



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

SUBJECT: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ED) IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, AMBASSADOR SELMA ASHIPALA-MUSAVYI, RETIRED

The Executive Director (ED) in the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, retired from her position and the public service today (Tuesday), 30 June 2020, after serving in that capacity for 7 (seven) years. At a farewell function for the former Executive, Ambassador Ashipala-Musavyi was hailed for the contributions she has made over the years.

Speaking at a farewell ceremony held at the Ministry on Tuesday, 30 June 2020, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, described Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, a consummate diplomat who has a shining chapter in the history of Namibia.

Ambassador Ashipala-Musavyi joined the Ministry in 1990 and spent 30 years formulating, implementing, and promoting and defending Namibia's Foreign policy. Ambassador Ashipala-Musavyi was appointed Deputy Director in the Ministry in 1990 upon completion of a Diplomatic Training Course. Because of her exceptional skills, she was among the first staff members to be posted to the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations.

She was soon promoted to Under Secretary Multilateral Affairs with a view to strengthening the Head Quarters, followed by an appointment as Ambassador to Austria and concurrently accredited to some Eastern European Countries, while serving as the Permanent Representative of Namibia to all International Organizations based in Vienna.

Thereafter she was appointed High Commissioner of Namibia to Nigeria covering the whole West Africa Region including ECOWAS.

In June 2013, Amb. Ashipala-Musvayi was appointed as the first woman Permanent Secretary in the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Among her notable accomplishments, she was instrumental in the review of Namibia's White Paper on Foreign Policy Management and Economic Diplomacy and the crafting of Namibia's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation, the implementation of the Posting Policy, the review of the Manual of Operations of the Ministry, the Protocol Manual and the operationalization of the Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Lectures.

As Executive Director, Namibia successfully chaired both SADC and the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation, where she served as the Chairperson of Senior Officials Meetings and distinguishably handled complicated regional integration issues with distinction.

Ambassador Ashipala-Musavayi is the current chair of the Board of the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

The Deputy Executive Director in the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Rebecca Iyambo, will be acting as Executive Director until the appointment of Ambassador Ashipala-Musavayi's replacement.

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Issued by:

Rebecca Iyambo

Acting Executive Director