

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Africa Public Service Day (APSD) Celebration which was coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in collaboration with the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Accelerator Lab Namibia, and hosted by Otjozondjupa Regional Council on 23 June 2022 in Otjiwarongo.

The 2022 APSD Celebration was attended by Offices, Ministries, Agencies, Regional Councils, Local Authorities, Public Enterprises and members of the public. Some institutions showcased their innovations, projects and provided on-site services to the members of the Public.

The main event on the 23rd June 2022 was preceded by a Creative Bureaucracy Design Sprint/workshop on 21st & 22nd June 2022. The workshop was attended by 90 staff members comprising of Learning and Development Officers, Public Service Innovation Champions and Public Service Integrity Champions.

The 2022 APSD was celebrated under the Theme **“Enhancing the Resilience of the African Public Administration to support and facilitate the realization of Africa’s nutritional needs during and post COVID-19 Pandemic”**, with the Right Honorable Prime Minister as the keynote speaker.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Africa Public Service Day (APSD) is an entrenched strategic event on the calendar of the African Union Commission (AUC). The Day originates from a decision of the 1st Conference of African Ministers for Public/Civil Service (CAMPS); in its meeting held in Tangiers, Morocco in 1994. The meeting proclaimed June 23 as the Africa Public Service Day and should be celebrated annually at national level and biannually at the continental level by all the African Union Member States under common themes and message. Hence, the APSD was adopted as a continental governance, public administration program and as a strategy to boost public administration programs, public sector performance, governance and service delivery to the citizens and is to be celebrated by all member states yearly on the 23rd June. Thus, as an AU member state, Namibia has been celebrating and recognizing the APSD annually.

In addition, APSD aims at recognizing the value and virtue of public service to the public and to mark and appreciate the work done by the Civil/Public Service as well as to recognize their positive contribution to the socio-economic development of the African continent.

The 2022 APSD was celebrated under the main theme: **Enhancing the Resilience of the Public Administration to Support and Facilitate the Realisation of Africa's Nutritional Needs during and post Covid-19 Pandemic**. The main theme was supported by the following sub-themes:

- a) Ensuring State Continuity during and post-Coronavirus Pandemic towards Food Security and Nutritional Resilience.
- b) Driving the Covid-19 Response from the Centre: Institutional Mechanisms to ensure Whole-of-Government Coordination.
- c) The Role of the 4th Industrial Revolution in Reimagining Service Delivery, Provision and Recovery during and post a Pandemic.
- d) Assessing State Capability in Achieving the Africa We Want in the backdrop of Instability caused by the Pandemic and Wars.

2. THE 2022 APSD CELEBRATION MODALITIES

The Office of the Prime Minister received a communication from the African Union Commission through the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) about the hosting of the 2022 APSD on 23 June 2022.

In light of the main theme and sub-themes provided through MIRCO, OPM in collaboration with UNDP Accelerator Lab Namibia decided to use this event to promote Innovation and Integrity in the Public Service in alignment to the principles of good governance through capacity building. The collaboration was aimed at making the event more impactful, leaner and less costly while fulfilling its strategic purpose and intent.

The collaboration with UNDP was due to their continuous support to OPM especially the training of innovation champions, integrity committees and the development of the digital declaration of interest system. This is part of UNDP's ongoing work and contribution to its work in Governance, while the Office of the Resident Coordinator was also involved given that the APSD coincides with the United Nations Public Service Day which is commemorated worldwide. Furthermore, OPM worked closely with the Otjozondjupa Regional Council and the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology to host the event.

The main event on the 23rd June was therefore preceded by a Creative Bureaucracy Design Sprint/workshop on 21st & 22nd June 2022. The aim of the Workshop was to create the terms of reference and enabling conditions for the Public Service Innovation Champions. The Workshop also consisted of a Training of Trainers program for Learning and Development Officers to capacitate and enable them to facilitate training on Innovation Policy and Integrity Learning Lab in their respective OMAs/RCs.



Photo 1: Bureaucracy Design Sprint/workshop on 21st and 22nd June 2022 during the 2022 APSD Celebrations in Otjiwarongo.

3. THE MAIN EVENT

The main event took place at Vooruit Primary School in Otjiwarongo. The day started with the Amazing Race or the Public Sector Innovation Treasure Hunt, involving staff members who participated in the Bureaucracy Design Sprint/workshop. The race took place across multiple locations around Otjiwarongo to enable online connection to leverage digitalization and included public servants that were present at various duty stations. The race adopted a gamification approach. Participants were required to register via an on-line link to obtain clues and a map which had geotags of various public sites where the public receive services. Each geotag conveyed clues regarding the next location. Each group of participant competed in collecting the data acquired at each location. The first group of participants who collected all the clues and answered

various questions correctly, received an incentive which was handed out by the Secretary to Cabinet on behalf of Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.



Photo 2: Winners of the Amazing Race during the 2022 APSD Celebrations in Otjiwarongo.

4. EXHIBITION AND ON-SITE SERVICES

Different OMAs/RCs, International Organisations and State Owned Enterprises, showcased their services, good practices and innovation through exhibitions at the event. The following institutions showcased and provided onsite services during the event:

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security
- b) Ministry of Health and Social Services
- c) Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Works and Transport
- e) Office of the Prime Minister
- f) Anti-Corruption Commission

- g) UNDP Accelerator Lab
- h) University of Namibia
- i) Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management
- j) World Food Programme
- k) Roads Authority
- l) Ongwediva Rural Development Centre
- m) Okashana Rural Development Centre
- n) Ben-Hur Rural Development Centre
- o) The Jumper Namibia



Photo 3: Secretary to the Cabinet visiting exhibition stalls during the 2022 APSD celebration in Otjiwarongo

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the Workshop on the 21st and 22nd June 2022 was entirely covered by the UNDP Accelerator Lab, whereas, the cost of the main event on 23rd June was covered by OPM.

6. CONCLUSION

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister considered the hosting of the 2022 APSD celebrations in conjunction with UNDP positively. The event promoted a culture of sharing good practices as well as appetite for innovation, performance excellence and positive competition on quality service delivery.

The event was a great platform for engagements within and outside the Public Service to foster networks for community of practice, innovation, learning and technical support from development partners. It has been observed that socialization is essential for employee wellness, performance improvement, cohesion and public perception. It is therefore critical that the OPM continue hosting APSD while learning from feedback and benchmarking to improve its positive impact and effectiveness on a year to year basis. It is worth mentioning that the APSD celebrations is the only strategic social event in the Public Service that brings the entire Public Service together and interact with the members of the public. It is therefore concluded that 2022 APSD was a great success and should serve as a catalyst and set a good standard for future celebrations.

Other pictures



Photo 4: Dr George Simataa, Secretary to the Cabinet, addressing the audience during the 2022 APSD, Otjiwarongo.



Photo 5: Public servants and members of the public during the main event of the 2022 APSD celebration in Otjiwarongo.



Photo 6: His Excellency Mr Sen Pang, Resident Coordinator, UN Namibia, addressing the audience during the 2022 APSD celebrations.



Photo 7: Mrs Alka Bhatia, Resident Representative: UNDP Namibia, handing over Public Service Innovation Toolkit to Dr George Simataa, Secretary to the Cabinet during the 2022 APSD Celebrations in Otjiwarongo.