



# Namibian Defence Force JOURNAL



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January - March 2021



## HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH

Celebrating International Women's Day

08 March



## NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE

### VISION

The Namibian Defence Force envisions developing and maintaining a small, highly mobile and professional force, which excels in service through discipline, vigorous training, possession of modern armament and ready to defend and guarantee the security of the motherland.

### MISSION

The primary mission of the Namibian Defence Force as enshrined in the Constitution, Chapter 15, Article 118, is to defend the territorial integrity and national interests of Namibia. Its secondary roles include: assisting civil power and local authorities in domestic support operations when required as well as to undertake SADC, AU and UN Peace Support Missions.

### CORE VALUES

- Patriotism and Dedication
- Respect for Rule of Law
- Integrity
- Transparent and Accountability
- Professionalism
- Teamwork and Cooperation



# NDF Journal

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"Our ministry is thrilled to be part of the project that contributes not only to the fight against Covid-19, but also seek to improve the quality of education especially at rural schools"

**HON. R ADM (RTD) PETER VILHO**  
Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs

"Achieving gender equality and ending violence against women and children, mostly perpetuated by men, is the responsibility of both men and women"

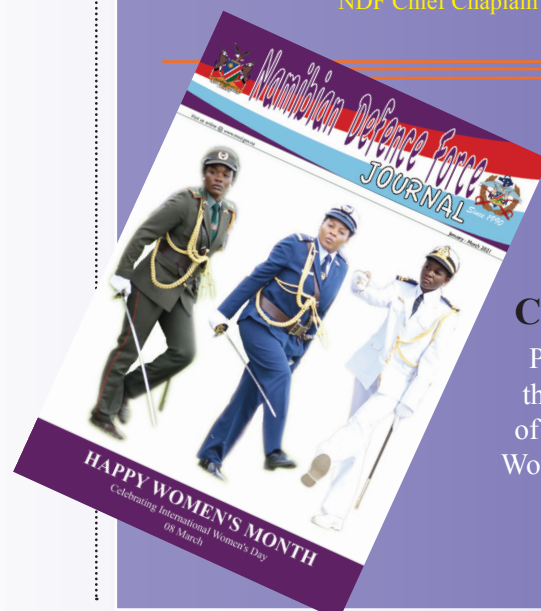
**HON. HILMA NICANOR**  
Deputy Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs

"Discipline is the foundation of a professional military and is critical to the success of NDF operations"

**AIR MARSHAL MARTIN PINEHAS**  
Chief of the Defence Force

"In today's world, most romantic relationships are met with life threatening and horrifying experiences of passion killing as a result of divorce, especially when a woman seems to reach the crossroads in their love"

**COL A. HAMWAAMA**  
NDF Chief Chaplain



### Cover page

Put in motion the celebration of International Women's Day: 8th March

# Editor's View



Allow me to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciations to all MODVA women across the NDF installations for staging such a touching and educational International Women's Day (IWD) commemoration on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Even though it is not the first time the women's day is commemorated, I take off my hat in support of their stance to jump into bandwagon as it was said in various statements delivered at the IWD commemorations. To be honest and based on Hon. Hilma Nicanor, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Veterans' Affairs keynote address at the Defence Headquarters IWD commemoration, women have something to celebrate and resonate with.

It did not cross my mind that MODVA has a reasonable number of women in leadership nor did I observe that Namibia is second to South Africa in number of women at military decision making level in the SADC Region. (Read Hon. Nicanor speech to acquaint yourself with how is MODVA implementing gender mainstreaming in the defence force and to familiarise with a number of women in MODVA' leadership: page 6).

Our cover page illustrates the number of women in MODVA decision-making and command structures. It is an encouraging and motivating factor to young female soldiers. I want to put the ball in their court so that they establish a path that sees them climbing the command ladder. At the DHQ IWD commemoration, Air Marshal Martin Pinehas told the young female soldiers that: "If you want to be in Brig Gen Fiina Amupolo's footsteps, go through the command line in order to advance to military leadership."

Absolutely true. Gen Amupolo is the only NDF woman to have occupied more than two positions in the military decision making level. She was the Commanding Officer of Composite Depot, served as the Defence Attachè to the German Federal Republic and now the Defence Inspector General for Defence Inspectorate. And if my mind serves me well, she is the only woman to command the parade at the national event. In 2011, she was the parade commander for the Heroes Day (26 August) Commemoration held in Gobabis, Omaheke Region. Another eye catching information reached my desk says, she is the first NDF woman to undergo both the Company Commander and the Junior Command and Staff Courses. In the context of women in uniform, this is history in the making and a path worth emulated.

Here, CDF is urging the women in NDF to fight for equal opportunities. They should convince the leadership that they are eager and capable to command. To become a commander, it does not come in a silverplate. It is about following lawful commands, accepting responsibilities, understanding military doctrine, building self-confidence and developing a go getter mentality.

I am sure all these will open the door for you (women) to flourish in a presumed men traditional domain.

I salute you!!!

*Col Fiina Amupolo (left) at the Composite Depot Change of Command parade where she handed over the reign to Col Martha Naxweka in 2014, following her diplomatic appointment as Defence Attachè to Germany*





**Hon. Hilma Nicanor**  
Deputy Minister



**Commissioner (rtd) Trephe Kamati**  
Executive Director



**Dr. Wihelmine Shivute**  
Deputy Executive Director



**Brig Gen Sofia Ndeitunga**  
Chief of Staff  
Defence Health Services



**Brig Gen Fiina Amupolo**  
Inspector General  
Defence Inspectorate



**Col Elizabeth Mboti**  
Defence Attaché  
Republic of Botswana



**Col Lelly Tega Kwedhi**  
Defence Attaché  
Republic of Zambia



**Col Helena Amutenya**  
Defence Legal Advisor



**Col Ebba Asino**  
Commanding Officer  
Logistics Support Battalion




**Group Capt Ester Fillemon**  
Base Commander  
Karibib Air Base



**Commander Rachel Tuyoleni**  
Commanding Officer  
Old Naval Base

# Meet pillars of MODVA women



*“Women  
in leadership: Achieving an equal  
future in a COVID-19 world.”*

**UNEDITED HON. HILMA NDINELAGO NICANOR  
SPEECH AT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY  
COMMEMORATION  
08 MARCH 2021  
DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS  
WINDHOEK.**

**"We now have only two (2) female Brigadier Generals heading directorates at the Defence Headquarters and some female officers holding management cadre positions in both command and staff appointments. So far we have had four (4) female senior officers posted in military diplomacy. By the way, the deputy minister of MODVA and both Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director are all women."**

*Hon. Hilma Nicanor, Deputy Minister of MODVA*



*Hon. Hilma Nicanor  
Deputy Minister of MODVA*

The idea of the IWD was proposed by Clara Zetkin, a German national. Women from 17 countries agreed on her suggestion unanimously and later the UN officially declared it as International Women's day. The day provides a specific and designated moment each year, to identify and celebrate the successes and achievements of women. It is a day when women around the world are recognised for their achievements regardless of their national, ethnic, cultural or political divides. It is also a day we look back at the struggles and accomplishments as well as appreciate the potential of the current and future generations of women.

This year, the world commemorates the International Women's Day under the Theme: "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world." The theme celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This theme speaks true to the prevailing health situation in the world where both men and women are devastated by the scourge of the coronavirus pandemic which has spread widely and continues to negatively affect the socio-economic environment indiscriminately. The women, in most countries, are the worst affected though, due to societal gender biases and inequalities between men and women. This notwithstanding, it is also the women that stand in great numbers at the frontline of COVID-19

crisis as health workers, caregivers, innovators, community organizers and as some of the most exemplary and effective national leaders in combating the pandemic.

This is henceforth the reason why Namibians and of course the men and women of the Namibian Defence Force should join the world in appreciating and celebrating the trials and tribulations of the women in the fight against COVID-19 and other pandemics.

In Namibia, we are blessed that the discourse on women's empowerment started before Namibia became independent. During the colonial period, Namibian men and women suffered the same fate but women suffered double, both as black people and as women, be it during the genocidal war perpetrated by Imperial Germany or during the South African Apartheid colonial oppression.

It therefore happened that during the struggle for liberation, both men and women participated equally and shared the same platforms at all fronts of the struggle right from the beginning to the end. The example that comes to my mind is that of Kakurukaze Mungunda and others who participated in the Old Location Uprising in 1959. In fact, Namibian women, during the war of liberation, refused to be restricted to supportive functions. They were fully trained in almost all disciplines, equipped and deployed in all establishments as combatants; thus they were an integral part of the liberation struggle in all its fronts, political, diplomatic and militarily.

**I**t is my distinct honour to stand in your midst to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). Throughout ancient and modern history, women have collaborated and led a purposeful action to redress inequality in the hope of a better future for their communities. The seeds were planted in 1908 when 15 000 women marched through New York city demanding shorter working hours, better pay, and the right to vote. Then in 1910, the idea to make the day international was tabled during the International Socialist Women's Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark.



*Lt Col Gracious Mushabati, DI SOI Training, served as Director of Proceedings at DHQs IWD*

As an independent country, Namibia has recognised that gender equality is key to the socio-economic transformation of our country. In 1997, for example, during the official opening of Parliament on the 25th of February, the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation H.E. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma said: “For too long, Namibian women have been kept out of the decision-making process, and consequently have been denied the right to participate and shape the development of our country. This is an evil we cannot perpetuate. Women are part and parcel of our society, and as such they are an integral component of our development efforts. Real development within any sector of our government cannot take place unless women, who are the mothers and nurturers of the nation, are made a central pillar of that process.”

Not only is Namibia committed to promote gender equality but it is also cognizant of the fact that there can be no democracy without equality between men and women. For example, Namibia ranks 11th globally in terms of the number of women in Parliament, with 46%, as a result of the 50/50 gender representation policy adopted by the ruling SWAPO Party, through amending its Constitution. There is therefore sufficient reason for us, as a nation, to celebrate the achievement of women in our country as will be cited below.

In June 2018, Namibia was awarded an African Gender Award from the ‘Gender is My Agenda Campaign’ Steering Committee in recognition of the progress we have made in promoting gender equality. H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob had boldly stated: “In Namibia, gender equality is not a slogan. We breathe it, speak it, and live it. We do so, knowing well that men and women are peerless partners, who are supplementary to one another. We should leave no stone unturned in enabling the girl-child and women to reach their potential, express their creativity, and nurture their talent.”

Through H. E. Dr. Hage Geingob’s leadership, we have seen 21 cabinet ministers, of whom 38% are women. An analysis of Namibia’s current cabinet indicates that women are now leading some of the traditionally male dominated ministries such as International Relations and Cooperation; Industrialisation and Trade; Basic and Higher Education as well as Justice and the Presidency.

Women also comprise 71% of the deputy ministers as announced in 2020.

I also acknowledge that, since the formation of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF), the strength of women stands at 25% of the entire force, which is the second highest in the SADC Region and within reach of the set threshold.

Women representation in decision-making in the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) is still a challenge. We now have only two (2) female Brigadier Generals heading directorates at the Defence Headquarters and some female officers holding management cadre positions in both command and staff appointments. So far we have had four (4) female senior officers posted in military diplomacy. By the way, the deputy minister of MODVA and both executive director and deputy executive director are all women. However, there is still a room for improvement to increase the number of women in these positions. I thus call on you our main folk to become advocates for gender equality, to persuade men and boys that our country and the world can only benefit from equal opportunities. I urge you all to lead by example by condemning all forms of discrimination, stereotypes and violence against women and girls.

Our Constitution, which is the Supreme Law of our country, article 10, sub articles (1) and (2) prohibits gender discrimination. I appreciate the fact that the MODVA is committed and has created a conducive environment by establishing structures responsible for Gender Mainstreaming.



*Lt Dimo Hamaambo Garrison members marching during IWD commemoration*



*Namibian Navy also held IWD commemoration at Capt Scharias Naval Base*

*Photo: Cpl T. Nghipunya*

In this respect, I would like to urge all commanders to put in place mechanisms for education and awareness raising about gender equality. This is key in building knowledge and confidence amongst women on their socio - economic, cultural, civic and political rights. It is my plea that we continue increasing the number of women in the running of the defence force, thereby conforming to the provisions of the Constitution earlier alluded to.

As I commission the commemoration of the International Women's Day, I encourage women to work hard and intensify the struggle against gender inequality in all its forms and manifestations, that prevents us from achieving our full potential. I urge you to have role models, women you look up to, women who have accomplished more in the defence force as well as other spheres of life. That way, you will have a target of how far you can grow in both military and civic careers.

When celebrating this day, pay honour and know that it is your special day, dedicated specially for you to come together, to cherish your achievements, share experiences and best practices, mentor and coach each other. Here is to strong women, may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them. There is a wellspring of pride in knowing that we are so willing to support one another, and seek to obtain maximum benefit from our capacities, thereby securing a better future. Use all opportunities because every opportunity that comes your way contributes to your advancement to the next level. Use that chance for you to score a goal.

Achieving gender equality and ending violence against women and children, mostly perpetrated by men, is the responsibility of both men and women. Men form part and parcel of the solution. The fight for gender equality is not a women's issue alone. Men should take an active part in the fight and stand up for women's rights. Together we should look at the power relations, address patriarchy, changing mentalities and challenging the social roles and stereotypes that we have normalised and internalised.

I will fail in my duty if I do not express my sincere gratitude to the Directorate of Defence Health Services, which is the centre of our celebration this year, for their commitment and contribution to the fight against COVID-19. The health workers from the NDF, be they doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists and morticians have immensely contributed to the successes Namibia has recorded in keeping the COVID-19 infection within manageable proportions. The fight is however not over yet as we still continue to record new confirmed cases.

Please remain focused and ready to fight till the end. The lives of the Namibian people remain of cardinal importance.

We remember those who sacrificed their lives as frontline workers in the fight against COVID -19.

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

To all women in the NDF, and all of us, Happy Women's Day!

I thank you!



# Action Planning Workshop towards developing a **STRATEGIC PLAN**

**T**he five-day (25 to 29 January 2021) NDF Action Planning Workshop held at Osona Military School is an evident that the military landscape is constantly changing and that the MODVA is ahead of time to adjusting and adapting to the new trajectory.

A dedicated MODVA management team spent extensive time and energy to produce a blueprint that forecasts the NDF future. Together with the renowned and military paragons, - former Chiefs of Defence Force, Lt Gen Martin Shalli and Lt Gen Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah, the team brainstormed the best practices

and institute a roadmap toward the formulation of an informative and dynamic NDF Strategic Plan. To set up a far-reaching Strategic Plan that would direct the defence to a predicable future, the workshop shed light on the ever-changing and dynamic military as well as geopolitical environment, coupled with spiral security threats and economic down turn that threatening the military welfare in all its aspects.

The defence force need competency in its entirety and a well designed mechanisms in pursuit of national interests and engage in international obligations.

The defence decision-markers thus, identified, prioritised and documented recommendations they deemed fit to fulfil the NDF Strategic Plan. The regional security threats, rising offences in the force and the advent of social media are some of the topical issues the workshop discussed for the ministry to come up with tangible and a well-thought-out assumptions that would constitute a credible strategic plan aligned with the national action plan and within the national budgeting cycle.



*From left: Deputy Army Commander, Brigadier Gen A. Kwedhi; Deputy Air Force Commander, Air Commodore A. Hihepa and Deputy Navy Commander Rear Admiral (JG) S. !Gonteb in session - Photo: Cpl T. Nghipanyu*



*MODVA top echelon at first ever NDF Action Planning Workshop at Osona Military School - Photo: Cpl T.Nghipanya*

Strategic planning is an organisational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organisation's direction in response to a changing environment.

It is a disciplined effort that produces fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organisation is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organisation is going and the actions needed to make progress,

but also how it will know if it is successful.

In all its efforts, a strategic plan is ought to communicate with the organisation the organisations goals, the actions needed to achieve those goals and all of the other critical elements developed during the planning exercise.



*Former Chiefs of the Defence Force, Lt Gen Martin Shali (left) and Lt Gen Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah were key stakeholders in the workshop-*

*Photo: Cpl T.Nghipanya*

# GRADUATION

## for 14<sup>th</sup> Intake - Junior Staff Course



*CDF handing over Best Academic Student Award to Capt M. M. Shafashike*

**T**wenty three NDF officers have completed a Junior Staff Course (JSC) at the Namibia Command and Staff College (NCSC) where they acquired diverse knowledge and skills pertaining to military doctrine that enhance their understanding on command and control responsibilities.

With the advent of the new world order, shrouded by military incostant environment and dreadful security threats across the world including the SADC Region, it is foremost importance to train soldiers to understand and adapt to the contemporary military landscape.

Given this discernment, the 14th JSC as a mode of imparting military knowledge and skills into the junior officer, has equipped the qualified members of the NDF in rank parameter of captain to major, with essential knowledge and skills required to fulfil grade 2 and 3 staff appointment and other regimental duties, develop an understanding of land, air and sea power concepts and employ tactical deployment of arms during war times up to a brigade level. In addition, the course also assessed the students' aptitude on command and control, leadership and other general military disciplines related to the contemporary military studies. They also undertook an industrial capability study visits, which exposed them to the roles and responsibilities of NDF Formations, Units and key economical sectors operations in the country.

The graduation ceremony of the 14 course was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the Namibia Command and Staff College in Okahandja where Air Marshal Martin Pinehas, Chief of the Defence Force stated that the course was designed to asses the students' aptitude on decision making, critical thinking, leadership, staff duties, peacekeeping operation and the understanding of the NDF military doctrine. "I believe that after months of intensive studies, you are ready to articulate on issues pertinent to command

and control," CDF told the graduates while reminding them that discipline is the foundation of a professional military and is critical to the success of NDF operations, which he said: "it is instilled through training and exceptional leadership acumen, backed by the law. Commanders in the NDF are responsible for ensuring and proper management of the equipment and resources entrusted on them for defence purposes."

This course is offered to junior officers drawn from all NDF Arms of Service, with the curriculum setup into two terms. The first terms focuses on history and Namibian heritage, organisation, the role

of the NDF, staff duties, logistics, command and control, leadership, geo political studies, law of armed conflict and Industrial visits. The second terms focuses on conventional warfare, low intensity operations, peace support operations and training

Upon completion of the course, all 23 Officers received a Diploma in Military Science (NQA) level 6.

The special awards was presented as follow:

Major A. H. Shipanga received the special awards for Most Contributing Student, while Capt M. M. Shafashike received the special award for Best Academic Student and Capt T. Iitembu received the special award for Best Commandant Paper.



*CDF handing over Best Commandant Paper Award to Capt T. Iitembu*



*CDF, Generals, Senior Officers including NCSC directing staff and graduated officers taking a group picture at the entrance of the college*

Some of Onambutu Secondary School learners in Ohangwena Region elated over new school's hostel blocks built with UBM. 26 August set-up two two hostel blocks with ablution facilities at Onambutu SS -

Photo: MTomas



## AUGUST 26, responding to construction needs

**T**he August 26 (A-26) Holding's Construction Company known as Ultimate Building Materials (UBM) is responding to the construction needs in the country after building hostel blocks at various schools in response to the Covid-19 Regulations.

Established in 2013, the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) subsidiary A-26 construction company has been providing innovative and sustainable solutions in construction and renewable energy and became a proud industry leader of UBM Technology in Namibia. The UBM is a building system that is fast and low-cost construction methodology using prepainted galvanized steel, cellulose, polyurethane and monokote.

Due to the proliferation of Covid-19 in the country and the threat it posed to the education sector, the government contracted the A-26 construction company to build and expand accommodation at schools in certain regions in order to prevent congestion and be in line with the Covid-19 protocols. With other partners such as Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and, Namibia Training Authority, A-26 Construction in a space of less than a year, managed to set-up 44 hostel blocks including ablution facilities at over 20 schools in six (6) regions (Ohangwena, Omusati,

Kunene, Omaheke, Erongo and Khomas Regions), using conventional building material at some schools while at others resorted to its main supply, the UBM.

Hon. Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho, Minister of MODVA accompanied by Capt (Navy) Lisias Kangadjela, Deputy Director for Construction and Maintenance and Lt Col Martha Endjala, Chief Executive Officer for A-26 Construction Company took a weeklong programme (14 to 27 February 2021) to hand over the new school facilities to Hon. Anna Nghipondoka, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. The inaugural handover was held at Uupili Secondary School in Ohangwena Region where two hostel blocks paired with ablution facilities were built.

The reason to set-up these facilities at schools was mainly, to avoid overcrowding at hostels and enforce Covid-19 protocols which have not been effective at some schools due to inadequate accommodation expanse.

"Our ministry is thrilled to be part of the project that contributes not only to the fight against Covid-19, but also seeks to improve the quality of education especially at rural schools," Hon. Vilho said this while handing over the key for the hostel blocks at Uupili Secondary School, adding that A-26 Construction would continue responding to the government call to provide accommodation to

schools and create a health hazard free environment that encourages commitment to learning.

In addition to construction, the company also provides services such as project management, plant and equipment hire, manufacturing, supplying and installation as well as Renewable Energy. The UBM is situated in Windhoek, at Leopards Valley Military base, on the way to Rehoboth, which is about 10 kilometres from the city centre.



A 26 Construction workers setting up UBM facility at company's centre in Leopards Valley military base, Windhoek - Photo: A 26 Construction

[www.august26ubm.com](http://www.august26ubm.com)



*Commissioner (Rtd) Trephine Kamati (right), Executive Director of MODVA with Hon. Herbert Beck, Germany Ambassador to Namibia signing 8<sup>th</sup> Agreement on Equipment Aid Programme at DHQ*

# Building peacekeeping capacity

**T**he new Equipment Aid Programme (EAP) Memorandum of Understanding signed between Namibia and German enhanced the two countries' military to military relations.

The German's Armed Forces Technical Advisory Group (GAFTAG) through the German Technical Group once again extend support by donating additional financial support worth N\$ 103 257 404. The new agreement is focused on improving and further equips the NDF Mobile Field Hospital and other major projects in order to enhance domestic support and peacekeeping capabilities.

The standard of the mobile Field Hospital (MFH) and the technical training centre is culminated from the generosity and solidarity of the German government in support of African countries in various areas of development including the armed forces through the German Equipment Aid Programme spearheaded by the GAFTAG.



*Groundbreaking ceremony of MFH at Osona Military Base in 2017*

Namibia and German has been fostering military to military cooperation dating to the early days of Namibia's independence.

In the past four decades, the German government has been supporting African armed forces through Equipment Aid Programme (EAP), strengthening capabilities in compliance with peacekeeping operations requirements.

Namibia has been receiving military support from Germany since 1992 and so far, equipment aid agreements amounting to 30 Million Euro have been signed. In 2016, Germany and Namibia signed the Seventh Equipment Aid Programme.

The Eighth AEP agreement was signed at the Defence Headquarters by Commissioner (rtd) Trepheine Kamati, the Executive Director of MODVA and the German Ambassador to Namibia, Hon. Herbert Beck on 24 February 2021 and it will run for the period of 3 years (2021 to 2024).



*Layout of MFH Level - I at Osona Military School*

Given the fact that Namibia is signatory to the United Nations, the support from Germany has been and still fundamental to Namibia's participation in the world peace process and contribute to peace and stability in several countries in Africa and beyond. Thus, the main aim of the new EAP is to equip the mobile hospital and technical training facilities as well as to train NDF personnel for peacekeeping capacities and implement common tactical goals.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 is one of the events that put the NDF medical service to test, as the military field hospital with medical practitioners was initially and successfully deployed at Hosea Kutako International Airport to supplementing the Ministry of Health and Social Services bed capacity. Subsequently, it was redeployed at Walvis Bay and later returned to Windhoek, which eventually overtook Walvis Bay with the spread of virus infections.

With the support of German Technical Team in Namibia, the hospital was upgraded to level-I medical facilities in 2019, equipped with laboratory, theater, intensive-care medicine, x-ray, dentistry and emergency room as well as a

mobile production facility for medical oxygen.

It also fitted with drinking water treatment plant, pharmacy, sanitary facilities, a laundry, accommodation and a kitchen.

Other major projects implemented from 1993 to 2020 are:

- The construction of a facility for the destruction of ammunition and explosives in Walvis Bay.
- The establishment of a training workshop (automotive mechanics) in the Osona Military Base.
- The establishment of a driving school for the training of drivers of the armed forces of Namibia.
- The establishment of a sick bay and a car workshop at Army Battle School.
- The establishment of a Central Support Element for peace-keeping missions at Osona Military

School. In addition to vehicle workshops for vehicles of all kinds, this also includes a workshop for medical technology, as well as a vocational training area. As of 2021, bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, air conditioning technicians, welders and plumbers) were anticipated to be trained and completing their training with a civilian degree.



*Mr. Klaus Wurzel from German's Ministry of Defence and Mr. Abraham Iilonga, the then Deputy Permanent Secretary of Defence, Namibian after signing 7<sup>th</sup> Agreement on Equipment Aid Programme at DHQ in 2016.*

# Sport umbrella body for law – enforcement agencies

**T**he government security forces have acquired an affiliation to assume control and representing the uniformed sportspersons' interests in sport.

The Namibia Sports Commission (NSC) on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 unveiled the Namibia Uniform Forces/Service Sports Association, (NUFSSA), a new sports umbrella body consistent with the culture and tradition of uniformed forces and deemed to represent athletes of the Namibia Defence Force (NDF), Namibia Police Force (Nampol) and the Namibia Correctional Services (NCS).

Following lengthy consultations with relevant key players and the three forces, the NUFSSA was successfully registered as a new umbrella body affiliated to the commission.

In the past couple of years, the NDF, Nampol and NCS produced top athletes in the country who have been representing Namibia with utmost pride at international arenas. With the launch of the new body, a number of athletes from the three forces are expected to multiply.

The initiative to establish this affiliation started in 2019 and after consultations it has emerged as part of the regulating body.

The NDF has produced several elite athletes who become top sportspersons in the country and beyond. The like of WOII Helalia Johannes, SSgt Paulus Iiyambo, SSgt Reinold Iita, Cpl Simon Sipingana L/Cpl Leonard Namupala and L/Cpl Alina Almas – Marathon; WOII Paulus Ambunda, Petty Officer Lucas Sakaria and Sgt Jafet Uutoni – boxing, have been the



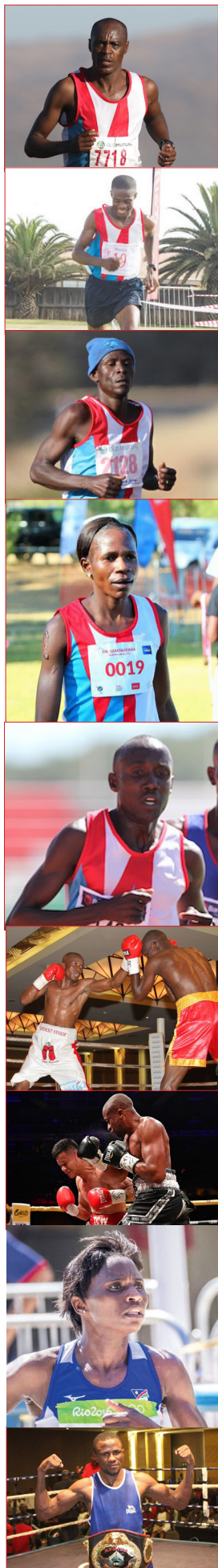
*Col IN Nyambali  
SSO Sport - MODVA*

national prides, representing and winning awards at both local and international competitions. Therefore, the NUFSSA reinforces the security forces to produce more athletes of similar calibre. "The law-enforcement agencies are the ones that have most of the top athletes in the country, but they do not have a representative at the sport commission to represent the uniform forces." Col IN Nyambali, the SSO Sport in the MODVA said this in an interview with the Public Relations, adding that the new body seeks to develop sport enthusiasts among the ranks and files of uniformed forces and strengthens friendship amongst the athletes.

The MODVA Sport Division is automatically (Ex-officio) eligible member of the Executive Committee and also provides Treasurer and Regional Sport Officers to represent the NUFSSA.

Col Nyambali confirmed that the sport office has three members who served in the working committee that came up with draft Constitution for the new association, namely: Lt Col PL Nuumbembe (chairperson), Maj FC Hosea (member) and SSgt GT Iivulika (member)

Chief Inspector Kenneth Muatara from Nampol was selected as the acting chairman of the NUFSSA.



# IN LOVING MEMORY

The three (3) departed (retired) commanders of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) have acquired reputations in the military cycle and left legacies that provide an important stepping-stone for the NDF future.

The late, Brig Gen (rtd) Holden Japuleni Chrispus Uulenga, Col (rtd) George Mwauvikange Kaxuxwena and Gp Capt (rtd) Naftali Ndamono Apollo Nambandi are distinctive symbols for inspiration whose rich history cannot be omitted in the Namibian memoirs and like other liberation struggle icons, their selfless lives, dedication and perseverance inspired Namibia to democracy.

It was disconsolate to lay to rest the former PLAN combatants who contributed immensely to the foundation and growth of the NDF.

They ceased living in consecutive weeks. Brig Gen Uulenga died on 16 February 2021 in Windhoek hospital, Gp Capt Nambandi passed on 20 February at Onandjokwe State Hospital, while Col (Rtd) Kaxuxwena died on 21 February 2021 in Windhoek hospital.

The departed officers were accorded an official funeral as a recognition for their contribution to peace and stability in the country.

## LATE BRIG GEN (rtd) UULENGA

Gen Uulenga was born in Omusati Region. He spends most of his youth in uniform, from the liberation struggle to years in NDF colour.

During his military career as PLAN fighter, he fought and commanded many battles with determination, capturing materials and inflicting heavy casualties.



### Liberation Struggle

Gen Uulenga, known as 'Hollo' left the country to join the liberation struggle in 1974, risking his teenagehood to the cause of freedom. He was trained as a PLAN combatant at Cassaba Base in Angola and later deployed to Cunene Province, fighting at the front close to the borders as well as inside Namibia. While in exile, he served in various PLAN positions such as field commander to detachment commissar and deputy brigade commander for logistic.

### NDF

In 1988, he was repatriated and joined the NDF in 1990 as a staff officer - counter intelligence with the rank of a major. He rose through ranks until he became a brigadier general, the rank he held until his retirement from active military service in 2015.

During his NDF military career, he served in various positions: SO1 Counter Intelligence - Defence Headquarters (DHQ), SSO Counter Intelligence - Army Headquarters (AHQ), SSO Security Intelligence - AHQ, Deputy Commander - 21 Motorised Infantry Brigade and General Officer Commanding 26 Brigade. On the war front, served as Chief of Staff, Eastern Front during Operation Atlantic in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The late Uulenga will be remembered as a fearless and unwavering PLAN combatant and a skillful member of the intelligence of the NDF. It is now our solemn responsibility to strive together to build the future destiny of our country to which he dedicated his life," His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, the Founding President and the Father of the Namibian Nation said in his message of condolences.

### Decorations

For his outstanding contributions and long service to the defence and security sector, he was accorded and decorated with medals: NDF Ten Years medal; Commendation medal 3rd Class; Commendation medal 1st Class; Army Pioneer medal and Operation Atlantic Campaign medal.

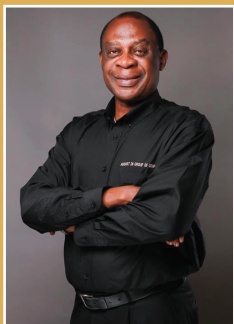
Gen Uulenga was given a heroic send off at Omugulugwombashe Memorial Shrine on 01 March 2021.



# of NDF pioneers

## LATE COL (rtd) KAXUXWENA

Col (rtd) Kaxuxwena, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs' subsidiary August 26 Holdings was born on 13 February 1955 at Onamunama Village, Ohangwena Region.



### Liberation Struggle

He joined the liberation struggle in 1974 where after he completed the basic military and engineering training at Cynferopol in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic. Years later, he completed the brigade commanders' course.

While in exile, he served in different senior military appointments within SWAPO's Military Wing PLAN.

### NDF

After independence in 1990, he joined the NDF with the rank of a major and served as a staff officer in the directorate of Operations, Plans and Training at the DHQ. Over his time in the NDF, he served at various positions inside and outside the country. In 1994, he was promoted to the rank of a lieutenant Colonel and appointed Air Wing Commanding Officer. Subsequently, he served at the United Nation Headquarters as Military Advisor to the Permanent Mission in New York and later appointed Defence Attaché designated to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and eventually to the Federal Republic of Germany until his retirement from active military service in 2015.

After he hanged his military boots, the late Kaxuxwena was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of August 26 Holdings, the position he held until his death.

His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, in his message of condolences described Col Kaxuxwena as a hardworking and selfless hero, who like other Namibian risked his life to join the liberation struggle. "He spent most of his youthful age at the battle front as a PLAN combatant, therefore his contribution to Namibia's independence will be honoured in the most befitting manner like any other fallen hero," the President said.

### Decorations

For the service to the nation, the former diplomat received a befitting accolade: The Grand Commander Of The Order of Namibia – First Class; Army Ten Years' Service and Army Twenty Years' Service medals.

The late Col Kaxuxwena died in Windhoek and was buried on 27 February at Eenhana Memorial Shrine.

## LATE GP CAPT (rtd) NAMBANDI

The late Nambandi was born on 20 June 1957 at Ashuupa Village, Oshana Region.



### Liberation Struggle

Like other youth of his generation, he joined the liberation struggle in 1980 and between 1985 and 1987 he received Infantry Training and MI-8 Helicopter Pilot Training in India and Russia respectively.

### NDF

After independence, he was inducted in the NDF in 1992, deployed at 124 Battalion – Oamites as a platoon commander and later redeployed to Air Force (the then Air Wing) where he served until he was assigned as Defence Attaché to China.

In 2000, he was deployed along the Angola-Namibia borders to participate in the Mandume Ya Ndemufayo Operations where the Air Force was supporting the ground force by transporting troops, consignments and at the same time deterring the UNITA bandits with a helicopter. While engaging the enemy in the operation, he was shot and sustained leg injury. With troops on board, he continued flying and landed safely in Rundu.

The late Nambandi's discipline and dedication served as a foothold in his military career, as he rose through the ranks and files of the NDF. He was inducted a lieutenant and grew in importance to a Group Captain, the rank he held until he retired from active military service. During his NDF military career, he carried out appointments such as: Helicopter Wing Commander, Air Base Commander, Chief of Staff Operation - Air Force Headquarters and subsequently appointed Defence Attaché designated to China, the last post in uniform towards his retirement in 2017.

Air Marshal Martin Pinehas, Chief of the Defence Force, who worked with the late Nambandi at Air Force for a period of time, described him as a renowned helicopter pilot, whose hardworking, discipline and dedication to duty laid a foundation worth emulated by generation to generation.

### Decorations

All his contribution to the better Namibia did not go unnoticed as he awarded symbols of appreciation in various forms. He is a recipient of the Grand Commander Of The Most Excellent Order of Namibia; Operation Mandume Ya Ndemufayo medal, Air Force Pioneers medal, Ten Years Meritorious medal, Longevity medal and Air Cadre medal.

Gp Capt Nambandi was laid to rest at Enkono Cemetery in Oshana Region on 6 March 2021.



# Inter-State Defence & Security Committee



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**The need for peace and security, and economic and social development through regional integration are the reasons that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established in 1992.**

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**T**he Southern African region has for decades been developing and strengthening regional cooperation in the Defence Sector. It is this cooperation that underpinned the establishment of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) in 1977, which is a forum for defence, and security co-operation. The Inter-State Defence and Security Committee played a crucial role in the liberation struggles against colonial and racist regimes and in the maintenance of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Member States.

#### **The Protocol, Plan and Mutual Defence Pact**

The Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation states that it is desirous to ensure that close cooperation on matters of politics, defence and security shall at all times promote the peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or arbitration. Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation provides for regional intervention in the case of intrastate conflict, but only for purposes of mediation, and does not provide for military assistance.

Article 3 of the Mutual Defence Pact 2003 states that: "State Parties shall, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, settle any international dispute in which they may be involved, by peaceful means, in such a manner that regional and international peace, security and justice are enhanced." Article 6 goes on to say that "An armed attack against a State Party shall be considered a threat to regional peace and security and such an attack shall be met with immediate collective action."

#### **By signing the Mutual Defence Pact Member States agreed to:**

**SEEKING** to promote peace, security, stability and well-being among our peoples;

**DETERMINED** to defend and safeguard the freedom of our peoples and their civilisation, as well as their individual liberties and the rule of law;

**CONVINCED** that close cooperation in matters of defence and security will be to the mutual benefit of our peoples;

**HAVING RESOLVED** to unite our efforts towards collective self-defence and the preservation of peace and stability.

The Harmonised Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (II) alongside the SADC Mutual Defence Pact 2003 guides the implementation of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

#### **The Harmonised Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (II) identifies seven objectives related to improved politics and diplomacy in the SADC region for the period 2010-2015:**

*Objective 1: Protect people of the region against instability arising from conflict.*

*Objective 2: Promote regional co-ordination and cooperation in defence and security.*

*Objective 3: Enforcement action in accordance with international law.*

*Objective 4: Consider the development of a collective security capacity, and conclude the Mutual Defence Pact.*

*Objective 5: Observe and implement international treaty obligations (UN and AU).*

*Objective 6: Develop peacekeeping capacity, and co-ordinate participation.*

*Objective 7: Enhance disaster management capacity; co-ordinate international humanitarian assistance.*

In a bid to ensure effective conduct of peace and support operations in the region, SADC has strengthened the Regional Peacekeeping and Training Centre in Zimbabwe to cover all components of SADC Security Forces. At international levels many SADC Member states have continued to contribute to the United Nations and African Union Peace Support Operations.

#### **Challenges**

Notwithstanding the achievements stated above, the region still faces a number of challenges, which impact on the defence sector.

*These include:*

- Armed conflicts within Member States;
- Terrorism;
- HIV and AIDS;
- Developing policies and capacities to ensure that the region maintains trained units ready to be deployed in peace support operations in the region or under the auspices of the African Union or the United Nations;
- Developing a regional capacity on defence technology;
- The clearance of landmines and Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs);
- Responding to external aggression;
- The reintegration of ex-combatants and rehabilitation of child soldiers;
- Implementing the doctrine that will enable the inter-operability of the Defence Forces;
- Disaster relief support capability;
- The proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;
- Illegal migration;
- Maritime piracy and
- Any other threats.

#### **References:**

<https://www.sadc.int/themes/politics-defence-security/defence/>

# OBSERVANCE OF WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Grace be unto you all, in the name of the  
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Today, the NDF joins thousands of women and men in the world, who are gathered together on Lent Season (according to the Church Calendar), in the 1st week of March to observe the historic day of the Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP), which is commemorated on the first Friday of March. This year, it falls on 05th March 2021. Although the essential purpose of the day is to pray, the day can also provide women with an opportunity to strengthen their spiritual bonds with other Christian women in the globe as they pray together.

The 2021 WWDP is organised by the women from Vanuatu Island, in the Pacific Ocean, under the theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation' (Mathew 7:24-27). A Prayer is a powerful sword for faithful Christian and it creates a spiritual atmosphere of empathy among the Christian soldiers and their families. This day provides an opportunity for women to worship God and to pray for one another as well as learn about each other.

The Observance of Women's World Day of Prayer is set to address these topics: how to pray; how to understand scripture of God's promises and how fasting can enhance our praying lives. In the process, you will observe God's will and prayer, and it helps NDF members under the umbrella of the 'Military Christians Fellowship' to develop a prayer life of their own.

Historically, women play an integral role in performing different opportunities in society. A woman, as a mother, has a significant role. She nurtures her children and supports child education. She guarantees the promotion of leadership in every

successful man in the society. As the Lord says, "I will go with you, and I will give you victory (Exodus 33:14).

In today's world, most romantic relationships are met with life threatening and horrifying experiences of passion killing as a result of divorce, especially when a woman seems to reach the crossroads in their love. After she opens her heart to her ex-lover, it ends up with the breaking news of bloodshed. There are also some women in Namibia, who lack love and abandon or mistreat their own blood and the image of God, being their children and husbands, as a result of personal and relationship differences. Please accept that when someone walks away from your life, it is not the end of the world; another trustworthy man would come your way, someone who understands you.

Today our prayers will dilute the thoughts of men to end violence and uplift their self-esteem. Let us stand together to discourage passion killing in Namibia. God will respond to your request on this day of prayer and His grace is evident in your walk by the journey of faith. So, be encouraged today and know that His grace is all over you and you are indeed blessed to reach your goals and your destination. Your test will become a testimony and your mission will become a message of victory and triumph for God's glory.

On this day, women need to offer their sacrifices of praise like Mary the mother of Christ who glorified God



*Col (Rev) HN Hamwaama  
NDF Chief Chaplain*

(Luke 1:46-55) and like Hannah, who prayed to God all the days and nights of her life (1 Samuel 1:11), for this special day which offered once a year for the women to pray and bring the needs of the world and nations before Him. Pray with confidence about everything. Believe and don't doubt (James 1:6). Pray that the King will increase your faith in His promises, as all God's promises are 'Yes' in Christ (2 Corinthians 1: 20-21). Pray like saints in the history of the Church, pray like faithful women in the Bible like Hannah, Ruth, Ester, Priscilla, to emulate the principle of Mother Teresa to transform the world to become a better place again.

Pray that God helps women, all commanders who bring people to the body of Christ and all participants who serve him in the body of Christ, to grow and build themselves up in love, as men of dreams and women of vision. Pray with dedication to secure more opportunities for female Senior Officers in NDF. Therefore, give thanks and sing a music of praise to the Almighty God, for using women to be His saints as He pleased.

# POEMS



*Maj TN Ugwanga  
Gender Division - DHQ*

## Stop Violence against Women

Violence against women is simply unacceptable,  
Violence against women is despicable,  
It is awful for men to abuse women,  
It is awful for men to take advantage,  
It is awful for men to use excessive force and rage.

God created men and women to love one another,  
To enjoy together as one,  
until the end of the last hour,  
Until the end of the time.

Taking a life is against God Command,  
We are begging everyone out there,  
We are pleading with you  
We need to stop filling streets with blood,  
We need to take away violence and pain,  
Please stop violence!

We will never stop being persistent,  
We will shout loud and clear, STOP VIOLENCE, STOP  
VIOLENCE!

Use your mighty and strength to eradicate crime,  
Encourage men and women to eradicate crime,  
Use your mighty and strength to encourage love.

We need to fill Namibia with love,  
We need to fill this earth with everlasting faith,  
We need to stand up as one,  
We need to stop the violence,  
We need to love each other,  
Not hurting and killing one another.



Think about this woman,  
She was a mother,  
She was a wife,  
She was a daughter,  
She has people who loved her dearly.

We need to stand tall and loud,  
We need to stop the pain,  
We need to save women,  
We need to save mothers,  
We need to save our future mothers.

**If you are a good man, reject violence,  
If you a better man, detest violence  
If you are the best man, transform violence into love**



*Capt HP Iiyambo  
Gender Division - DHQ*

## I wish I knew!

You're not a machine to call you a printer,  
You're not an electronic device to call you an amplifier,  
But when I give you a soul, you turn it into human.

I give you words, you turn them into love,  
I give you love, you turn it into marriage,  
I give you information, I create an archive,  
I give you a national company, you turn it into a multinational  
firm,  
I educate you, I educate the entire nation.

Today you are demonstrating these magical behaviours  
In every office or position you occupy,  
Had I knew this before,  
I couldn't have pulled a wagon alone,  
Without giving you equal opportunities.  
Thus, you deserve freedom, equality and justice.

Oo! I wish I knew women are these brilliant,  
I wish I knew women are these sophisticated,  
So, here I present, women's day is all yours!!!





"I express appreciation to leaders across all spheres of our society, the men and women in uniform, frontline workers and first responders, business, religious and traditional leaders, school principals and teachers, parents at the household level, and every single Namibian – for your resilience and diligence to promoting compliance with Covid-19 regulations. Our strength remains in our unity of purpose."

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE GEINGOB**

President of the Republic of Namibia &  
Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force

***26<sup>TH</sup> COVID-19 PUBLIC BRIEFING ON THE NATIONAL  
RESPONSE MEASURES***

13 March 2021