



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**OPENING STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. FRANS KAPOFI**

**MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION**

**AT THE**

**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> IMMIGRATION  
FOUNDATION COURSE,  
LUCIUS SUMBWANYAMBE MAHOTO CORRECTIONAL  
SERVICE TRAINING COLLEGE**

**OMARURU**

**19 NOVEMBER 2018**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Commissioner-General Raphael Tuhafeni Hamunyela;**

**Distinguished Resource Persons;**

**Management Cadre of the Ministry of Home Affairs and  
Immigration**

**Dear Immigration Cadets;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon!**

It gives me great pleasure to have been invited to officiate at the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> foundation course for immigration officers who started their employment in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration as immigration officers but did not have an opportunity to undergo the compulsory Immigration Foundation Course. I am informed that some of you are already part of our Ministry in various capacities. Let me at the onset congratulate you for having excelled in the interviews which allowed you to gain the appointment in this Ministry. I hope the same excellence you have shown when seeking the employment will be with you during the training and eventually when you continue your career as law enforcement officials.

The vision of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is, and I quote; **“Population Register and Migration Management that is rated amongst the best in the World”**. Having perused through the training programme, it is my conviction that it is designed to prepare you to make your contribution towards attaining that vision. The onus now rests on all of you to make the best of the training to be provided to you. The training should equip you with necessary skills to ensure that you comply with the Constitution, and other laws of the land. It is important to comply with the laws of the country in order to avoid judgments like one delivered early this year where we were found wanting due to omission of certain required steps in implementing the law.

**Director of ceremonies,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

One of the defining features of the global village that the world has become today is the increasing mobility of goods, services, financial resources as well as people. International migration

continues to grow and has prompted very interesting debates everywhere in the world and resources have been spent to manage it and in some instances curb it all together. Yet the numbers of immigrants, both regular and irregular, continue to grow and no country is immune, including Namibia. Such movements bring challenges which will require new approaches in the way we manage migration today.

The link between migration and development justifies a softer approach to migrants on one hand, while the link between migration and transnational organized crime such as human trafficking and migrant smuggling justifies continued vigilance by border officials. It thus calls for striking the right balance between the control of migrants entering our country and the facilitation of business travelers the country dearly needs. This fact has been realized and all countries are now looking for the best response to address challenges from migration in a manner that allows them to maximize the benefits which are skills transfer and mobility of financial resources while at the same time finding ways to ensure that those posing harm to the security of the land are identified and dealt with accordingly.

The right balance can only be realized if the officers dealing with migration are trained to tackle these challenges. This is the reason you are here.

**Director of ceremonies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Border officials perform a function that is central to the security of the country. You will be making decisions to allow or not to allow entry of travelers some of whom have good intentions while others have their own hidden motives. In this regard, you need to share information with all stakeholders such as police and custom officials so that our efforts to combat violation of our ports of entry are enhanced.

I therefore urge you to take your training seriously as through it you will be able to gain the knowledge that will assist you in the future execution of your duties.

On the other hand, as border officials you will be exposed to all kinds of people including those who will try to test your

commitment and honesty. They will offer you gifts with a view to compromising your decision making process.

Let me warn you against such people. Other officials who served before you fell into such trap and as a result ended up losing their jobs. Do not place temporary gains before long term gains. You will suffer and eventually your families will lose income as result.

In conclusion, whether this training programme will be successful or fail will depend on how well you pay attention to the lectures that will be provided to you. It is my wish that after two weeks of training, you will be ready for the task ahead – to become experts in the field of migration management. This is the journey you have selected to undertake and we are there to support you as you go on this journey.

I will not end without thanking the Namibian Correctional Service through you Commissioner General for availing this facility to us to train our officials. This inter-agency cooperation is highly commented.

To our trainees, you are hosted at this facility to facilitate your training. This facility has rules and regulations guiding all who find themselves in it. My directive to you is that observe the rules and regulations of our host i.e. be good students.

**Director of ceremonies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is now my distinct honor to declare this training course officially open.

**I thank you.**

**/End**