



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Tel: (+26461) 2049111

Private Bag 13307

Fax: (+26461) 232518/ 220523

WINDHOEK

Enquiries: **Maj H. Swartbooi**

Our Ref:.....Your Ref:.....

// May 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE HANGANEE II IN OMAHEKE REGION

The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs is hereby announcing that the Namibian Defence Force, together with the Botswana Defence Force, will conduct a Battalion Level Peace Support Operation Training Exercise code-named 'EXERCISE HANGANEE II'. The Exercise will be conducted in the general area of Gobabis, Omaheke Region, in the Republic of Namibia, from the 15th - 30th June 2023.

EXERCISE HANGANEE II takes place in the framework of excellent bilateral relations existing between the Republic of Botswana and the Republic of Namibia. The Exercise is a collaborative effort between the two Defence Forces implementing the resolutions of the 22nd Session of the Botswana/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 13th to 18th November 2012. Consequently, the resolutions of the 29th Session of the Namibia/Botswana Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security held in Swakopmund on the 12th to 17th September 2021 provided an impetus to host the Exercise in 2023 after its conduct was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

EXERCISE-HANGANEE II is designed, among other things, to improve interoperability between the Botswana Defence Force and Namibia Defence Force, enhance military-to-military relations and evaluate the effectiveness of the two sister Defence Forces' Rapid Deployment Capability within the broader Southern African Development Community Peace and Security Architecture and in the context of Stand-by Force arrangements.

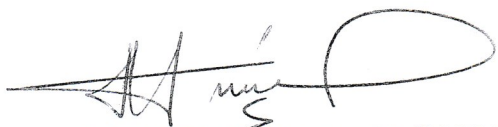
During the Exercise, approximately one thousand troops from Namibia and Botswana will temporarily be deployed to several locations in Omaheke Region with the Mission Headquarters located at Ben Hur Training Center, the Contingent Headquarters and one Forward Operating Base at Mphe-Thuto Primary School in Tsjaka, while other Forward Operating Bases will be at Drimiopsis Primary School in Drimiopsis, and Nossob Primary School in Witvlei.

The communities residing in the said locations are hereby informed that there will be movements of troops and military equipment. Some gunshot sounds and loud bangs from explosives will be heard as the soldiers will be simulating different emergency situations. The members of the public are however urged not to panic as no live ammunition will be used during the exercises and that caution will be taken not to cause harm to both the members of the public and the soldiers.

Besides training exercises, the two Defence Forces will also hold several sports and cultural activities, career fairs and outreach programmes to the communities of Omaheke Region. Outreach programmes will include provision of free medical screening and treatment and other basic humanitarian services.

To this end, the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs would like to thank the Governor of Omaheke Region, Hon. Pijoo Nganate, the entire leadership of the Region, communities and all the stakeholders for their unwavering support throughout EXERCISE-HANGANEE II Planning Process.

The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs Public Relations Division will officially invite media houses to cover the Exercise.



DR. WILHELMINE SHIVUTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

