



MICT Update

APRIL-JUNE
2024 Edition

IN-HOUSE NEWSLETTER



Individual success our collective triumph – Theofelus

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear colleagues,

Quarterly greetings, Publications would like to thank you all for your patience, our quarterly Update has been delayed due to an exogenous intervening variable the Ministry has had early last quarter that rendered our foot soldiers (contributors) without the equipment to write articles and compile this newsletter on time. As you may have heard by now, the Head Office was hit by burglars who stole laptops and other equipment needed to carry out our work. The matter is with security for conclusion. Nonetheless, it is better late than never, and here we are bringing you our April-June MICT Update despite the said challenges.

In this issue, we introduce a new section of promoting harmonious relations at the workplace by giving a sneak peek of our colleagues' duties, personal stories and backgrounds. We have this new dispensation in the 'Getting2KnowYourColleague' corner, a special section that contains articles about our colleagues, delving in their ministerial journeys, how and where they started, their interests, hobbies, qualifications and even their personal backgrounds. This section is

meant to improve our knowledge about our colleagues to inculcate a culture of oneness and build bilateral and multilateral bridges between and among colleagues with a view to enhance teamwork, camaraderie and ultimately improve productivity.

In the next edition, we wish to grow this section to include even more colleagues and ensure that it becomes a formidable resource for us to get to know each other and improve our personal and professional relations in the interest of MICT. Furthermore, I invite you to reach out to our editorial team if you wish to be featured in the new section.

With these few words, I wish you an insightful reading further on.

Regards,

Vilho Hangula

Subeditor

NEW!

Section Inside!



**Getting2know
Your
Colleague**



Individual success our collective triumph – **Theofelus**

By  Moses Haufiku

Minister Emma Theofelus delivered an inspiring keynote address encouraging staff members to continuously improve their work in whatever role they do as they contribute to the Ministry's overall success. "Your individual success is our collective success and what you do in whatever role you occupy contributes to building a Ministry and nation that we want," she said.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology held a staff consultative meeting on 5 April 2024 at Parliament, bringing together all head

office and the Khomas Regional staff under one roof joined virtually by regional offices across the country, to deliberate on a myriad of ministerial issues including the ministerial strategic plan and budget, amongst others.

During the meeting, Executive Director Dr Audrin Mathe presented on the various programmes of the Ministry emphasising the need for especially regional offices to contribute to Namibia Review, a government magazine published by the Ministry that reflects on policy and development. "Each region should contribute a story to Namibia Review

so that when you open it has a national character and representative of each region," Dr Mathe said.

He also encouraged more efforts on the National Symbols Campaign, saying more should still be done to educate the public on the correct use of the national symbols. "The National Symbols campaign registered some success, however, you still find that some institutions still don't use the correct national symbols. We must not get tired to explain to people," he said.



Photo by Petrus Katonyala

Countdown to 8th National ICT summit begins

By  Memory Mutenda

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) hosted the National ICT Summit Minister's sponsorship breakfast meeting on 4 June 2024 in Windhoek. The sponsorship breakfast meeting aims at introducing this year's sponsorship packages to ICT stakeholders, allowing them to make pledges.

The National ICT Summit is an annual event hosted since 2014. The Summit aims to bring together industry stakeholders to deliberate on emerging trends and challenges affecting the industry, globally and locally. ICT industry players also use the platform to showcase ICT-related services and networking.

The corporates who attended the event pledged

about N\$600 000. This year's summit will be held from 9-11 September 2024 under the theme: "Building Resilience to 'Adapt or Die' in the Era of Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence (AI)". A number of sponsors also came on board after the breakfast meeting for pledges.

This year's summit ought to bring together policymakers, business fraternity and youth innovators, among others, to learn from one another through exchange of ideas and insights on emerging developments.

"The emergence of digital transformation and AI presents us with numerous opportunities. It has the potential to revolutionise industries, enhance efficiencies and improve the lives of our citizens," says ICT Minister Emma Theofelus.

Last year's summit was hosted under the theme "Rethinking cybersecurity investment to secure the digital economy and its opportunities". The 2024 summit centred on rethinking investment in cybersecurity to counter cyber-attacks and a step to protect critical ICT environment and to deliberate on the sectorial development, trends and challenges, connect, collaborate and showcase innovation in the digital era.

The annual summit creates a platform for networking bringing together policymakers, the business fraternity, academia, experts from local and international organisations, among others, to learn from one another through exchange of ideas and insights on emerging developments.

MICT-ORGANISED PUBLIC COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONALS' ENGAGEMENT AT OPUWO IN BRIEFS

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT - Print Media Affairs Director Frans Nghitila says government communication should be geared towards disseminating information of socioeconomic value to the public for sustainable development. "As we communicate to the public, let's ensure we inform them about the services we offer and provide information that they can utilise to improve their lives and livelihoods," he said.



CYBER-SECURE COMMUNICATION - ICT Development Director Linda Aipinge-Nakale presents on cybersecurity to government communication professionals at Opuwo in Kunene Region. Aipinge-Nakale highlighted the importance of being circumspect with cyber presence to avoid falling victim to cybercrime. "As communicators, it is important to foster a culture of awareness to protect your organisation's data at all times," she said..



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - Media Liaison Deputy Director Elizabeth Amagola asks public communication professionals about areas they wish to be trained in during a workshop organised by the Ministry at Opuwo. The Ministry, as the custodian of government communication, organises quarterly workshops with government spokespeople in efforts to streamline and enhance government communication endeavours. The communicators expressed interest in being trained in web development and public speaking, amongst others.



NATIONAL SYMBOLS - Campaigns Chief Information Officer Simon Idipo calls on government communication professionals to familiarise themselves with the correct national symbols to utilise in their communication. He made this call early June during a presentation to public communication professionals at Opuwo in Kunene Region. Idipo's presentation precedes the National Symbols Campaign's official regional activation in Khomas on 19 July 2024.





GREEN COMMUNICATION - Media Monitoring Chief Information Officer Johannes Hangula facilitates a session on green hydrogen during the public communication professionals' workshop at Opuwo in Kunene Region. The session had Green Hydrogen Commissioner James Mnyupe virtually elucidate existing opportunities in the green hydrogen value chain for communication professionals. The communication professionals expressed interest and asked how they can play a role in the green hydrogen industry.

COMMUNICATING VIA NAMIBIA REVIEW - Publications Senior Media Officer Vilho Hangula introduces the revamped Namibia Review to public communication professionals at Opuwo in Kunene Region. During a presentation, Hangula told communicators to tell their institutions' policy and development stories from a government vantage through the revamped Namibia Review. "The national magazine was revamped to promote government communication on policy and development, accentuating access to information for socioeconomic development," he said.



CRISIS MANAGEMENT - Senior Public Relations Officer Shoki Kandjimi says crisis management in communication involves immediate and strategic communication to minimise negative perceptions in order to safeguard a brand's reputation during challenging times. He said this during a panel discussion on PR crisis management at Opuwo during a government communication professionals' engagement. The panel featured other communication professionals and was organised to provide a model engagement on crisis management for the professionals to learn and exchange ideas.



MODERATION - Information Gathering and Dissemination Information Officer Givean Samulandela moderates a public communication professionals' workshop at Opuwo in Kunene region. The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to engage government spokespeople on a plethora of issues affecting them. This workshop was a series of quarterly engagements aimed at implementing the 2022-2027 Government Communications Strategy and the access to information law.



Photos by Emmency Nuukala



COMMUNICATORS' ENGAGEMENT - MICT's leadership with Secretary to Cabinet Dr George Simataa and Communicators during a workshop at Opuwo. *Photo by Emmency Nuukala*

Govt shares information, engages spokespeople at Opuwo

By  Memory Mutenda

The government, through the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), held an information-sharing session and engaged communication professionals at Opuwo in Kunene Region from 19 to 21 June 2024.

The three-day event, held under the theme "Improved service delivery

in the public sector through communication," brought together over 100 communicators from different Ministries, Regional Councils, and Local Authorities as well as from Public Enterprises. The information-sharing session brought government services closer to the people of Opuwo and surrounding area.

The event allowed public entities to share information and display products and services they offer while interacting with the public.

"This vital initiative brings government services closer to our people and fosters transparent dialogue between the government and the citizens it serves. This session is a demonstration of our dedication to the

principles of the Access to Information,” says the ICT Ministry’s Executive Director, Dr Audrin Mathe, in a speech read on his behalf by ICT Development Director Linda Aipinge-Nakale.

The engagement is in line with the 2022 Government Communications Strategy that aims to coordinate the dissemination of government information to the public. The Strategy calls on communicators to be pro-active in providing information to people.

The engagement will entail capacity building programmes to enhance Government’s communication efforts to improve service delivery in the public sector through communication. The engagement will be extended to other regions in the near future with the aim

of bringing services closer to the masses.

The Access to Information Act gives individuals right to access to information held by public authorities, and the public authorities are required to comply with its provisions to provide for requests for access to information.

Speaking at the information sharing session on 19 June 2024 at Opuwo, ICT Minister Emma Theofelus said the event aimed allow government entities to engage effectively with the public, develop and implement robust communication strategies, inform communities on the various services and programmes as well as build mechanisms for collecting and analysing public feedback.

“To the community of Opuwo, I encourage you to seize this opportunity, engage with the various government institutions and gather all the information you require. Your active participation is invaluable, and your feedback will help us to improve our services and to better respond to your needs,” Theofelus said.

In the same vein, Secretary to the Cabinet Dr George Simataa called upon all Public Relations Officers (PROs) to proactively ensure that the nation is kept abreast of the government activities and continuously engage the media on matters concerning their respective institutions.





Ministry holds bilateral games with Botswana counterpart in Ghanzi

By **Moses Haufiku**

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) and its Botswana counterpart, Ministry of Communications and Knowledge and Technology (MCKT) held bilateral sports tournament in Ghanzi successful held Bilateral games tournament in Botswana's Ghanzi town, from 31 May to 2 June 2024.

The tournament aimed to strengthen bilateral relations between Namibia and Botswana and promote wellness among staff members.

MICT Executive Director Dr Audrin Mathe and MCKT Permanent Secretary Pontsho Pusoetsile both commended the realisation bilateral tournament, which aims to take the Namibia-

Botswana relations to the next level, Dr Mathe said the games aim to further strengthen existing relations between the two countries, promote employee wellness and creating great opportunities for knowledge exchange within the two ministries. While his counterpart, Pusoetsile highlighted the need to build a strong bond between employees of the two ministries to complement the already established relations.

The MICT- MCKT teams competed in various sport codes such as football, netball, athletics, volleyball, tug of war, relays and darts, both teams secured victories in various codes. MICT Tug of war's men team emerged victorious against MCKT Tug of war team, while the women's tug of war from

MCKT won against MICT team. MICT also won the 800m and 400m athletics against MCKT athletic women's team, while MICT men's volleyball team secured victory against MCKT. In addition, MCKT women's volleyball team won against MICT's women team. MCKT football team emerged victorious against their MICT counterparts.

Meanwhile, MICT's netball team lost to their Botswana counterpart. Botswana emerged victorious and walked away with a floating trophy as the overall winner of the games, scooping 495 points while Namibia scooped 380 points. MICT is expected to host the same games next year, which are likely to take place at Mariental in the Hardap Region.

Getting2know Your Colleague

Ritha Maria Joao

By Rachel Nghimulitete



Growing up at Rundu in the Kavango East Region, Joao's childhood was filled with love, support and happy memories. Reflecting on her upbringing, she fondly recalls the vibrant community and the strong sense of family that shaped her early years.

She then attended Rundu HP School and Rundu Junior Secondary School, now known as Dr Romanus Kampungu Secondary School, up to Standard 7 (now Grade 9).

In 1990, Joao moved to Windhoek to attend Ella Du Plessis Secondary School in Khomasdal, where she completed her matric in 1993. Interestingly, all her subjects were taught in Afrikaans during those years, a testament to her adaptability and resilience.

Joao's parents, especially her mother, were significant influences in her life. Her mother, a hardworking and God-fearing woman, managed various small businesses, selling fat cakes, fish and other items. Her mother's entrepreneurial spirit and dedication left a lasting impact on her, inspiring her to pursue her own career with determination.

After completing Grade 12, Joao faced the challenge

of not being able to attend university immediately. Instead, she sought employment to support herself. Her first job was as a teller at Kavango Supermarket, one of the largest supermarkets in Rundu at the time. In 1994, Joao secured a position at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, now Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, as a Clerical Assistant (now Administrative Officer). This role provided her with valuable experience and exposure to the media industry. Motivated by her new position, Joao enrolled at the Polytechnic of Namibia (now NUST) to pursue a course in Public Management, later switching to a programme with SBS (now Stadio).

Balancing her studies, work and family was challenging. Nonetheless, she persevered and completed her diploma. Joao's career saw significant milestones, in 2004, she was promoted to Media Officer and transferred from Rundu to Windhoek. She played a pivotal role in launching various campaigns within the Ministry, working alongside notable figures like the late Fednedy Kabunga and the late Frans Wohler. One of the most successful campaigns she contributed to was the 'Take Control' campaign.

Moreover, Joao continually developed her

skills through short courses and training programmes. These opportunities allowed her to grow professionally and adapt to the evolving demands of her role.

Currently, Joao is part of the Print Media Affairs Directorate, focusing on marketing in the publications and campaigns subdivisions. Some of her major projects includes the Nationhood and National Pride programme and distribution of Namibia Review.

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is crucial for Joao. She believes life is not solely about work and advocates for smart planning and management to achieve a harmonious professional and personal balance. One of her proudest personal achievements was overcoming her fear of public speaking. Despite initial challenges, she

successfully delivered presentations in various regions, addressing large crowds.

Joao's core values and principles, rooted in her upbringing, include humility, honesty, respect, sincerity, responsibility, trustworthiness, dependability and gratitude. These values guide her work and decision-making processes, ensuring she remains true to herself and her mission.

Getting2know Your Colleague

Hosea Inamutila Idipo

By Vilho Hangula



Hosea Inamutila Idipo joined MICT in 2019 as a Media Officer at the Namibia Film Commission, the Commission falling under the Audio-visual Media and Regional Offices Directorate, where he played an exceptional role in brand management and positioning the Commission regionally and globally. Prior to joining the Ministry, Idipo worked as an assistant in the Namibia United Nations' communication department where he honed his communication and information management skills, amongst other portfolios.

By training, Idipo is a Public Relations professional through and through, possessing a diploma and honours degree in Public relations and Sociology from the University of Namibia. He recently completed his Master's degree from the Namibia University of Science and Technology in Journalism, Technology and Communications. His thesis focused on the impact of selected Namibian public enterprises' corporate social responsibility on development delving into the impact of Public Relations

on community development.

On a personal level, Idipo is a friendly person with a knack for befriending people. He is passionate about sports and a die-hard fan of various global sports-people, such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Floyd Mayweather. He premise his support for these athletes on their hard work, perseverance and commitment to their craft, which he fondly admires and aspires to replicate in his professional life.

Idipo likes soccer although he leaves much to be desired in playing it. His passion for soccer has marked bearings on the Ministry when he on several occasions formed part of the MICT soccer team.

His love for soccer goes further as he is a founding member of the Elombe Sports Development Programme that seeks to engage young people in sports activities, nurturing their talents and providing them with an opportunity to showcase their talents. Beyond the sporting aspect, the Programme assists learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to fulfil their educational dreams, support educational initiatives and infrastructures, amongst others.

INAMUTILA'S MICT JOURNEY

Back in 2015 to 2016, Idipo was an intern under the Campaigns subdivision, where he co-spearheaded development and implementation of various campaigns. Three years later, he joined the Ministry as a Media Officer at NFC. After joining NFC, Idipo got promoted to Senior Information Officer within the Print Media Directorate's Campaign subdivision in January 2023, marking a watershed return to his internship grounds albeit now in senior capacity.

In this role, Idipo headed the Campaigns subdivision for over nine months as an acting Chief Information Officer, where he collectively drove impactful and informative campaigns at both regional and national levels.

He spearheaded the National Symbols Campaign with passion and unfettered dedication whereby in some instances the fellow found himself voiceless after vociferously chanting while leading several campaign marches in the regions. He is a go-getter and trusted foot-soldier, whose energy

in public engagement and information dissemination remains unmatched and second to none.

FAMILY MAN AND CAR ENTHUSIAST

Idipo has a strong bond to his two-year-old son, Floyd P. Idipo. He can talk about his son from Windhoek to Keetmanshoop, demonstrating his love for his family. When Idipo stops talking about his son, he talks about cars. He prefers his cars with steering wheel-mounted flaps (paddle shifters) and with sport mode to easily get to the highest speed. His current favourite is the latest Golf 8 GTI but his dream car is definitely a Mercedes, 690kw, 1000NM torque.



FOOT SOLDIER - Hosea Idipo leading a campaign march in Oshana.
Photo by Vilho Hangula

Bigman Zikamee Kaura

By  Vilho Hangula

Born at Okakarara in the Otjozondjupa region, Bigman Zikamee Kaura grew up with his grandmother at the Okatuuo village in the Okakarara vicinity. He describes himself as a granny's boy, demonstrating his love and affinity to his 92-year-old grandmother.

Kaura joined MICT in 2021 from the Ministry of Mines and Energy where he did his internship under the Solar Revolving Fund. He serves as an Administrative Officer under the Procurement subdivision and serves on various ministerial committees including the Wellness Committee, amongst others.

"I don't know why my parents named me Bigman, maybe I was a chubby baby," he said jokingly when asked about the meaning of his name. He said his second name, Zikamee, means stand firm in the Lord, in Otjiherero.

Kaura is pursuing his BCom degree at Stadjo and enjoys working at MICT for the good colleagues he learns a lot from and opportunities to travel with work exposing him to different parts of the



country and the world. He is a rugby fanatic, having played rugby for almost 20 years from high school to the National Team, the Welwitschia. He also played for UNAM. He says he, however, supports the All Blacks.

HR CORNER

Name of Staff Member	Effective Date	Post Designation	Movement
1. Ms Paulina Magongo	01 April 2024	Policy Analyst	→ Transferred out
2. Ms Nghilite Erastus	25 April 2024	Accountant	← Newly Appointed
3. Mr Jonas Angombe	01 May 2024	Cleaner	→ Retired
4. Ms Krischka Stoffels	03 May 2024	Chief Media Officer	→ Resigned
5. Mr Reagan Malumo	01 June 2024	Deputy Director	← Newly Appointed
6. Mr Mukupi Mukupi	01 June 2024	Administrative Officer	↑ Transferred in rank
7. Mr Abed Ashipala	01 June 2024	Information Officer	→ Transferred out
8. Mr Jackson Mbuere	01 May 2024	Administrative Officer	→ Transferred out

Statistics by Sigrid Ashikuti



Republic of Namibia

MICT
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