



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Border Passes for Residents of Impalila Island and Kasika villages – Namibia

- The Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the Republic of Botswana have been negotiating on how to ease the plight of Namibians living on Impalila Islands and Kasika Villages. These Namibians were because their travel documents would fill-up in less than 6 months requiring them to replace their passports twice or more per year, thus presenting a cost burden to the communities.
- Due to excellent bilateral relations between the Republic of Botswana and the Republic of Namibia, Namibians residing at Impalila Island and Kasika Villages will be issued with border passes. The two governments (the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Botswana) agreed to facilitate the movement of persons in Impalila Island and Kasika Village by providing them with border passes to facilitate cross-border movement at minimum cost to the communities. The Agreement in this regard was signed on 21 February 2020 in Gaborone, Botswana during the Botswana/Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security.
- The border pass arrangement will ease and facilitate the cross-border movement of individuals who live within the identified border areas. The new agreement will allow Namibians to travel from Impalila Island and Kasika Villages via Kasane and Ngoma Border Posts and *vice versa* without having their passports stamped. It will thus lessen the hardships experienced by communities living along the common border in accessing shopping facilities and attending to community and cultural events as well as visiting relatives and friends.
- This agreement will further support and strengthen the collaboration between Namibia and Botswana with aim to promote and improve on existing ties as well as support cross border movement through the strengthening of border residency arrangements.
- The next step will be to print the border passes and acquire the personalisation equipment as well as issuing the border passes. The communities will be informed through the Regional Government on the implementation date.

