

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

ON NAMIBIAN TIME CHANGE

BY HON. PENDUKENI IIVULA-ITHANA, MP

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

31 AUGUST 2017

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me the opportunity to interact with you members of the media on an issue of great interest to this nation. During the month of October 2015 Cabinet authorised the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to conduct public consultations to solicit views and inputs on whether to amend the current Namibian Time Act, Act No. 3 of 1994. It is important to state that various stake holders were consulted by the Ministry and as a result over 3000 members of the public responded by opting for one standard time for Namibia. Cabinet then resolved that Namibia should retain only summer time. Based on the findings from the consultative processes and as directed by Cabinet, the Ministry came up with a draft Namibia Time Bill which I tabled in Parliament on the 22nd February 2017 with the intention to repeal the current Namibian Time Act, Act No. 3 of 1994 and to provide for one standard time for Namibia. It is important to underline that the current Namibia Time Act makes provision for two different time arrangements (winter and summer time).

Fellow Namibians,

It is of paramount importance to state that when the bill was tabled in Parliament, some members of Parliament were of the view that further and broader in depth consultations were needed; hence the matter was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security on 09 March 2017. I am confident that with the further and broader consultation by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, those who could not express their views during the ministry's consultative process had an ample time to do so.

I am happy to inform the nation that the findings of the committee were overwhelming in favour of the summer time. According to the report as tabled in the Parliament by the Chairperson of that Committee which was overwhelmingly in favour of summer time was

adopted by the House the same day. Therefore, Parliament has passed the Namibia Time bill in order to have a standard time for Namibia.

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It is against this background that I am informing the nation that Namibia will from now maintain the summer time throughout the year. Therefore, Namibians should adjust their clock with one hour ahead, come the first Sunday of September which falls on the 3rd September 2017 this year.

With these few remarks, I am humbly requesting you, distinguished members of the media to disseminate and transmit this crucial information to the public.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!
