We live in a rapidly changing world, with evolving actors and competing national interests. This complex global environment requires that the Government of Namibia be adaptable in order to meet the social and economic aspirations of the Namibian people. To ensure that we have the right mix of policies and instruments to promote our national interests, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) is undertaking a Foreign Policy Review during a one week Conference to be held from 25 to 29 July 2016, at NIPAM in Windhoek, Namibia. The opening session however will be held at Windhoek Country Club Resort on the 25 July 2016.

The aim of reviewing Namibia’s Foreign Policy is to analyse the impact of global changes on our domestic policies and to identify strategic priorities of our Foreign Policy, in order to maximise the benefit to our people. This conference is in accordance with International trends.

The Permanent Secretary of MIRCO, Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi stated that “Every Foreign Policy is a reflection of the country’s history and its aspirations for the future. Namibia’s Foreign Policy was crafted against the backdrop of our National Liberation Struggle and the end of the Cold War. Dynamic changes have and continue to take place at the national, regional and international level with fundamental impact on our political, social and economic development. All these changes warrant a review and adjustment of our White Paper on Namibia’s Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management.

This review is therefore an opportunity to reflect on how MIRCO can continue to effectively serve the interests of the Namibian people, contributing to their security, prosperity and wellbeing, and the promotion of our values, through active international engagement. Various National, Regional and International speakers were invited to present papers that would inform the Foreign Policy document. The participants at the conference will include the government, parliament, Diplomatic corps, academia and civil society.
The topics of presentation and discussion will include poverty eradication, agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, blue economy, trade and investment, international cooperation, Foreign Service, public diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, education, gender and youth empowerment.

One of the highlights at the conference will be an exhibition on the evolution of the Namibian Foreign Policy. This Exhibition will tell in pictures the story of Namibia’s engagement with the SADC region, the African continent and the rest of the world since our struggle for nationhood hitherto.

The conference will be opened by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia.
Two Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU) were signed during the visit:
1) MOU between Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) and Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA); and
2) an MOU on the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology in Namibia.

In expressing solidarity with Namibia on the ongoing drought situation, the President of India pledged an amount of 1000 tons of rice for mitigating the effects of the drought. Also, India offered 100 tons of essential medicines as grant-in-aid over the next three years with a view to assist Namibia to implement the health goals envisaged under the 'Harambee Prosperity Plan'.

India will also provide a grant of US$20000 (approximately three hundred thousand Namibian Dollars) to the Indira Gandhi Maternity Clinic in Okahao to meet some of its immediate equipment needs. Namibian expressed their sincere appreciation for the grant.

Both parties expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations and discussed a diverse range of subjects of interest including trade, education, agriculture, ICT, health, culture, mining and energy among others. It was decided to further intensify cooperation in all these areas.
Both sides also discussed the need to expand cooperation in renewable energy, agriculture, capacity building, development cooperation, climate change and sustainable development and the fight against terrorism.

The parties noted that the bilateral trade volume and investment, albeit small, was steadily increasing and the Namibian side expressed its deep appreciation for the assistance provided by India in the area of capacity building and human resource development under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and other scholarship programmes. India further informed about its decision to further enhance the number of ITEC slots to 150 while both sides agreed to work together to ensure better utilisation of tele-education and tele-medicine facilities installed in Namibia under the Pan Africa E-Network project.

The Indian Head of State thanked Namibia for its consistent support to various Indian candidatures in international and other multilateral organisations. Both sides agreed on the urgent need for the reform of the UN Security Council to make it more representative and effective global body.

The visit to Namibia was the second by an Indian President and after a gap of 21 years. His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, was accompanied by Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State and two Members of Parliament, Shri SS Ahluwalia and Shri Mansukh Lal Mandaviya and Senior officials.
The Ministerial follow-up Sub Committee on the implementation of the AGENDA 2063 took place from 21-22 June 2016 in Windhoek, Namibia. The Sub-Committee was set up and mandated by the African Union (AU) Executive Council Retreat held in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2016 to draft the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the AU Ministerial follow-up Committee on the Implementation of AGENDA 2063.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who is the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee, said “The Terms of Reference will provide guidance to the Committees (STCs) to ensure a coherent approach in the implementation process.

We are mandated to come up with a clear and concise document that will be submitted to the Executive Council and the Assembly of Heads of States during the forthcoming Summit that will take place from 10 to 18 July 2016 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda. We have been entrusted with this important responsibility to ensure that Agenda 2063 becomes a reality. Our people have high expectations on the deliverables of Agenda 2063 and therefore we cannot afford to be complacent”

Agenda 2063 is an approach on how Africa should effectively learn from the lessons of the past, build on the progress now underway and strategically exploit all possible opportunities available in the short, medium and long term, to ensure positive socio-economic transformation within 50 years.

The sub-committee is was also mandated to elaborate on the working methodology of the Ministerial Committee for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063, its Ten Year Implementation Plan and the Flagship Projects.
Since its establishment, the Committee has extensively deliberated on issues such as: the aspirations of the people of Africa; Flagship Projects; streamlining and rationalization of the AU Summits and the AU Policy Organs methods of work; review of the AU strategic partnerships and the preservation and respect of the unity of AU positions and decisions in the international fora.

Further, earlier retreats took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2015 and Mekele, Ethiopia, in January 2016, deliberated and agreed on issues such as: free movement of people and the African passport; harmonization of qualifications and higher education in Africa; free movement of goods and services; capacities for implementation of Agenda 2063; and tourism and wildlife conservation.

Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah, emphasised that the above initiatives have been taken in order for Africans to engage and seriously address the issue of the African Paradox “Rich Continent, Poor Africans”. “Wherever we go across the length and breadth of our beloved continent we see desperate faces of women, our children and the youth collectively demanding from us leaders to address this paradox and facilitate the realization of the “Africa we want”. They call for an urgent need to implement Agenda 2063 and its flagship projects. In other words the men, women and youth of Africa cannot wait till 2063. They yearn to see the signs that we have started; effective steps in moving towards “the Africa we Want”.

She commended those countries who have already embarked on the process of domestication Agenda 2063, stressing that Namibia has already started incorporating the Agenda 2063 into their national development goals documents such as Vision 2030, National Development Plan (NDP5) and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP).

The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Minister of Algeria, the Minister for the East African Community of Rwanda, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, Senior Officials from the respective countries, Representatives from RECs, and Permanent Representatives based in Addis Ababa.

The ToRs will be presented to the 27th African Union Assembly for adoption in July 2016.
The Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Honourable Lilianne Ploumen met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in Windhoek on 14 June, to discuss ways on how to strengthen bilateral relations between Namibia and the Netherlands as well as multilateral issues that are of interest to both countries.

The Dutch Minister further discussed the impact of El Nino on the Africa Continent. She informed the Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah that the Netherlands has great expertise and capacity in water management. To this end, the Netherlands stands to support Namibia in dealing with drought related issues. Regarding the issue of water management, the Dutch Minister reiterated the readiness of the Netherlands to support Namibia, and on the issue of trade and investment she agreed that the two countries should explore ways on how to cooperate in this area. The Netherlands for example can assist Namibia on value addition programmes. Honourable Ploumen further communicated the desire of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines to fly to Namibia and that cooperation in this area would be of great benefit to both countries.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, expressed concern at the potential difficulty that Namibia might have in accessing the Green Climate Fund of which the Netherlands is a board member. This difficulty could arise from the fact that Namibia is classified as an Upper Middle Income Country by the Bretton-Woods Institution. She stated that drought does not discriminate between Upper Middle Income Countries and those that are not, and urged the board members of the Green Climate Fund to review this situation.
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines intent to open routes to Namibia, and Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah welcomed the initiative, adding that it is great motivation for Namibia to expand its international airport. She thus encouraged dialogue between Namibia and the Netherlands on this issue.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister also used the opportunity to give a brief summation about the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) which was launched this year. With regard to the fifth pillar which deals with International Relations and Cooperation, she stated that the two countries should continuously seek ways on how to cooperate.
THE EU-NAMIBIA POLITICAL DIALOGUE

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation hosted a one day Political Dialogue between Namibia and the European Union in Windhoek on 8 June 2016. The Dialogue was aimed at strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations between Namibia and the EU.

The meeting discussed, amongst others, the political situation in Namibia and the EU; Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) ratification and implementation; voting patterns at the UN; and Peace and Security in Africa.

The dialogue was convened in compliance with article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement which provides for the establishment of agreed priorities between the parties. The Political Dialogue hence discussed many issues of mutual concern, such as Namibian-EU Relations, Regional and Sub-Regional, as well as, International Global challenges.

Officiating at the event, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, acknowledged the European Union’s development assistance and technical cooperation to Namibia especially that many other partners have pulled out and reduced their assistance.

He said: “Over the next four years, the development cooperation between Namibia and the European Union will focus on education, skills development, agriculture and rural development under the 11th European Development Fund, aimed towards sustainable growth and stability in Namibia.

This new European Development Fund is in line with our Harambee Prosperity Plan, national development strategies, and key policy documents. Namibia hopes to continue to benefit from this cooperation especially in the areas of health, education and agriculture”.

The Head of the EU Delegation in Namibia, Her Excellency Jana Hybaskova recognised Namibia’s peace and stability which continues to be the basis for the sound bilateral and multilateral relations with the EU its member states.

Excellency Jana Hybaskova stated that the EU stood ready to assist Namibia in various developmental areas. She was accompanied by Ambassadors from the EU member states accredited to Namibia.

The Namibian delegation comprised, of Deputy Minister of MIRCO, Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, the Namibian Ambassador to the European Union, His Excellency, Dr Kaire Mbuende and Senior Government
The Netherlands Minister for International Trade and Development, Honourable Lilianne Ploumen, launched a pilot study for introduction of Dutch designed Waka Waka solar lights and chargers to the Namibian community. Waka Waka aims to provide light and energy to off-grid communities and help learners study after dark.

The launch took place at the Orange Babies Pappa Centre in Otjomuise residential areas of Windhoek on 14 June 2016.

This is a combined initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Namibian Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation and the Orange Babies Namibia Foundation. The foundation’s aim is to support HIV infected mothers as well as vulnerable children.

The pilot phase of the project aims to assess whether the WakaWaka units (an ultra-efficient solar powered light and charger) are accepted, valued and used in local communities which currently do not have access to grid electricity. After a day in the sun it charges any phone or provides up to 150h of bright light.

As a social enterprise, WakaWaka aims to end energy poverty.

The intention is to evaluate via qualitative and quantitative feedback whether using WakaWaka will have made a difference to the lives of the children.

Two hundred and fifty WakaWaka units were donated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and were distributed via established Dutch welfare projects and NGOs to groups of children living in households without electricity. The recipient organisations are:

- Orange Babies Namibia Foundation, for the children it cares for at the Pappa Centre in Otjomuise (Windhoek), Khomas Region;
- Gondwana Memes (the social responsibility leg of the Gondwana Collection), for schools in Kuisebmond and the JJ Centre in Walvis Bay, Erongo Region.
- Hanasaneye Foundation, to the Ombaka Primary School it helped build 130 km from Opuwo-in, Kunene Region.

The Dutch Minister stated in her address: "We wish to make a meaningful contribution to the Namibian people’s prosperity, with something maybe as simple as having access to lighting and charging. I trust that good use will be made of the WakaWaka solar powered lights and hope it improves and contributes to the learning and education of the children at the Pappa House and in the rural areas of Otjozondjupa, Erongo and Kunene where the pilot project will run as well."
The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation once again actively participating in the national Africa Public Service Day (APSD) activities that took place in Oshana Region, from 20-23 June 2016.

The 2016 APSD activities were held under the theme: PUBLIC GOVERNANCE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH: TOWARDS THE AFRICA WE WANT with sub-themes: 'The role of the Public Service in stimulating economic development and growth on the African continent'; 'Women’s rights are human rights: Positioning the Public Service towards African Agenda 2063’ and "Government of Namibia: Harambee Prosperity Plan’.

Right Honourable Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila delivered the keynote speech at the four-day long Africa Public Service Day.

Right Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila called on the assembled hundreds of public servants from all 14 political regions of the country to “use this notable event to reflect on policy approaches and administrative practices that will take government performance to a qualitatively higher trajectory.

Speaking at the event the PM emphasized: “I also believe that this event is a good opportunity for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitment to public service and excellence in work”

She further noted that there is a need for more co-ordinated approach to strengthen public governance in pursuit of Inclusive Growth Objectives. “Inclusive Growth is all about changing the rules so that more people can contribute to and benefit from economic growth”, she stressed.
MIRCO PARTICIPATED IN AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY CONTINUES...

Right Honourable Prime Minister said that policy making for Inclusive Growth must align (1) voice, (2) design, (3) delivery and (4) accountability for joined-up outcomes. This means we can only achieve Inclusive Growth:

- “When we listen to lots of diverse voices in shaping policies;
- When we design policies for all parts of government to work together through practices, including a whole-of-government approach;
- When we deliver services that promote Inclusive Growth by aligning the civil service around a set of shared values, strengthening capacity for leadership and by improving gender balance in policy making; and
- When we measure results and hold people accountable for delivery and performance.

A strong and effective public service is vital to our efforts to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Public administration systems and institutions are also an essential element in promoting good, democratic governance – governance that is transparent, accountable, and sensitive to the needs of the public – governance that is financially and environmentally sustainable and that reinforces the ethical fiber of society.

Thus, we must do all we can to support our country in building up and revitalising their public service capacities.”
On the 31 May 2016, Diana Tjikundi, who was Learning and Development Officer at the Training Division resigned. She joined the Ministry in 2013.

Mr. (Left) Alfred Uremena and (Right) Mr. Bryan Challo, left for Early Retirement on 31 May 2016. Mr. Uremena joined the Ministry in 1995 as a driver and Mr. Challo in 2001 at the registry.

During the farewell event, Honourable Deputy Minister, Dr. Peya Mushelenga, thanked the colleagues for their contribution and commitment during their tenure at the Ministry.

On behalf of the staff and management, the Deputy Minister wished them well in their future endeavors.
AFRICA PUBLIC SERVICE DAY