

DM Overview Remarks on APSD Celebration

OVERVIEW

NAMIBIA NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY

Director of Proceedings

Honourable Governors

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Your Worship E.S. Kandjimi, Mayor of Nkurenkuru
Town Council

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

The African Public Service Day, which is also known as the APSD was adopted by the Pan African Ministers for Public Service in Tangiers, Morocco in 2002. The Decision was later adopted by the African Union policy making organs. The

commemoration of the APSD takes place at two levels, namely: national and continental levels.

The continental celebration is a biennial event while the AU Member States are mandated to celebrate the National Day, every year. The continental APSD has been celebrated five times; in Namibia (2007); in Tanzania (2009 & 2011), in Ghana (2013) and in Congo (2015). The Sixth (6th) continental APSD commemoration was held on 21 to 23 June 2017, in Kigali, **Republic of Rwanda**.

Namibia as a country started celebrating the Africa Public Service Day in 2001. During this event, the charter for the Public Service in Africa was displayed alongside the Namibian Public Service Charter and 11 customer service charter. The theme was **“Windhoek declaration – implementation for the Public Service in Africa”**. That event was marked in Namibia as the 7th anniversary of the APSD Celebration.

In 2003, the theme was **“Improving service delivery”**. A number of service delivery initiatives were launched by the then Rt. Hon, Prime Minister on that day

The theme for 2004, was **“Performance Management”** highlighting envisioned Performance Management system for the Public Service of Namibia.

The 2005 was celebrated under the theme **“e-governance support innovation, modernisation and change in civil service”**. The e-governance policy was launched by the then Rt.Hon. Prime Minister.

In 2006, the then Hon. Deputy Prime Minister was elected to serve as SADC chairperson for the APSD in recognition of good work of Namibia public service reforms initiatives. The theme was **“building an ethical public service to improve service delivery in Africa”** and the sub - themes were “Reconstruction of Public Service in Africa in line with the unique challenges facing Africa”, “Promoting of good governance in public service” and “empowering citizen through access to information”.

The theme for 2007 APSD Celebration was **“Promoting Good Governance with emphasis on Anti-Corruption and ethics”**. This was further informed by sub - themes such as “Enhancing Transparency and Good Governance as a tool for effective and efficient service delivery to citizen”,

“building public trust through zero tolerance to corruption practices” and “promoting the highest level of integrity among public servants to serve the citizens better”

The theme for 2008 is “**From policy to result based implementation**” which was informed by sub - themes such as “Policy implementations the key towards the realization of Vision 2030” and Promoting good governance through effective public service delivery.

In 2009, the theme was “**Fostering partnership and collaboration for sustainable development and improved service delivery in Africa**”. The sub - themes were capacity development for the future capability of the Namibian Public Service and “strengthening the interface between the political and administration divide to meet the citizen expectation.

The theme for 2010 was “**Strengthening leadership and management for improved service delivery in Africa**”.

In 2011, for the first time, the APSD was celebrated at regional level in Karas Region. The theme of this celebration was “**Transformational leadership in public in public administration and innovation**

governance: creating a better life for all". The sub - themes were such as "empowering regional and local authorities to ensure quality service delivery for the public", "enhancing e-governance capabilities at regional and local government level for improved service delivery" and "the charter for the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration in Africa – unique tool to increase and enhance service delivery in Africa.

In 2012, APSD was held at Gobabis, Omaheke Region under the theme **"Capacity Development for implementation of Africa charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration towards capable development state"**. The sub - themes for Namibia was "empowering regional and local authorities to promote" and "provide quality public service to citizenry".

In 2013, APSD celebration was held at Swakopmund Erongo Region under the theme **"Africa Public Service in age of open government: giving voices to citizenry"**. The sub - themes being "strengthening citizen participation", "enhancing accountability transparency and integrity", "enhancing access to information empowering

management development institute to build capacity in public service”.

The theme for 2014 was “**Africa Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration: A tool for enhancing governance in open government era**”. The event was hosted at Rundu in Kavango East Region.

In 2015, the event took place at Eenhana in Ohangwena Region under the theme, “**The role of the Public Service in women empowerment, innovation and accessible service delivery in Africa**”. The theme was premised on the fact that the year 2015 was declared by African Heads of States as “2015 a year of women empowerment and development towards Agenda 2063.

In 2016, the event was held at Ongwediva in Oshana Region under the theme “**Public Governance for inclusive Growth: towards the Africa we want**”. The sub themes were “the role of the Public Service in stimulating economic development and growth on African continent, “Women rights are human rights: positioning the Public Service towards African agenda 2063. The themes were aligned to AU theme of 2016 “2016 the year of Human rights with specific focus on women rights.

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THE NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE 2017 ARICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY

The main theme of 2017 SPSD Celebration is **“Entrenching a citizen-centred service delivery culture: Partnering with the youth for Africa’s transformation”**. The rationale for this theme is premised on AU's aspirations as stipulated in 2063 Agenda whereby Africans desire to have a continent that puts its citizens at the center of all programs and projects and the decision of the African Union Heads of States declaring 2017 as the year of **“Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth”**. Citizens should actively participate in the social and

economic development. There is therefore need to build strong, competent, innovative, developmental, and professional and merit based public institutions that serve and deliver effectively and efficiently to the satisfaction of the citizenry.

In Africa, youth represent around 60% of the population. There is therefore an overarching need not only to partner strategically with the youth and invest in them but also to leverage their potential in the development of their communities. In this era of technological breakthroughs, it is equally important to make use of ICT in delivering in more efficient and effective ways.

In light of the above, the following were also adopted as the APSD sub-themes for the year:-

Partnering with the youth to build a responsive and sustainable Public Service;

Nurturing a culture of professionalism and ethical values in Africa's Public Service;

Promoting self-reliance and empowerment of African youth for socio-economic development;

Leveraging ICT skills for quality service delivery.

It is expected that discussions, during this year's celebration, at Nkurenkuru in Kavango West Region will, appropriately, pin-point some challenges impeding the Public Services to satisfy citizens' expectations and propose sustainable solutions.

OBJECTIVES OF 2017 APSD

The objectives of the 2017 APSD is to critically examine the theme and sub-themes and to among others:

Reflect on the function of the public service, its mission and objectives, programmes and projects, successes and challenges.

Give recognition to and make known the importance of civil service, its positive contribution and benefits to public servants, the population, civil society, private sector and government.

Motivate and encourage public servants to continue the good work done and to come up with new initiatives and innovations to promote Africa development.

Prepare the public service and administration for a better future by proposing change for the social well-being of the population.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Practical recommendations on how to improve service delivery and partner with the Youth transformation will be made.

Challenges impeding the Public Services to satisfy citizens' expectations will be identified and sustainable solutions proposed.

Best practices impacting public sector performance, management and development for improved livelihoods across Africa shared for possible replication.

Opportunities for networking among the civil servants, bureaucrats and public services and administration in Namibia.

APSD METHODOLOGY

This National Celebration of the 2017 APSD is officially commence on 5th July 2017 and end on the 6th July 2017.

Each Office, Ministry, Agencies and various public institutions are expected to participate in this National Celebration of the 2017 APSD. During the celebration, there will be two major events running concurrently: symposium and exhibition.

The celebrations will start with an opening ceremony by the Rt. Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila Prime Minister after lunch.

The presentations and discussions on the main theme and subthemes will follow in the plenary.

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila Prime Minister is expected to officially close the celebration on the afternoon of the 6th July 2017.

Presentation and discussions on the theme and sub-themes will be led by both senior government officials, political leaders of the government of the republic of Namibia including prominent Public Officials and Chief Executives of Public Organizations, Academia, Private Sector and many other stakeholders in the Public Service of Namibia.

The Office of the Prime Minister, particularly, the Kavango West Regional Council has made available exhibitions spaces for Offices Ministries Agencies and various Public Organisations to

exhibit their public service innovations as well as provide on-site services.

In conclusion, the National Celebration of the 2017 APSD is being attended by approximately 500 civil servants from all Offices, Ministries, Agencies and Regional Offices as well as various Public Organisations and general public.

I would therefore like to wish you ALL THE BEST and encourage you to participate positively.