



Republic of Namibia

WELCOME REMARKS

BY

DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCCASION OF A WORKSHOP ON

THE PROMULGATED LOCAL AUTHORITIES

AMENDMENT ACT 2018

AND

MODEL RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

REGULATIONS

2ND JULY 2018, WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Derek Klazen, Deputy Minister, Urban and Rural Development;

Your Worship the Mayor of Windhoek Municipality and other Mayors of other Municipalities and Towns;

Hon. Chairpersons of Village Councils;

Hon Chairpersons of Management Committees;

Chief Executive Officers;

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome you at this workshop, which is aimed at introducing us to the provisions of promulgated Local Authorities Amendment Act 2018 as well as the Model Recruitment and Selection Regulations.

Director of proceedings

Hon Councillors

Ladies and gentlemen

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development together with Regional Councils and Local Authorities are entrusted with the responsibility of meeting some of the fundamental needs of the people of Namibia. This responsibility entails ensuring appropriate governance structures that will enable the citizens to exercise their democratic rights and for them to take part in the planning and in bringing about their development as well as the provision of basic infrastructure and services for them to live a decent and dignified life.

The basic infrastructure in question range from the provision of serviced land, housing to sanitation, to name but a few.

In order for us to effectively execute the mandate that has been entrusted to us, it is critical that we have the necessary tools in place and work together as a team pulling in same direction.

The critical ingredients are legal instruments and administrative systems. While legal instruments such as the Local Authorities Act are in place, we know too well that such as a law was promulgated some years back, first in 1992 and while it underwent some amendments already, the dynamic world in which we are living has brought new challenges and obligations, which we need to respond to among others by making amendments to the existing laws and regulations.

In addition to the passage of time, as a sector, we have not really been working and pulling in the same in all instances. Reports of poor service and in some cases mismanagement as well as conflicts among and between Councillors and officials are a common reading in the media and through communications sent to my office.

In response to and in order to address the noted challenges, a need was identified to review and amend certain provisions of the local authorities Act as well as the Regional Councils Act, 1992. This, I am told followed a process of consultations between the Ministry, regional Councils and Local Authorities.

We are here this morning to have an insight of the Local Authorities Amendment Act, 2018 which law was promulgated and came into force on 24 April 2018.

This Amendment Act contains provisions that are aimed at addressing a number of the challenges that we have identified and have been hampering the effective execution of our mandate. Details of the specific amendments will be provided by the legal expert from the Ministry of Justice.

As a parliamentarian for 13 years, I am familiar with various shortcomings in a number of legislations. It is for this reason that I am not only passionate about reforms of legislation, but also the implementation of the accessory legislations.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

In addition to the Amendment Act, we will also be taken through the Model Recruitment and Selection Regulations for Local Authorities. My office and in the Ministry in general has been inundated with cases of disputes and challenges related the recruitment of staff by and within local authorities. In response to this my predecessor and subsequently myself have invoked Section 94A(1)(d) of the Local Authorities Act, 1992, that empowers the Minister to develop regulations to address specific governance challenges. In this case, the main aim of the Regulations is to establish a uniform framework for recruitment and selection of personnel in and by local authorities in a transparent, competitive and cost-effective manner.

The ultimate goal of all these reform measures is good governance and improved service delivery to our people.

With these few remarks, I welcome you once again and I now have the pleasure to declare this workshop officially opened. I thank you