



Namibian Defence Force JOURNAL



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October - December 2020



‘THUNDERBOLT VI’ *Field Military Exercise*



NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE

VISION

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

MISSION

The primary mission of the NDF 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, and to undertake SADC, AU and Peace Support Mission.

CORE VALUES

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



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Public Relations Division

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STREET ADDRESS

Defence Headquarters
Sam Nujoma Drive
Windhoek

POSTAL ADDRESS

NDF Journal

Private Bag 13307 Windhoek

Tel: +264 61 204 2471 / 2216 / 2107

Fax: +264 61 204 2106

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"Namibia will be a 'just, moral, tolerant and safe society with legislative, economic and social structures in place to eliminate marginalisation and ensure peace and equality between women and men, the diverse ethnic groups, and people of different ages, interest and abilities"

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. HAGE GEINGOB

President of Namibia

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not only to utter the words but to live by them. I am, however, not detached from the reality that these will be big shoes to fill, but I vows before you today, to continue serving you to the best of my ability, with great humility and in keeping with the highest tradition of military service."

AIR MARSHAL MARTIN PINEHAS

Chief of the Defence Force

"The successful field artillery live firing exercise attests the force's combat readiness in terms of personnel skills and combat effectiveness of the war machines"

MAJ GEN MATHEUS ALUENDO

Army Commander

"Let us spare thoughts for those who lost their lives and those that are bedridden because of illness of different kinds including the Covid-19 which is all over the world."

COL A. HAMWAAMA

NDF Chief Chaplain

COVER PAGE

Students of the Company Group Commander's Course simulating military communication at one of the Thunderbolt Exercise scenarios

Photo: SSgt Abiatat

Editor's viewpoint

As we cross-over to the year 2021, it gives us an opportunity to look back to the year 2020 and reflect on every pros and cons that transpired in our midst.

Of course, we took off the year on a sad note. The world as a whole was gobbled up by the Covid-19 outbreak, which caught the humanity off guard. This virus left the society grieving due the loss of lives in masses. Namibia too, lost a number of citizens due to this invisible enemy.

Given the Covid-19 prevalence, our workforce never stumbled. Even though it was not a usual day to day conducts due to measures imposed to curb the virus, we managed to re-organise and continued to perform our tasks in an unusual environment. Therefore, I counting a number of successes we have achieved in 2020. Our ministry managed to host a number of successful exercises and training that would not have taken place due to Covid-19 preventative measures.

In military culture, soldiers have to train in a group to exhibit cohesiveness. This standard was abandoned due to the virus. However, our leaders did not loose sight of our mandate as they managed to find solutions to keep the force intact and battle-ready as possible.

The Army Battle School conducted the final field military training exercise code named 'Thunderbolt VI' concurrently with the Conventional War Field Tactic Exercise (CWFTX). Meanwhile the Namibian Army School of Artillery (NASA) also carried out the live firing exercise at Uulunga Wakolondo Field Military Exercises Area. These exercises and many others functions we have executed during the year under review, are indications that despite the virus, our ministry found other means to train the soldiers and keep the force strong for security eventualities. The success of these exercises served as motivational factors to future undertakings in case the virus persists or if we may encounter unpleasant situations similar to Covid-19.

On **page 10**, we share with you the Chief of the Defence Force inaugural statement at the Change of Command ceremony where he recieved the symbol of power from the Commander-In-Chief of the NDF. Read through and comprehend his insightful perception on the of our security under his reign.

While we are weigh the impact of the Covid -19 and how our workforce stood firm in combating its effect, on the other hand our ministry is trying to come to term with the loss of the two NDF pioneers, Brig Gen (rtd) Bernard Nkwa (former Namibia's Military Attaché to the Democratic Republic of Congo) and Colonel Simon Njambe (Namibia Command and Staff College Coordinator). Brig Gen Nkwa died in a horific car crash in Zambezi Region on 26 November, while Col Njambe died on 3rd October after a short illness. We pay homage to our two dedicated colleagues and honour their contributions to the establishment and growth of our force. May their souls rest in peace.

As we approach the new year, I extend my gratitude to you, our esteemed readers for you continue trust you accorded on us to keeping you informed under various circumstances. Your views, suggestions, comments and criticisms compel us to improve the outlook of the NDF Journal. Keep it up!

I wish you a renewed energy, happiness and prosperous year ahead.

Let us celebrate our 2020 achievements bearing in mind that the invisible enemy (Covid-19) did not go anywhere. We must continue practicing social distancing, constantly put on our masks and wash our hands regularly to curtail its dreadful effect in society.

It is a responsibility of everyone to protect oneself and others from the virus.





Field Military Training Exercise

‘Thunderbolt VI’

Strengthening CONVENTIONAL WARFARE PREPAREDNESS

In keeping up with the ever changing military environment, spearheaded by technological advancement and pressures from security threats, the NDF continues to sharpen their tactical aptitude and most importantly impart soldiers with much needed warfare skills and knowledge to ensure that members swiftly adjust and adapt to the contemporary combat 'savoir faire'.

To respond to this military trend, the NDF through the Army Battle School (ABS) exhibited a Final Field Training Exercise (FFTX) code named 'Thunderbolt VI' concurrently with the Conventional War Field Tactical Exercise (CWFTX), carried out from 12 to 26 October 2020 in the general area of Oshivelo, Omutsegwonime and Omuthiya in Oshikoto Region. These are the terrains under conditions maximally approximating those of actual combat.

These exercises are prescribed in the army commander's training strategies



Company Group Commanders' Course students on a simulated warfare during the Thunderbolt Exercise



for 2020 that accentuated on practical training of soldiers. They also formed part of the modules of the Company Group Commanders' Course (CGCG) and Platoon Commanders' Course (PCC) designed to enlighten students on various aspects related to the command and control at the company and platoon levels in a stimulated battle environments.

The courses accommodated members drawn from all NDF Arms of Service who upon completion of the course projected to deliver in terms of tactics, command and control so as to enhance the force's readiness and strengthen its capability.

Meanwhile, the exercises aimed to practice students on various warfare tactical aspects at a battalion setting. It was also designed to assess the student's effectiveness and their level of theoretical interpretation on the basis of work-through, talk-through, in order to acquire the competence of winning the wars, deterring aggression and the ingenuity to maintain peace and stability.



Photo: SSgt H.K. Saul

Company Group Commanders' Course students on a work-through, talk-through process during the Thunderbolt Exercise

Over the years, the ABS has been a trendsetting in capacitating NDF members with various warfare knowledge and skills. In addition to the CGCG and PCC, the school also offered Platoon Sergeants' course,

and Section Commanders' Tactical course all designed to advance tactical knowledge and practical skills of soldiers with regard to their various combat missions and to provide experience for commanders in organising battle and controlling units in the battle. ■


Artillery **LIVE FIRING EXERCISE**

**COUNTERING MODERN WARFARE TACTICS AND OFFERS
TROOPS A CHANCE TO BE ACCUSTOMED TO THEIR WEAPONS**



Troops firing one of the war machines during the live firing exercise at Unlonga Wakolondo Field Military Exercise as part of the NASA program

Photo: SSgt Abiatat



"The successful field artillery live firing demonstration attest the force's combat readiness in terms of personnel skills and combat effectiveness of the war machines"

Maj Gen Matheus Alueendo, Army Commander

The Namibian Army School of Artillery (NASA) conducted a live firing exercise aimed at enhancing NDF's combat readiness and advance tactical applications for high intensity combat operations.

The week-long exercise which took place at Uulunga Wakalondo Military Field Training Area from 19 to 22 October 2020, is an experimental warfare exercise designed to demonstrate the NDF combat readiness in terms of personnel skills and, combat effectiveness of the field artillery and the multiple rocket system. It is the continuation of the NASA Training Program that begins with theoretical training on artillery ordinance.

Speaking at the closing stage of the exercise on 22 October at Uulunga Wakolonde, Maj Gen Matheus Alueendo, the Army Commander said the successful field artillery live firing exercise attests the force's combat readiness in terms of personnel skills and combat effectiveness of the war machines. "Credits to the NASA Commandant, General Officer Commanding 4 Artillery Brigade, supporting staff, instructors, the artillerists and gunners for their commitments that brought this exercise to a successful end," said Army Commander at the end of the exercise.

The NASA was commissioned in 2016 at Oluno Military Base in Oshana Region as a military training institution designed to produce soldiers who would be responsible for the main fire-power of NDF through professional and scientific approach. It is located close close to Uulunga Wakolondo area which hosts most of the live firing exercises including the SADC interoperability trainings exercises.■

CDF Highlights challenges, outlines priorities - as Commander-In-Chief charges him with command

"I vows to continue serving to the best of my ability, with great humility and in keeping with the highest tradition of military service," CDF

Upon accepting the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) command responsibility at the change of command parade held on Wednesday, 2nd December 2020 at the Independence Stadium, in Windhoek, Air Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas delivered his maiden statement that accentuated on various pertinent security issues. He was appointed as the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) effective 1st April 2020, however, the change of command ceremony was delayed due to various circumstances.

Below is the unedited version of his statement:

It is with great honuor and humility to accept the charge of duty from His Excellency the President and Commander in Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, as the charge empowers and confirms the

executive command functions that a CDF has over the NDF, as prescribed in our Constitution under Article 16, read together with the Defence Act, 2002 Section 4 (1)(2) and (3).

As a recipient of this symbol of authority, I wish to take this

opportunity to sincerely thank you for entrusting me with this enormous national duty, as your first soldier in the Republic of Namibia.

Secondly, it will be a great disservice to the selfless leaders who served the Ministry of Defence and the defence force in particular, if I did not salute and appreciate them and their contribution. Therefore, I will like to salute the former Ministers of Defence, my predecessor, my forerunners, the former Chiefs of the Defence Force starting with the first Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, Late Lt Gen Dimo Hamaambo (may





His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob pass the sword to Air Marshal Martin Pinehas, depicting the hand over of command to the Chief of the Defence Force at the NDF Change of Command Parade

his soul continue to rest in perfect peace), Lt Gen Solomon Hawala, Lt Gen Martin Shalli, Lt Gen Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah and lastly, my commander, Lt Gen John Mutwa.

These great heroes of the liberation struggle and distinguished military professionals have built a solid foundation for the NDF and the Namibian nation in the face of overwhelming odds. Today, because of their lifetime devotion to duty, the NDF stands amongst the most respected forces in the world. Allow me to recognise some of their

notable achievements: The seamless integration of two forces, namely PLAN and SWATF elements which played a major contribution to the reconciliation. The defence force started with two (2) battalions, today it is fully established with three (3) Arms of Service, namely, the Army, Air Force and the Navy. This is a significant achievement. The successful participation in the UN and SADC peace operations, gender equality within the defence force. The establishment of various NDF training institutions. Construction

of new bases and renovation of old installations. The effective protection of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Namibia. Unwavering support to civil authority and civil power and the mentorship, grooming and training of young military leaders like myself. Because of these and many other achievements, not all celebrated, our nation owes them a deep sense of gratitude. In the words of John F Kennedy, the former President of United State of America: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not only to utter the words but to live by them." I am, however, not detached from the reality that these will be big shoes to fill, but I vows before you today, to continue serving you to the best of my ability, with great humility and in keeping with the highest tradition of military service.

Although the defence force has progressively achieved great strides as I have narrated above, I am not oblivious of the challenges that lay ahead.

Allow me to mention a few:

An aging force

Although the force has been grooming the much younger officers, this remains a challenge. ►





NDF Change of Command parade Commander, Brig Gen Martin...marching towards the Diaz to invite the CDF for parade inspection



Commander-In-Chief, Dr. Geingob charging the CDF with command at the parade

Poor discipline in the force

On a daily basis, we receive complaints of lack of discipline amongst our forces.

Limited research and development coupled with technological challenges

With the 4th industrial revolution and Covid-19 amidst us, the defence forces need to be agile and speedily move with technological advances. Research and development remain a serious challenge.

Unhealthy Politics in the defence force

There has been recently a development of some members of the defence force's ranks and files that are involved in politics and uttering political statements. This undermines the defence impartiality and credibility.

Insufficient defence industry funding

Although the Ministry of Defence

receives the 3rd highest budget from the revenue, 80 % of it is spent on the wage bill and others for administration. This leaves a small amount for investing in the defence industry. This affects our progress to self-reliance.

Low civilian and defence force relationship

This is not a secret as recently media has been inundated with public complaints about the behaviour of some of our members, some of which constitute a serious violation of citizen constitutional rights. This remains a serious challenge.

Although the force is facing these challenges, I want to assure the whole nation that the NDF is equipped and ready to defend the Namibian territorial integrity at any time. There is no single doubt about it!!.

But to ensure that we consistently up our capabilities and became a world class force, as the new Chief of the Defence Force, under the able leadership of my Minister, Hon. R Adm (rtd) Peter Hafeni Vilho,

together with my competent and able team of the three arms of service, my vision which is fully aligned to the defence force and MODVA vision will be: To continuously transform the NDF into a modernised and fully professionalised world class force. To bring this vision to fruition, strategic interventions around the key challenges would be developed.

My strategic intervention will focus on the following 6 key Priorities:

Priority No. 1: Enhancing force's discipline

In the military, discipline entails the application of control in order to harness energy and motivation to a collective end. In enforcing discipline in the NDF, we will ensure that commanders at all levels undergo a basic military law course to assist the current pool of legal teams whose numbers are inadequate and under-serves the task of attending to summary trials and court martial in the entire NDF, given the geographic vastness of our country. Soldiers in turn, will be sensitised on matters of



CDF; his spouse, Maj Liina N. Pinehas; Inspector General of Nampol, Lt Gen Sebastian Ndeitunga (2nd rt) and Commissioner General Raphael Hamunyela of the Namibian Correctional Service pose for a photo prior to the ceremony

military law so that they have a general understanding of the laws that govern the NDF and gain an appreciation of the consequences of non-compliance.

Men and women of the force shall be tutored on civil military relations and conduct.

Subsequently, management will be asserted without reservation in the event of officers found guilty of breaking the rules.

Priority No. 2: Force transformation through effective recruitment:

After 30 years since the NDF's establishment, the majority of its ranks and files are ageing. Some of them are retiring with crucial skills that they have accumulated over years of service. These skills remain critical to preserve the intellectual might of the operations of the defence force. Thus, our defence force like all other sectors and professions in our country is faced with the challenge of spontaneous generational transformation. It is projected that in about 5 years, most of the combatants of the liberation struggle would have retired from the NDF. Therefore, there is a need to

inject new blood in the NDF.

I want to assure you that my focus will be to develop a force talent strategy that will carefully manage this transformation by allowing the younger generation to gradually take over top management and high ranking military roles while we continue to recruit the best of the best. We have fine young and middle-aged officers who have excelled and proven themselves in both military operations, planning and administration. They will be mentored and prepared to take over the baton and move the defence force towards the world-class sphere. What is important is for these young officers in command positions to prevail excellence. As they say "associate with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for it is better to be alone than in bad company."

Priority No.3: Equipping the force and support the creation of a strong defense industry:

In the Oshikwanyama language, there is a saying "Onghambe hai

homekwa ohaifi na mwene" loosely translated "A horse that cannot feed itself will die with its owner".

In the same manner, in the Oshikwanyama language there is a saying "Onghambe ihai londwa omukwonko" literally means "one cannot ride a trained horse without a saddle as it will definitely not only throw you out but also hurt you."

Thus, no force can protect its territorial integrity successfully if it is not properly equipped. Therefore, there is a great need to strengthen our armed force in every area of competency. Our task will be to ensure that our defence force remains well equipped, well trained and ready to provide combat credible military responses, deter any aggression anytime and protect the security of our nation. To start with, I have already commissioned a force capability and threat assessment, which revealed that our defence force is inadequately equipped. We want to have a force that is strategically predictable but operationally agile.

In defence, they say "a strong defence is an investment in peace." I therefore plead for more support in this

endeavour.►

Consequently, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the emerging threats in this uncertain and unpredictable global security environment, there is an urgent need for our own defence self-reliance.

Late President Julius Nyerere said "A man is developing himself when he grows or earns enough to provide a decent condition for himself and his family, he is not been developed if someone give him these things"

My team and I will stand ready to support MODVA to enable our force to produce its own food, military advanced technology including weapons and machinery. We can do it! Why not? We are a sovereign nation. Thus, our strategy will be to lobby for aggressive investment in the defence industry, in a manner that would allow the NDF to achieve an acceptable degree of self-efficacy-without burdening the national economy.

Priority No 4: Professionalizing the force:

The security of our nation lies primarily on how we develop our nation, especially the commitment and skills imparted into the youth of our country across the public and private sectors. Our youths must be developed in a space created to identify and nurture their special talents to their fullest potential.

For the Defence Force to thrive, there must be an adequate pool of talent in the economy. Namibian talent!

Thus, training opportunities, both local and external will be offered to men and women in uniform in order to fill the skill gaps that are created by the evolution of technology. This will include, capacitating our domestic training centres of excellence with the requisite human, material and financial resources in order to limit dependence on foreign training offers,

cooperating and forming partnership with institutions of higher learning and sending our personnel to the best institutions of high learning in the world so that we are able to recruit and retain experts in national security, engineering and science related fields.

The trends require that we also have well trained and educated Namibians in the fields such as nuclear physics and cyber security where a need for specialists with high levels of technical expertise exists. I call on our universities to start equipping our students with contemporary aspects.

Priority No 5: Making the defence force a friend of the citizen and apolitical

Any defence force exists not only to defend territorial integrity but to protect its citizens without favour. Thus, our men and women in uniform stand ready and will continue to perform their secondary duties of providing services and assistance to the civil authorities and civil power as and when so requested. The NDF's presence in support of anti-crime law enforcement agencies will continue. On this note, I wish to thank members of the NDF for their commitment during aid to civil power and authorities. The public views our organisation through an individual

soldier or officer. We thus, need to have a positive attitude and behaviour towards the public, to be exemplary and to stand on the moral high ground at all times.

With regards to politics and tribalism in the force, Late Samola Machel, former President of Mozambique, once said "For the nation to live, the tribe must die". In accordance, I would like to make it categorically clear that the NDF is and remains apolitical and non-tribal. I therefore call upon commanders at all levels to ensure that our soldiers refrain from politics and tribal tendencies. I will not tolerate a uniformed member indulging in politics as this undermines their loyalty to the service of our country which we both pronounced through the oath of allegiance when we joined the defence force which means "Our Constitution and Country First, then Us" The adherence to these orders cannot be over emphasised.

Dear members of the armed force, let us do like what Kofi Annan, the late Secretary General of the United Nation said "We can love what we are, without hating what and who we are not. We can thrive in our own traditions, and learn from others and come to respect their teachings." Let us celebrate our diversity!



Special Forces march-pass during the parade



CDF with his family who came to witness the change of command ceremony where he received the NDF symbol of authority from the President

Priority No.6: strengthening regional and international cooperation

As a team, we will strive to further strengthens relations with friendly defence forces around the world.

Our priority will continue being our neighbours, the SADC Region and the African continent.

Certainly our traditional and all-season friends are very important in the development of our defence force and information exchange. We will continue to enhance our peacekeeping capabilities by participating in regional and continental undertakings and maintaining our pledge capabilities to international organisations.

I would therefore like to reassure His Excellency the President and Commander-In-Chief, the government, the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs and the populace, of my determination and readiness to stand up to the challenge. I would like to take this opportunity once again, to thank all the former Ministers of Defence for their guidances and trust demonstrated over the years, particularly entrusting me with leading the Air Force.

I am immensely grateful to my wife as well as my children and siblings for their enduring support during many difficult moments and the understanding they have shown towards the challenging life of a

military family such as disruptions to their lives and life quality implications posed by a career punctuated by many episodes of professional transfers to varying locations.

I want to pay a particular word of gratitude to my mother and my wife, it is indeed true that: "Behind every successful man there is a strong woman". I am who I am because of my dear mother who is wearing two hats; that of her own and that of my late father. Meme, words cannot express the love I have for you. You have supported me unconditionally since childhood and raised me to be responsible, to look after our livestock, attend school, to always respect elders, to get up early in the morning to plough the fields.

Even when I was far from you to heed the call of duty, your love for me endured.

There is a Nigerian idiom which says: "What an elderly sees while seated, a young person will not see even when he/she climbs a tall tree." Simply interpreted, elders are visionaries. No matter how educated you can be, you will never surpass your parents' knowledge. That is what you are to me, my dear mother. Equally I am immensely grateful to my wife, you have been a pillar of support to me and our children, I value your advices, support and guidances and

thank you for your many sacrifices during my career!

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude with a quote from John Quincy Adams: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader". It is important as leaders and commanders of the NDF that we inspire others and do more for others. We are expected to create high morale amongst our subordinates, thereby instilling 'esprit de corps' in our soldiers. As General Collin Powell, the first African-American to be the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff said: "The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you cannot help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership." I pledge to inspire a force and champion transformational leadership, where our men and women in uniform will confide in their military commanders.

Your Excellency and Commander in Chief of the Namibian Defence Force,

I once again thank you for your confidence, trust and the honour you bestowed on me and I commit to you and the whole nation that I will serve from the best of my ability the NDF that will command respect, professionalism and ready to defend the Namibian people and our territorial

Namibia races to advance women peace and security agenda

Namibian women in defence and security sectors have provided with a platform where would determine their future and their equal participation in the peace keeping mission rest in their ability and the desire to us such

Notably, the centre was launched on 31st October 2020 specifically to celebrate the UNSCR-1325 20th two (2) decades of its efforts to integrate women and their perspectives in peace and security agenda.

The objectives of the establishment of the centre is orientate women earmarked for deployment and other appointments to peace and security efforts and to provide platforms for sharing expertise that Namibian women gained in UN, AU or SADC peace support missions.

The Resolution 1325 was adopted in 2000 during Namibia Presidency of the UN Security Council following the Windhoek Declaration on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations which was adopted on 3rd May 2000.



His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba unveiling the plaque of the IWPC accompanied by Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperations during the launch of the centre

The resolution is the first undertaking that recognises the central roles of women in advancing gender equality, as agents of change, and for their contribution to peace and security architecture in the world.

His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia gave blessings to women in uniform and wish they would tap in the braveness of women who laid a strong foundation.

On his keynote address delivered by the Vice President Dr. Nangolo Mbumba at the launch of the centre,

President said Namibia's constructive and foresighted involvement in the adoption of this momentous UN resolution underpinned by and, follows a long line of brave women, whose courage, determination and steadfastness has enriched and contributed greatly to the African and global peace initiatives. "Activism by Namibian women was indispensable to the rich history of resistance and liberation, as it marked an epoch of many fearless women freedom fighters who left their indelible marks on our proud history," President said.

One of the driving forces behind





Some of the Namibia's women in uniform who served at AU or UN peace support missions at various positions and in different countries gracing the launch of the IWPC

the recognition of the crucial role women play in the prevention and management of conflicts as well as their roles in post-conflict peace-building is the Namibia National Action Plan on Women Peace, a document based on the four pillars of UNSCR 1325, namely: participation, prevention, protection and relief and recovery. It addresses women as both actors and victims within conflict and non-conflict situations.... "The Government of the Republic of Namibia has repeatedly affirmed its commitments towards sustainable peace. Namibia's Vision 2030 notes that Namibia will be a 'just, moral, tolerant and safe society with legislative, economic and social structures in place to eliminate marginalisation and ensure peace and equality between women and men, the diverse ethnic groups, and people of different ages, interest and abilities,'" Dr. Geingob further said.

The establishment of the IWPC in Namibia drew attention from international bodies including the UN. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations who was also impressed by the Namibia's stance to establish a centre that gives women the weight to advance gender equality especially in peace support operations stated in his virtual message that the

initiative to establish the International Women Peace Centre confirms Namibia's commitment to women's leadership and full participation in making and keeping the peace. Dr. Guterres also revealed that UNSCR 1325 recognises the strong correlation between gender inequality and the risk of conflict. "Women's equal leadership and participation in all aspects of peace making and building are essential not only for women but for everyone," the UN SG reiterated.

Namibian women have often times formed part of the Namibian national contingents to either African Union (AU) or the UN peacekeeping missions that are advancing the objective of peace and security in the world.

The UN reports indicate that Namibian women are applauded for their noteworthy contributions to peace and security in the world.

In all 14 peace support missions (UN, AU) that Namibia participated, the deployment rate of Namibian women increased from 0% in 1993 to 7% in 2007, taking up command positions as Platoon commanders and section 2ICs, few as rifle operators and the rest served in the administration roles in mission area. In Military Observers and Staff

Officers' deployments, Namibia's representation had been gradually increasing from 1% in 1998, to 21% in 2000 and to 36% in 2020.

In 2018, Namibia achieved the UN Department of Peacekeeping

Operation target of 15% women participation in peacekeeping missions. Namibia is likely to meet the target set for women serving in military contingents of 15% and 25% for military observers and staff officers by 2028.

Namibia's Plans are in place to build the women's capacity and prepare them for deployment to any peace and security operations and, the IWPC is an instrument to advocate towards the realisation of this objective.

The centre was launched by Dr. Nangolo Mbumba on behalf of President Dr. Hage Geingob, flanked by Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of International Relations and Cooperations. ■

Air Force joins locust control operation in Zambezi

In October 2020, the NDF dispatched an Aircraft to Zambezi Region that commenced an aerial spraying of pesticides to fight off the African migratory red locust that invaded the vast area and reported to have destroyed hectares of crop and grazing land in the region.

The operation, spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform commenced on 10 October 2020 and the Air Force's Y12 Aircraft succeeded with the aerial spray tactic to contain further migration of the locust swarm. Around two tanks of 125 litres of cyperfos and 800 milliliters of orosork pesticides were sprayed off around ten hectares in the Itomba area.



Air Force's Y12 Aircraft crew deployed in operation to conduct aerial spraying of pesticides on areas invaded by African migration red locust in Zambezi Region

The joint operation in combating the locust swarm was of po-vital government undertaking in its effort to cease the damage caused by the migratory locusts and to prevent them spreading to other regions in the country.

The locusts were reported on 12 August 2020, in areas notably; Itomba, Lusese, Nakabalelwa, Ngala, Namiyundu, Mahundu, Machita, Milindi, Masikili, Muketela, Muyako, Muzi, Linyati, Ivilivizi, Kanono and Kapani areas. ■



Y12 Aircraft spraying pesticides at Itomba grazing land

Impact of COVID-19 on military efficiency



Armed forces the world over, are faced with a daunting challenges posed by the novel coronavirus. Ever since the sudden outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in December 2019, defence forces have unprecedentedly forced to interrupt their military routines in order to conform to the protocols imposed to curtail the further spread of the virus. This global pandemic has brought a significant health threat to societies and bulldozed the armed forces' strength and readiness.

The measures put in place to curb the spread of the virus inhibit the armed forces' training proceedings, as they are forced to suspend training and exercises as well as downsizing a number of personnel on operations. This move henceforth creates a room for vulnerability and the mushrooming of security threats.

The defence forces rest on constant training and the absence of this routine lead to lack a desired velocity and robustness that are the requirements for a battle readiness.

The outbreak of the virus impelled countries to withdrawn their forces from important local and foreign operations, hence, relocated their troops to support domestic pandemic relief efforts. The training and exercises are ceased, paused or trimmed to comply to the Covid-19 preventative measures.

The instantaneous actions taken to alter the military routines in order to diminish the impact of the virus has increased the countries' susceptible to security threats. Ninety percent of the nations in the world depend solely on their defence forces for peace and security and indeed militaries are often visible symbols of nationals' sovereignty.

In a normal situation, soldiers have to train in a close conduct to enhance cohesion and build teamwork, which is essential to military effectiveness. However, under the Covid-19

circumstances, the defence forces unquestionably have to scale down sizes and scopes of the training in order to maintain social distancing as stipulated in the Covid-19 regulation measures.

The measures set to prevent the escalation of the virus in the military premises have a negative impact on the forces' strength and the national security.

While preventing the virus' proliferation among the soldiers is important for national security, the World Health Organization's (WHO) protocols have a detrimental effect on the capability and cohesiveness of the armed forces.

The contemporary state of security under the threat of Covid-19, is undermined by extremist activities. In the past two decades, the international and continental violent groups have been destabilising the society through various shapes

and forms. If the relaxation of military activities is taken lightly, it might be an incentive to extremism that is deeply rooted in disrupting the global socio-economic progress.

Some scholars are urging that the Covid-19 measures bring relief and creates a room for national stability and security to countries that have been victims of terrorism acts. Larger gatherings where violence and intimidation perpetuated by terrorism groups likely to occur have reduced to reasonable size and the movement limitation (curfew) especially during night-time also halt the extremists movements.

This seemingly factual argument may create an impression that the world is rescued from extremism. However, the serenity too, gives extremists a chance to reorganise themselves and resort to other means of ill-gotten activities to disrupt the already devastated socio-economic in some areas of the world.

While the room for executing terrorism is likely compact, it opened a new paradigm where terror acts are apparent. Of course, the protocols ensured that the people's movement is limited and gatherings are reduced to stop the spread of the virus, but this quest create a new strategy for extremism.

At the time when community members are confined to stay-at-home regulation and stick to social media platforms, extremist are using internet to engage them in a way to recruit and collecting intelligence. According to Emilia Columbo, the senior associate (non-resident) with the Africa Program at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, in her article appealing in the CSIS website in May 2020, extremist groups are poised to make strategic gains during the Covid-19 outbreak, outmanoeuvring distracted and overstretched domestic and foreign security forces. "Violent attacks in the region's hotspots rose by 37 percent between mid-March and mid-April and groups have begun to release pandemic-related propaganda. Meanwhile, African states like other governments worldwide are shifting military resources, the pandemic

response potentially undercutting counter-terrorism operations," she said, adding that this dynamic is compounded by the withdrawal of international peacekeepers and counter-terrorism units from the region and if these trends continue, sub-Saharan Africa would be at risk of losing ground to violent groups following years of counter-terrorism advances alongside regional and international security partners," she added.

Columbo sentiment insinuate that extremism groups are gearing for a new strategy to carry out their attacks in the wake of Covid-19 as a way to detriment the already devastated economy. The curtailing or cancelling of military common activities fuel terrorism and escalate security threats.

It is on this basis that governments need to stretch their means and find new strategies to propel their armed forces' readiness in order to propel the counter-terrorism to thwart the extremists. The forces need to adapt new models of revitalising their ability and find new techniques to deal with the terror acts that have cynical effect on the nationals security and economical prosperity.

It might be a daunting and risking tasks, but it is a way to deaden the dreadful acts of terrorism that seeks to boost economic decline and security threats in the wake of the Covid-19 widespread adverse impact.■





MOZAMBIQUE INSURGENCY, prospects for Regional Insecurity

Conflict analysts and observers worldwide have sensed that a growing insurgency in the northern parts of Mozambique would shift its center of gravity to the SADC Region. Africa's southern regional bloc member states and other African regional bodies fear that the conflict would throw the region into sustained chaos if no interventions undertaken to deter the local militant group that allegedly received back-up from well established extremist groups in the continent and beyond.

Mozambique's Islamic militants group named Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama is reportedly been attacking security forces and civilians since 2015 in an attempt to establish an Islamic state in Cabo Delgado Province.

Scott Houghton, a conflict analyst in his article appealing in the '*Global Risk Insights*' publication website in October 2020, he provided insight on the motive and operation of the terror group that has been terrorising the population for the past 7 years. In his

article, Houghton said the discovery of large mineral and liquid natural gas deposits in Mozambique in 2010 boded well for Mozambique's future, but conflict between Islamist militants and the central government over these resources has resulted in many fatalities and mass displacement. "Mozambique's oil-rich region of Cabo Delgado has been hit especially hard and the increase of insurgency in the African state has caused neighbouring countries to panic," he explained.

Since 2017, militants have killed over 700 civilians and in April 2020, militants attacked villages around Muidumbe, killing an estimated 52 people who refused to join their ranks. Militants have also targeted security forces, destroyed government infrastructure, and seized weapons from Mozambican soldiers.

The Mozambique military has tried to quell the attacks, aided by private military contractors such as Wagner Group from Russia, or the South African Dyck Advisory Group, which in April 2020 aeri ally attacked an Islamist base in Mbau.

Despite this, Houghton said the government of Mozambique does not appear to have the situation under control. "In September 2019, insurgents killed at least a dozen people in the Mbau administrative post of Mocimboa da Praia district, and burnt down houses, shops and

the local offices of the ruling Frelimo Party, Houghton confirmed.

In the first four months of 2020, Houghton stressed that violent armed incidents in Cabo Delgado rose by 300% compared with the same period in 2019. It is estimated that since the insurgency began in 2017, more than 1,000 people have died as a result of the violence. "What's more, 200,000 people have fled their homes as the violence spreads toward the southern part of Cabo Delgado," he further noted, adding that Publicly, the government has tried to play down the seriousness of the insurgency, claiming that the attacks are a result of criminal activity rather than by armed militias. According to Houghton, the opposition parties within Mozambique have appealed for the government to declare a state of war so as to solicit international support. "This generates a large amount of risk not only for Mozambique and its extractive industries but a whole bloc of its neighbours too," Houghton stressed.

Mozambique shares borders with South Africa, Malawi, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, all of which are members of SADC.

In August 2020, South African Defence Minister, Hon. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, confirmed that the violent extremist activity in northern Mozambique threatens South Africa's massive natural offshore gas exploration projects. In addition, Zimbabwe relies on Mozambique for much of its food and electricity imports. "A large risk would be if the insurgency spread further throughout Northern Mozambique and became an entrenched problem, significantly damaging other SADC states along with it," Houghton explained.

"Comparable situations can be made with Nigeria and Mali. Both countries suffered Islamist attacks, and their response was so slow that the violence quickly spread to other nations. For example, in Mali in 2012, Al-Qaida-linked rebels Ansar Dine conducted military attacks," Houghton stated, while pointing out that Mali was slow to respond as the violence quickly spread to Burkina Faso and other regional neighbours.

A considerable fear is that Mozambique's insurgency difficulties could become similar to the Boko Haram insurgency in Northern

Nigeria. This insurgency has gone on to severely disrupt Nigeria's neighbours' security.

In February of this year, the escalation of violence prompted Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi to call for assistance from the SADC. "However, aside from Tanzania, the SADC has been slow to respond. Many members states are consumed with managing the coronavirus and cannot spend more on military expenditure. A solution to the insurgency requires a muscular response from other members of the SADC and the international community, such as the UN and African Union to stem the tide," Houghton further expressed

The recent intensification of the conflict this year is a worrying development and increases the volume of potential risks - not only to Mozambique but to its neighbours in the region as well.■

Reference

<https://globalriskinsights.com/2020/10/mozambiques-insurgency-prospects-for-regional-insecurity/>



The Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit plus Mozambique held in 19 may 2020, urged SADC Member States to consider a joint military operation to assist the neighbouring country in its battle to contain terrorism in Mozambique

A Journey full of tribulations towards hard-won gains: *A conversation with Colonel (rtd) Teophilina Shaanika, who retired from active military service in December 2020.*

Col (Dr.) Shaanika was the Senior Staff Officer - Policy and Plan in Defence Headquarter, the post she held after serving at the African Union (AU), Office of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security. Prior to these appointments, She held numerous positions in the NDF including, Personal Assistant to the former Army Commander, Lt General Hawala at Army Headquarters, Secretary in the Office of SO1 Operations, Commodity Manager for Stationeries and Office Machines and SO3 – SO1 Security at the Defence Headquarters. On academic, she is part-time lecturer at University of Namibia and supervising researches at the Namibia University of Science and Technology. This interview has been edited to fit the content.



PR: *Thank you for your time Col - first and foremost, I can admit that most of us can only identify you as Col Shaanika, little we know that there are more in the name*

Col TS: Colonel (Dr.) Shaanika is a little white flower of Namibia, a young hearted mother, and all season's soldier of this motherland. I was born at a village not far from Otshikuku Roman Catholic mission, in the northern part of Namibia, where I grew up and raised by my staunch Catholic parents who inculcated Catholicism in me. I completed my matric at Ongwediva High School. Circumstances due to national security at that time, I couldn't continue with my tertiary education. As a young Namibian woman with a pragmatic spirit, I embraced the reality of time and took active part in the liberation struggle for my motherland.

PR: *In our lives endeavour, we envy others quality and other traits that make us who we are today. When you look back right from your early age, which person are you considering as your source of inspiration?*

Col TS: My first inspiration was the hard work of my parents, my mother's busy bee attitude and my father's loving and caring heart. My mother inspired me to be a master of my own destiny, never ever be a servant of anybody in life, but God. My father taught me to love others unconditionally than myself, thus, I learnt the basic values of respect for every person, industriousness

and compassion, have faith in God and in myself, being ethically enveloped in personal responsibility and freedom. Other inspirers were my primary school teachers, who breathed in me a new life and propelled me to another level of knowledge. At my younger age, early national leaders across the land such as, Ipumbu ya Tshirongo, Founding President Dr. Sam Nuuyoma, and many of my comrades who joined the liberation struggle in exile (names reserved), all became my inspirations. On the continent, leaders such as Kwame Khurumah, Kenneth Kaunda, Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Agostinho Netto, Patrice Lumumba, Thomas Sankara, Haile Selasie, Uhuru Kenyatta were motivational libraries for dreaming about a new free and independent Namibia. In addition, the early freedom fighters who left the country for exile were a huge indelible inspiration on my consciousness as they embodied a spirit of selfless sacrifice for the motherland and on behalf of all of us. It was a question of "What can I do to contribute towards the emergence of a Namibia we dreamed about like the others who have done so"?

PR: *You joined the NDF from the liberation struggle as a PLAN fighter, take us through your journey to exile.*

Col TS: A dichotomy of joining the liberation struggle was real, because fighting the enemy while residing inside the country was one way, whereas crossing the borders to face the enemy residing outside the country was another. Conversely, both decisions were based on stoicism, for

each option has its own pungent irony. It was either facing the brutality and cruelty of the colonial forces at a close range on a daily basis or joining war machinery to face the enemy head-on as a soldier in uniform. Life and death were the same, thus, crossing the border to Angola was not life sparing but rather joining another fighting echelon. As the rival war machinery kept growing, I was getting smaller and smaller, and finally joined the struggle in exile in the heat of “most wanted” of that time.

PR: *A number of the NDF pioneers including you retired from active service and many others are at the verge of hanging their military boots, so, what were your will and wishes to join the NDF right from its inception.*

Col TS: The liberation struggle was waged by both men and women alike. So, coming back from exile as a female soldier who actively participated in the liberation war, I had no doubt that the new National Defence Force would be a gender inclusive entity. Thus, joining the national Defence Force was ‘fait accompli’, occupying my rightful position in the defence and protection of my country and people, as a pioneer, to pave the way for younger women’s inclusion in defence and protection of Namibia territorial integrity and human security.

PR: *You are a colonel by rank after traversed through the files and ranks of the NDF, give us a picture of your journey across the ranks including the appointments.*

Col TS: Well, there has never been a better time to be a woman. Journeying through the military rank and files was not an easy path, however, it is a journey with rich experience, after having worked with different good people in various offices. I have started in Grootfontein as a Corpora, I was later promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and after some time, I was promoted to a WOII rank and became a Commodity Manager for stationeries and office machines at the Directorate of Logistics. I progressed through the ranks, SO3 – SO1 Security, and then SSO Policy and Plans under Defence Central Staff.

PR: *Your are a force to be reckoned with in academic ground, in the sense that you achieved a high level of education. Was there obstacles on your path to be conferred a title of a Doctor?*

Col TS: My PhD journey at Atlantic International University started in 2013, while I was a secondee to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Liaison Office in Madagascar. From the onset, I set ambitious targets for myself and put in hard work, even when times were bleak. I finally obtained my Doctor degree in Public Administration in 2016. My route was definitely not linear; it demands commitment, self-discipline and passion of what you are studying.

My ambition to study was to be bringing change in the management of my institution and public at large.

PR: *You also served AU at the Office of the Special Envoy on Women Peace and Security, are you exiting the force pleased that you put Namibia in the World map as far as gender equality advancement is concern?*

Col TS: My secondment to the African Union Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security was a shared vision for empowering African women and girls chasing and achieving their dreams that have the potential to transform Africa’s future. I am deeply humbled to have been accorded that opportunity to serve at the Headquarters of Africa and advances Namibia’s role in the achieving the continental vision. I have joined the AU Office during the Women’s decade struggling against gender inequalities in peace and security processes and promoting women/men’s parity and empowerment. It was the decade when Africa recognizes that women empowerment cannot be won without the total eradication of the phenomenon of gender bias, injustices and corruption that plagues our people and prevents the development of our countries.

PR: *Know you hang you military boots and pass the banner to the next generation to take over and build on the foundation you and your fellow NDF pioneers laid. What is your message to the young and aspirant soldiers so that they take the force to the next level?*

Col TS: I urge all those who taking up the military career to continue to work hard to maintain peace, security and stability in our motherland, focus on bringing positive change in the force as if we will not retire tomorrow, and serve the nation as if we will retire today. “A professional soldier, you are till the end, no AWOL, no sick leave, and no warning letter,” Shalom.■

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE

In this season of the year, every creature gets the feeling of letting go of the past. Voices are raised above the skies and happiness from deep within the hearts of man.

I take this opportunity to look back at a passing year that was marked by both success and challenges. Of course, in the course of human existence, this is to be expected, but by the grace of our Almighty God, we have arrived at this juncture poised to celebrate once again the miracle of Christmas.

Let us celebrate this special occasion demonstrating kindness, love and empathy to those who are less fortunate than us. Let us spare thoughts for those who lost their lives and those that are bedridden because of illness of different kinds including the Covid-19 which is all over the world. Let us bring forth the caring and kinder side of the defence force society. In this manner, we can make the Christmas and this holiday season a meaningful and memorable time to our fellow citizens.

The year 2020 has been a challenging year in the sense that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect our lives. I wish to take this opportunity to caution all MODVA members that the coronavirus is still surrounding us and perhaps its presence may spike for a long period. Therefore, it is our responsibility towards ourselves and our loved ones, to adhere to the regulations as set out through the Ministry of Health and Social Services, by keeping the standard of hygiene among ourselves, social distancing and wearing of masks in order to prevent the further spread of the virus.

My encouragement to all of us is that let's focus on the Lord Almighty, rest assured of His presence in Philippians 4: 6-7: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all he has done. Then you will experience the peace of God, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard our hearts and minds as we live in Christ Jesus."

I pray that the spirit of togetherness and sharing prevail in our land so that families, relatives and friends can rekindle and strengthen the ties of friendship that can make our country and society stronger.

The year 2020 will be soon a past, let us step out with a mentality of victory and get ourselves ready to step in the new year with hope and faith that will be a guide in our lives. From the east to the west, from the north to the south, may you all celebrate a safe and enjoyable festive season.

To all road users, it is important to ensure that all drivers and passengers alike, behave with maximum caution, discipline and self-restraint so that we can avoid unnecessary loss of productive and innocent lives.

May this holiday season and the good tidings of Christmas bring us closer in the spirit of unity and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always, Amen."

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year, 2021!■

*Col (Rev) H. N. Hamwaama
NDF Chief Chaplain*

(Isaiah 9: 6-7).
For unto us a child
is born to us, a
son is given to us.
The government
will rest on His
shoulders. And
His Name shall be
called Wonderful
Counsellor, The
mighty God,
The Everlasting
Father, and The
Prince of Peace.
His government
and its peace will
never end."

Initiative worth emulating

The definition of initiative is, the act of taking the first step, the ability to think and act without being told what or how to do it. This is quite the case of Warrant Officer Paulus Hamutenya, the Public Relations Officer at Army Headquarter who took an imperative initiative to transform the Dimo Hamaambo garrison's stadium in Grootfontein with an artistic inscription that ignited the new-look at the base's sport ground.

Known for his sport enthusiasm, Camaster, as warrant affectionately known in the NDF sport fraternity, has been an inspiration to sport enthusiasts, instilling sport spirit in fellow soldiers.

His creativity that changes the appearance of the stadium invites other soldiers to follow suit, to showcase their flairs in any manner that improves the force's image.

Soldiers mind should not just confined to military services, they should also explore innate talents to keep them busy when off-duty.

Every person possesses inborn talent some of which are yet to be embraced. Some talents are eye-catching and if explored can be beneficial, not only to the authors but also to the entire system.

Warrant Hamutenya has opened the door for everyone and awakened many innate talents that have been abandoned. I am challenging you to go out and emerge from a slaved mind, to explore a God given talent.■



ALCOHOL and DRUG abuse pose danger to society

Alcohol and drug abuse is a known leading cause of medical conditions and unequivocally kills users and affects communities.

It comes as no surprise that drug and alcohol consumption poses medical conditions. Although sometimes it may be difficult to imagine, the abuse of these substances can change everything from your body to your bank account.

This can include anything from altered brain chemistry, health complications, infections, legal issues, financial problems,

accidental injuries, and even death.

Soldiers, being part of the society are also at the risk of becoming victims of substance abuse. Perhaps, It is not a requirement that once stressed or going through difficulties a person should resort to alcohol and drug usage.

Of course there are events that trigger the use of substances but they are all preventable.

Soldiers often find themselves in deployment away from their families. Such a change in environment is associated with smoking initiation, unhealthy drinking, drug use and risky behaviours. The use of substances can also be a result of peer pressure and lack of progress in the workplace so to say.

In the military, the abuse of drugs and alcohol can cause problems in terms of readiness, discipline and mental as well as physical health of the service members. It can also cause issues within the unit, disrupting the coherence that is so vital to the safety of the soldier during operation. In essence, the use of drugs or alcohol affects one's ability to make decisions and learn new things. It may lead to poor on-the-job performance and could place colleagues at risk.

While every component in the society is striving to discourage the use of drugs and excessive alcohol consumption, there are meaningful ways to eliminate the abuse of substances in the defence force.

Learning the impact of substance usage at early stage can ignite an resistance mentality. Therefore, it is vital to introduce a 'Alcohol and drug abuse health risk' module in the basic military training curriculum. Some recruits join the force from the street, where they were exposed to many societal activities including drug and alcohol abuse. As such, the module would inclinate attitude and behaviours change towards substance consumption. It is also important that members presumed to be addicted to substances abuse be rehabilitated to avoid ill health and influences on others.

This is the right time to realise that alcohol and drug use threatens the livelihood of soldiers and has a negative impact on military operations and career progression.■

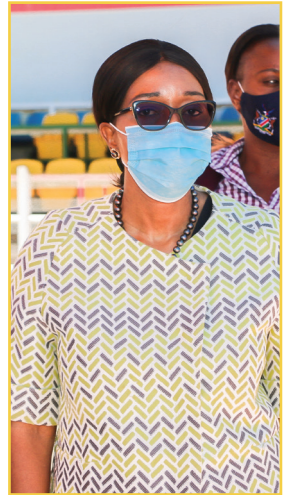
Lt L N SHAANGO

Email: mliinanelago@gmail.com

MILITARY SCHOOL



Scenes at 6th NDF Change of Command Parade



2nd Dec 2020 Independence Stadium



THE NEW NORMAL

**"Covid-19 is merely
biding its time,
waiting for us to let
our guard down."**

So, continue to practice protective
measures like physical distancing,
covering coughs and sneeze, and
frequent handwashing."

World Health Organization



#StaySafe