

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS
AFFAIRS CABINET COMMITTEE BRIEFING ON
25 JUNE 2025 AT GOVERNMENT INFORMATION
CENTRE, NAMPA OFFICE**

Fellow Namibians
Members of the Media
Good Morning

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to report to the Namibian people the activities carried out by the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) from 01 August 2024 to date.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia established the Ministry of Defence in terms of Chapter 5, Article 32 (3) (g) of the Namibian Constitution to administer, manage and employ the Namibia Defence Force in the defence of the territory and national interests of the Republic of Namibia. The addition of the Veterans Affairs portfolio to it in 2020 mandated the Ministry to also address the plight of the Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle through initiating and implementing programmes and projects, including keeping the history of the national liberation struggle alive.

For the past years, the MODVA has successfully delivered on its mandate. During the period under review, the Ministry has equally delivered. Permit me therefore to present an account of the activities that our Ministry has carried out in fulfilment of its mandate over the reporting period as follows.

NATIONAL SECURITY

The security situation in the country is calm and stable with no significant threat to national security detected during the period under review. The NDF has persistently assisted the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) in the maintenance of law and order. The NDF members have also continued participating in the conduct of Anti-Poaching Operations in the three major national parks; namely Etosha, Mangetti and Bwabwata, assisting the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. I should mention that poaching of wildlife remains a great security concern because of its negative effects on the tourism industry and its potential for terrorism financing.

The majority of the poachers are foreigners especially from neighbouring countries who enter Namibia with the pretext of visiting their relatives. These same visitors do sometimes cross into neighbouring countries in the darkness of the night to perpetrate crime including poaching and cattle rustling. This is

the reason that the Ministry has maintained the deployment of troops in places such as Sangwali, Ngoma, Kapani, Kasika, Linyanti, Malengalenga and Lianshulu in the Zambezi Region to combat illegal border crossing and other cross-border crimes. The deployment of the troops has resulted in a huge reduction in the rate of poaching incidents and other cross-border crimes.

AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL POWERS

The ministry has continued to assist Civil Authorities and Civil Powers for many reasons. The Office of the Prime Minister has continued to receive noteworthy support for the distribution of drought relief aid in the ten (10) Regions, namely Erongo, //Karas, Kavango East and West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Omaheke. Fifty (52) drivers with twenty-six (26) trucks have almost permanently been deployed for this task.

In February and March this year, the Ministry had deployed helicopters, vehicles and personnel to assist the OPM in the provision of humanitarian relief to affected communities in the Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto regions because of the heavy rain pours experienced in the country. The operation involved the provision of essential services such as healthcare, relocation support, and drought and flood relief aid in the most severely affected areas. During this operation, the NDF managed to airlift one hundred and twenty (120) tons of different drought relief goods.

The Ministry has also assisted the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) by availing a helicopter and boats to transport the Presidential and National Assembly Elections Voters' Education and Registration Teams in Zambezi and Kunene Regions to the places that are only accessible by air and watercrafts during the period from 06 July to 01 August 2024. This year in April, the NDF again availed a helicopter to assist the ECN during registration of voters in the Kabbe Constituency in Zambezi. The Ministry has also availed a helicopter, boats, trucks and personnel from 14 to 18 June 2025 to support the by-election operations in Kabbe Constituency in Zambezi.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The MODVA together with other stakeholders has been leading the implementation of the African Union Border Management Programme with

the neighbouring states for the past years. Since 01 August 2024, the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Zambia started the inspection, verification and reaffirmation of the common border from Katima Mulilo to Singalamwe. Assault pioneers from the NDF and NAMPOL are probing the area for unexploded ordnances and clearing the bushes and trees to create a buffer area, while the surveyors from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform are verifying the existing borderline. The operation has so far cleared approximately an 18 kilometers stretch of the borderline.

CLEARANCE OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCES

The Ministry has deployed two teams each of fifteen (15) Explosive Experts on rotational basis for the ongoing operation for the clearance of Unexploded Ordnances in the Kavango East and Oshikoto Regions respectively paving the way for the construction of national roads in the identified areas.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

During peacetime, one of the MODVA's most important priority is training. Training continues to take place in our military training institutions; national tertiary institutions, and at training institutions of friendly countries where Namibia is offered training slots.

Our Namibia Command and Staff College is running the Junior and the Senior Command and Staff Courses. The graduation ceremony of the Junior Command and Staff Course No 19/2025, comprised of twenty (20) Namibian students and two (2) allied students from Zambia, is expected to take place on 26 June 2025. The Senior Command and Staff Course, which is comprised of twenty-seven (27) Namibians, two (02) Kenyans, two (2) Zambians and one Motswana allied students is expected to graduate in November 2025.

Last year we witnessed the graduation ceremony of the Officer Cadet's Commissioning Course and that of the 17th Recruit Training intake. On the 16th June 2025, the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas, officiated the opening of the 18th Recruit Training Intake at the NDF Training Establishment, in Osona. The recruit intake comprises of **One Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty-Six (1,656)** young Namibians (1303 Male and 353 Female).

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The Ministry has continued to fulfil its international obligations by participating in various international activities. We have participated in all the activities of the Interstate Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) of and the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics Defence and Security Cooperation of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) that were scheduled to take place over the period under review. The Ministry has also complied with the obligations of the International Protocols, Treaties and Conventions to which Namibia has acceded. This includes the deployment of ten (10) officers (5 x females and 5 x males) as either Military Observers or Staff Officers with the United Nations Peace Support Missions, participation in the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting, the sessions of the Working Group of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty.

CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGN

The Ministers of Defence of Namibia and Botswana officially launched the Civil–Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Sensitization Campaign between Namibia and Botswana respectively on 11 June and 13 June 2024 in Kasane, Botswana and Katima Mulilo, Namibia. This joint initiative, aims to strengthen peaceful cross-border relations. The first phase of the campaign covering the area from Impalila Island to Mohembo in Namibia and Kazungula to Shakawe in Botswana was conducted from 08 to 16 July 2024.

This year we are conducting the second phase of the Joint Sensitization Campaign. It started on 09 June and will run until 05 July 2025, covering twenty-seven (27) villages from Mohembo to Union’s end in Namibia and seventeen (17) villages from Shakawe to Union’s End in Botswana.

While diplomatic ties between our two States have remained strong, the border communities have in the past faced challenges such as human-wildlife conflict, stock theft, and cross-border crimes, which have sometimes resulted in the loss of lives. The CIMIC initiative seeks to sensitise the communities living in the border areas on the dangers of all sorts of border crimes by raising awareness and promoting peaceful co-existence and good neighborliness.

VETERANS WELFARE PROGRAMMES

The Ministry continues to integrate the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle into the socio-economic mainstream through a number of initiatives such as identification and registration of veterans, provision of the once off lump sum gratuity, monthly subvention, Improvement of Welfare Grant and the Individual Veterans Project (IVP).

1. Identification and Registration

The **identification and registration** of veterans and dependents of deceased and living veterans is a process that involves the enumeration of each applicant's liberation struggle participation details, vetting of such information against the set qualifying criteria outlined in Section 27 of the Veterans Act. (Act No. 2, of 2008). As at June 20, 2025, there are **Twenty-three thousand, Nine hundred and Ninety eight (23,998)** living veterans while **Seven thousand, One hundred and Twenty eight (7,128)** veterans have passed on.

2. Lump Sum (Once-off Gratuity)

Lump sum is a once of gratuity paid out in two categories based on the year of participation in the liberation struggle. Those whose activities took place from 1959 to 1987 are paid N\$50,000.00 while those that participated from 1988 to 1989 are paid N\$20,000.00. As at June 20, 2025, a total of **Twenty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty-Two (29,552)** veterans are recorded as having been paid the lump sum.

3. Monthly Subvention Grants

As of June 2025, the Monthly Subvention of N\$2,200 benefitted Nineteen thousand, Eight hundred and Fifty-Two (19 852) eligible veterans whose annual income is below the prescribed amount of N\$36,000.00 per annum and to all unemployed veterans.

The monthly subvention is paid for a life time and upon the demise of a veteran, the surviving spouse or dependents of a deceased veteran under the age of eighteen (18) who as at the time of death, was in receipt of a monthly subvention. Currently, **Nineteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two (19 852)** veterans that received the Monthly Subvention Grant of **Two Thousand and Two hundred**

(N\$2,200.00) while there are Three-thousand, One-hundred and One (3,101) dependents of Two-thousand, Two-hundred and Seventy-Six (2,276) deceased veterans.

4. Improvement of Welfare Grant (IWG)

The Improvement of Welfare Grant is paid to a total of **Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty Five (9 685)** eligible veterans. The amounts being paid vary in terms of the period of participation in the liberation struggle as depicted below:

- a. Those who joined between 1959 and 1970 receive **Five Thousand (N\$5,000)** every month and are currently **forty-two (42)** in number.
- b. Those who joined between 1971 to 1981 receive **Four Thousand (N\$4,000)** every month, and they are currently **Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety-Seven (8, 697)** in number.
- c. Those who joined between 1982 and 1989 receive Three Thousand (N\$3000) and are currently **Nine Hundred and Forty-Six (946)** in number.

5. Individual Veterans Projects (IVPs)

The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs has made cash payments of **One Hundred and Seventy Thousand (N\$170,000)** for veterans' projects to **One Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty-Four (1,584)** eligible veterans at the tune of **Two Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million, Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand (N\$268, 280 000) Namibia Dollars**. These payments are made by applying the First-In-First-Out (FIFO) principle. In addition, **One Thousand, Two hundred and ninety two (1292)** veterans have been issued notifications and are expected to provide their banking details so that they are pay out immediately.

6. Exhumation and Re-internment of the Remains of the Martyrs of the Liberation Struggle

A committee consisting of six members was appointed as per Cabinet Directive to conduct the exhumation and the re-internment of the remains of the PLAN combatants who died during the liberations struggle and their remains were buried in different place in the country. The Committee has started its activities and progress will be reported as and when necessary.

CONCLUSION

The Ministry of Defence has successfully carried out its planned activities as well as supporting other authorities in emergency situations.

I THANK YOU.