



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE FRANS KAPOFI, MP**

**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION,**

**AT THE**

**INAUGURATION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON  
MIGRATION MANAGEMENT (NCMM)**

**SWAKOPMUND**

**19 NOVEMBER 2018**

- Director of Ceremonies,
- Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of the Erongo Region;
- Mr. Jeremias Mendes, IOM Head of Office in Namibia ;
- Ms. Beatrice Kiraso, Consultant;
- Distinguished stakeholder participants;
- Ladies and Gentlemen of the media;
- Good Morning.

I am delighted to be with you today to discuss a topic which is closer to all our hearts. The phenomena that is as old as human kind, migration. Migration is defined as the movement of persons from one place to another either permanently or temporarily and within one country or from one country to another. In the olden days its management had been easy as the transportation was not advanced. You would recall from the bible stories that it took the Israelites 40 years to move from Cairo to Jerusalem. The distance is about 650 Kilometres. Nowadays, this picture has changed. More and more people are travelling due to advancement in transportation, requiring policy response to manage migration.

We are thus gathered here today to; a) inaugurate the National Committee on Migration Management (NCMM) and, b) officially open the training course necessary to prepare the Committee for the task ahead.

Namibia as country has been at work to put together institutional frameworks to improve governance. In the area of migration management, we started with several initiatives. Notably, in 2015, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, and other stakeholders worked on the Migration Profile for Namibia which was launched in June 2016. The profile made several recommendations and it is a good tool to support and enhance policy coherence, evidence-based policymaking and the mainstreaming of migration into development planning.

Part F of the Profile reviews the Migration Governance looking at policy and institutional frameworks. Key recommendation number 12 deals with Migration, Policy and Institutional Framework. It recommends that there is need for Namibia to develop policies to put into effect the Migration Profiles. As a result, the Labour Migration Policy was already produced. However, that is only one area of migration and a

need exists to come up with an overarching migration policy which will take into account the provisions of the labour migration policy. We are thus here to respond to that recommendation.

**Director of Ceremony,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As a part of a joint initiative between the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) activities have been ongoing. Our being here under the project ***Strengthening Migration Management in Namibia***, funded by the IOM Development Fund is not the beginning but a continuation of a partnership. The main purpose of this project is thus:

- i. To provide support to Namibia in the development of a comprehensive national migration policy,
- ii. To support in the establishment of a National Committee on Migration Management( NCMM) which will provide a multi – stakeholder platform to coordinate all matters related to migration management, and

- iii. To contribute to the development of a roadmap for the Implementation of the national migration policy

The partnership between the Government of Namibia and the International Organisation for Migration started in 2008 when Namibia was not yet a Member State of IOM. The first project was in 2008 which assessed the level migration management in Namibia culminating in some recommendations which gave birth to projects that followed. Another partnership was the development of a framework used during disaster management, which framework I am informed has now been replicated to other countries for management of internal displaced persons (IPDs). IOM supported us in the evaluation of border resident cards between Namibia and Angola. The recommendations are still under consideration. The list goes on. I therefore wish to thank our partners for their support.

I am encouraged that this committee is made up of different stakeholders and organisations. This in my view will allow for cross fertilisation of ideas and thereby enriching the outcome document. It is my hope that once you have concluded your work, the document shall be ready to be submitted to

Cabinet and eventually become the White Paper on Migration for Namibia.

**Director of Ceremony,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The task ahead is not an easy one, but it is one we all should dedicate ourselves to meet the deadlines. I have appointed you all on the recommendations of your principals. Our understanding and expectations are that you will all be available for meetings as you surely will be required. Namibia places trust in you. I will therefore urge all of you to put in your best, the Namibian way of doing things.

In conclusion, let me thank the International Organisation for Migration for assisting Namibia with financial resources to implement this policy objective which is also provided for in the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5). My thanks and appreciation also goes to all the institutions that have released their staff members to form part of this national endeavour. Such partnerships should be nurtured in the interest of our country.

It is now my honour and privilege to inaugurate the National Committee on Migration Management and declare the training workshop official opened.

I thank you.