



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**POLICY STATEMENT DELIVERED BY JOHN MUTORWA, MP AND MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT (MWT), AT THE OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA'S (GRN) NEWLY UPGRADED GRN SWAKOPMUND GARAGE: THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022.**

1. The invitation extended to me, as the Line Minister, to officiate and speak at the official inauguration of the GRN Swakopmund Garage, is deeply appreciated.
2. This Garage is meant to serve the Erongo Region specifically, and the whole Namibia, generally. In terms of the functions and mandate of a motor vehicle Garage, it can be linked to a health facility or hospital. In this case, the Garage must heal the sick vehicles! Through the Garage, the dead vehicles must be publicly and legally auctioned! Garages must not be Graveyards. They must remain hospitals.
3. Here in Swakopmund, the previous GRN Garage, was extremely limited, in terms of space, had no proper vehicle repairs workshop, as well as parking space. Vehicles were exposed to the harsh Coastal Weather, that drastically reduced the lifespans of the GRN Vehicles. Currently, the GRN owns ELEVEN (11) Garages, which are, in alphabetical order, the following:
  - (a)Gobabis;
  - (b)Grootfontein;
  - (c)Katima Mulilo;
  - (d)Keetmanshoop;
  - (e)Khorixas;
  - (f) Ondangwa;
  - (g)Opuwo;
  - (h)Otjiwarongo;
  - (i) Rundu;
  - (j) Swakopmund;
  - (k)Windhoek.



4. So far, I have visited a number of GRN Garages, country wide. The visible challenges experienced by and at all the GRN Garages, countrywide, are very similar. The immediate coordinator and supervisor of all the ELEVEN (11) GRN Garages, countrywide, is a DEPUTY DIRECTOR, based at the MWT's Head Office, in Windhoek. The Deputy Director in the Namibian Public Service, heads a Division and reports to the Director. The Director, in turn, reports to the Deputy Executive Director (DED), who is the Head of a Department. The latter (DED) reports to the Executive Director (ED).

5. The GRN's total Fleet currently, stands at approximately THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO (3122).

6. A SUMMARY OF SOME CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THEM:

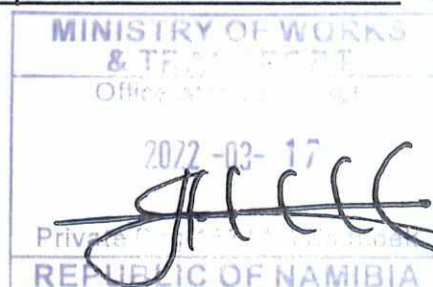
6.1. TIMELY REPAIRS AND SERVICING OF GRN VEHICLES:

(a)The procurement process is highly centralized. The Central Procurement Board and the Procurement Management Unit and their Sub-Committees, are Windhoek based.

(b)The ongoing review of the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act Number 15 of 2015), should facilitate the DECENTRALIZATION or DELEGATION of some powers and duties, so as to ensure that: procurement of basic Spare Parts and Services are locally sourced; meaning in the Regions.

(c)The current very bureaucratic and lengthy administrative procurement process, have literally brought the operations and effective functioning of the GRN Garages to almost a complete standstill or stop. This situation must be immediately changed to and for the better!

6.2. On Tuesday, 15 March 2022, in the afternoon, I paid an impromptu visit to M+Z Motors, in Windhoek. I was greeted and welcomed by TWENTY THREE (23) GRN Sedan Vehicles, parked and unattended. They were all awaiting the arrival of SPARE PARTS from South Africa and / or Germany! This picture is worse at all the Eleven (11) GRN Garages, in our Country. In this regard, the following recommendations are made, for urgent practical consideration and urgent visible implementation:

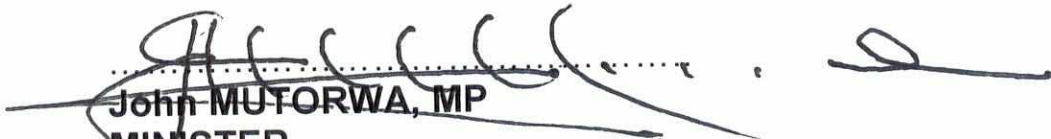




- (i) Some GRN Garages' procurement needs should be DECENTRALISED and / or DELEGATED, by allowing the Regional Offices to adjudicate the procurements, at given limitations or thresholds; and they should also provide weekly and monthly reports.
- (ii) The possible decentralization of supervisory and financial responsibilities of GRN Garages, with the exception of the GRN Garage Windhoek; to the Regional Councils, require further urgent investigation and study, by both the MWT's and MoF's (Procurement Management Unit) responsible officials. Namibia is a UNITARY State, but it is, because of the vastness of the Country that we have Political Administrative Structures not only at Central Government Level, but also: Fourteen (14) Regions, numerous Constituencies, various Local Authorities, Village Councils, Settlements etc.
- (iii) Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) should be enabled to be accessible, from the Regions, in terms of creation, printing and approval, at pre-determined thresholds, of Purchase Orders.
- (iv) Procurement Policy Unit (PPU) should consider authorizing REGIONAL ECONOMIZING COMMITTEES (REC's), to do procurements, for immediate needs, within the ambit of the legally prescribed procurement processes and procedures.
- (v) Treasury and / or the Procurement Policy Unit should consider authorization of procurement of bulk spare parts, from Dealerships. Such an action will enhance effective service delivery and efficient functioning of all the GRN Garages' Workshops, countrywide.
- (vi) The Department of Administration and Centralized Support Services (DACSS), through its Directorate of Centralized Support Services (DCSS), must ensure that all the budgeted vacancies or posts ~~of~~ the Eleven (11) GRN Garages, must be filled promptly. The possibility of shifting Staff from the Division: GRN Stores to the Division: GRN Garages, must also be urgently considered.



7. The Senior Officials within the Department of Administration and Centralized Support Services (DACSS); through its Directorate of Centralized Support Services (DCSS); its Division: GRN Garages and all the Heads of the Eleven (11) GRN Garages are hereby tasked to urgently take forward the recommendations, as outlined; in closer coordination with the Officials in the Procurement Policy Unit; at the Finance Ministry, and make the very final implementable recommendations, to and through the MWT Minister, for further consideration by the relevant Standing Committee(s) of the Cabinet and eventually the whole Cabinet. Such a Report is awaited by NOT LATER THAN THE END OF APRIL 2022. This Directive is issued within the letter and spirit of Article 40 (a) and (k) and Article 41 of the Namibian Constitution.
8. Final words of encouragement: this upgraded GRN Swakopmund Garage is beautiful, clean and tidy! Keep it that way! All the other GRN Garages, most of them, are neither clean, nor tidy! They are overgrown with bushes and grass. The challenges of waiting for spare parts do not apply here. Change the physical appearances of your premises with immediate effect; during this year 2022- appropriately designated by H.E. Dr Hage G. GEINGOB, President of the Republic of Namibia, as the YEAR OF RE-IMAGING! Let us, individually and collectively, change the image of GRN Garages as graveyards or dumpsites of GRN Vehicles, to the positive image of Hospitals for Vehicles.
9. It is my most pleasant duty and honour now, to declare the upgraded and renovated GRN Swakopmund Garage, as officially inaugurated.
10. I thank you all, most sincerely.

  
John MUTORWA, MP  
MINISTER

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