil and Gas sector.

Oil and Gas is crucial to the global economic framework. As an industry, it is regarded amongst the largest sectors in the world, in terms of dollar value. The commodity impacts everything in our daily lives, from transportation, electricity, manufacturing and industrial production, just to mention a few. But what exactly is this trillion-dollar sector and how does it work? The sector is broken down in three segments, namely upstream, midstream and downstream production. Upstream exploration and production deals with finding reservoirs and drilling of Oil and Gas wells; while midstream production deals with the transportation from wells to refineries. Downstream production handles the refining and sale of the finished product.

About the speakers



Mr Martin Negonga
Vice-Chairperson: NAMPOA

Mr Martin Negonga, is the Asset Manager at NAMCOR, the leading National Oil Company in Namibia. He is a holder of a MSc in the Exploration of Geophysics from the University of Leeds, England, a BSc. (Hons) in Geophysics from the University of Wits, South Africa, as well as a BSc in Math and Physics from the University of Namibia. His professional career began 18 years ago in the Geophysics Department - Geological Survey of Namibia (GSN) at the Ministry of Mines. In 2012, he later joined the Exploration and Production Department at NAMCOR as a Geoscientist, before being promoted to his current position in 2019. As an Asset Manager, he is responsible for overseeing all asset management activities at NAMCOR, which includes managing the interest of non-operated assets, supervising exploration data, JV management and administering internal projects. At the beginning of this year, Mr Negonga was appointed as the Vice Chairperson of Namibia Petroleum Operators Association (NAMPOA).



Dr Ansgar Wanke
Senior Geologist Reconnaissance Energy Namibia

Dr Wanke is a geologist with over 20 years of experience in various fields, including regional mapping, paleogeography, geochemistry, sedimentology and seismic stratigraphy. He joined the University of Namibia Geology Department in 2008, and he headed the department from 2012 to 2016. In 2015, Dr Wanke introduced a two-year Master's programme in Petroleum Geology and supervised a number of industry related research projects on Namibian offshore and onshore basins. In 2019, he became a full-time consultant for petroleum exploration, and in late 2021 he took a position as Chief Geologist for Reconnaissance Energy Namibia.

Date: Thursday, 20 April 2023

Time: 17:00 - 20:30

Venue: Auditorium 1, NUST Lower Campus

RSVP on or before Tuesday, 18 April 2023

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Sizuma Saliko with Frans
 11h00-13h00

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