

THE LAW BRIEF

Official Monthly Newsletter for the Department of Justice
Published by Public Relations Office

Kunene Community Courts Receive Vehicles During Ministerial Visit



• Edmund //Khoaseb

The Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations has handed over vehicles to the Ongandjera and Otjikaoko Community Courts as part of a familiarisation visit to the Kunene Region by Minister Fillemon Wise Immanuel.

The handover ceremony took place in Opuwo and was attended by Governor Vipuakuje Muharukua, Deputy Minister Inecia T. Brandt, King Johannes Mupiya of the Ongandjera Traditional Authority, traditional leaders, members of the judiciary, and community court officials. Speaking at the event, Governor Muharukua said the vehicles would strengthen justice delivery in remote areas.

“Each vehicle represents faster access to justice, safer travel for court staff, and a stronger connection between rural communities and the courts that serve them,” he said.

The Governor also highlighted the role of Community Courts in resolving disputes and maintaining peace within communities, noting that they are recognised under the Community Courts Act and supported by the Constitution.

[Visit Cont... on Page 02](#)

Visit... from Page 1

Minister Immanuel said the Ministry was prioritising courts based on practical needs.

“Since the start of the project last year, the Ministry has handed over eight vehicles to Community Courts. The distribution priorities are informed by the distances covered by messengers when delivering summonses and orders, the number of cases handled, and whether messengers at the respective courts have valid driving licences,” he said.

He added that Government would continue the rollout in phases.

“Although the Government cannot procure and deliver all vehicles at once, our strategic intention is to ensure that each Community Court in the country is equipped with a vehicle,” the Minister said.

The vehicles are expected to improve mobility for court officials, reduce delays in case handling, and enhance access to justice in rural communities.

The handover marked the conclusion of the Minister's two-day familiarisation visit to Community Courts in the Kunene Region, which included engagements with traditional authorities, court officials, and community members.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As this month's Legislative Drafting Training Workshop came to a close and the Minister's convoy left Opuwo behind, one truth stood out: Namibia's justice system is carried forward by people. And those people deserve our sincere gratitude.



Edmund //Khoaseb
Chief Public Relations Officer and Editor

This edition captures two sides of the same coin. The first is technical, shaping laws that truly serve communities, not just legal frameworks. The second is deeply human—the gentle, selfless work of looking after the wellbeing of those who make justice possible.

On that note, I encourage you to read our feature interview, "Leading with Wellness in Mind," with Sarah Simon. In a field often driven by deadlines and outputs, Sarah reminds us that real leadership is rooted in service. Kindness, humility and fairness are not weaknesses. They are foundations. Her reflection, "a balanced life is a blessed life", feels especially relevant as we move toward the end of the year.

On a personal note, with winter drawing near, I wish every colleague warmth in all its forms. Whether it is a steaming cup of tea at the end of a long day, the comfort of family close by, or the quiet warmth of knowing you made someone's day better. The evenings are getting colder, but we can keep each other going with the same compassion Sarah speaks of.

Stay warm. Take care. And as always, stand up for justice.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL STRENGTHENS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS IN //KHARAS AND HARDAP REGIONS



- **Edmund //Khoaseb**

The Office of the Attorney-General (OAG) has continued its nationwide stakeholder engagement programme with consultative sessions held in the //Kharas and Hardap Regions as part of efforts to strengthen service delivery, legal compliance, and cooperation with government institutions.

Stakeholders from across the //Kharas Region gathered in Keetmanshoop for an engagement led by Attorney-General Hon. Festus Katuna Mbandeka. The session brought together regional and local authority representatives, including the Governor of the //Kharas Region, Hon. Dawid Gertze, as well as officials from various local authorities.

The delegation subsequently proceeded to Mariental in the Hardap Region, where the Attorney-General commenced engagements with a courtesy briefing session with the Governor of the Hardap Region, Hon. Riaan McNab, before meeting with regional stakeholders.

The engagements are designed to facilitate an objective assessment of the Office's operations and service delivery by drawing on stakeholders' experiences, challenges, and feedback. They also provide an opportunity for the Office to clarify its constitutional mandate and the functions of the Attorney-General, particularly regarding the provision of legal advice and representation to government institutions.

During the sessions, stakeholders actively participated in discussions on a range of legal and governance matters, including contractual agreements, legal representation, legislative compliance, and procedures for obtaining legal advice from the Office.

The nationwide engagements further aim to foster a culture of legal compliance within government institutions by promoting voluntary compliance, sharing best practices, streamlining processes, and reducing litigation costs. The feedback received will assist the Office in identifying areas for improvement and implementing interventions to enhance efficiency and service delivery.

CRAFTING LAWS THAT SERVE NAMIBIA

• TUYENIKOMWENE DANIEL

The gavel has come down on a five-day legislative drafting workshop that sought to answer a deceptively simple question: **what is a law for?**

The Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations, in partnership with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Namibia-Angola Office, brought together legal minds from across the country from 18 to 22 May 2026 at the Avani Hotel and Casino in Windhoek.

As the workshop concluded, the consensus among participants was clear. Drafting is not a clerical afterthought. It is the very backbone of good governance.

In his opening address at the start of the week, Dr John Shimaneni, Deputy Executive Director of the ministry, laid down a challenge that reverberated through every session.

"Let's have a law that serves a purpose," Dr Shimaneni told the room of legislative drafters and industry experts. "Do not focus only on the law, but also on the impact it has on the community. All laws should be linked to service delivery. So today, embrace the opportunity to learn."



Picture: Purpose before procedure as Dr John Shimaneni addresses Windhoek's finest legal minds.



Legal Minds: Participant gather for a group picture

That emphasis on impact became the workshop's guiding thread. Theoretical discussions gave way to practical drafting exercises. The goal was not merely legal correctness, but text that could change a citizen's life.

Participant Ndanyama-Elao Kalipi found the training revealing. **"I came to understand that the Constitution remains the pith, the main document from which all laws derive their power," he said.**

Facilitator Jacob Ncube added: "We equipped them with the necessary skills as drafters, law reformers and legal aid practitioners."

Programme Manager Claudia Gossow, speaking on behalf of KAS Director Anna Hoffmann-Kwanga, reminded the room: "Democracy and freedom cannot be taken for granted. Namibia has developed a modern legal system that aligns with international standards while remaining responsive to local needs."

Leading With Wellness In Mind

• ASHLEY JANTJIES

Leadership means serving others more than oneself, however, because she is the chairperson of the Wellness Committee, we'll focus on the 'self'. Kind, genuine, caring are just some words that come to mind when describing a woman such as Sarah Simon, but there's one thing that she'd like to be remembered for: making a positive impact .And what's the best way of making an impact?

How does it feel to be elected chairperson of such a committee? And what inspired the launch of the committee?

SS: I feel truly honoured and humbled. As someone who believes in serving others with love and compassion, being entrusted with this responsibility is a blessing. It gives me the opportunity to contribute positively to the lives of my colleagues and promote wellness in a meaningful way. The need to care for the whole body, mind, and spirit inspired this initiative. We wanted to create a safe and supportive space that reminds everyone that their wellbeing matters.

As a chairperson, you will lead people. How would you describe your style of leadership?

SS: My leadership is servant-based. I lead with kindness, humility, and fairness. I believe in walking alongside others, not ahead of them so that we move forward as a team where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

We don't always feel our best due to our personal and professional lives. How do you reset when you are feeling down?

SS: When I feel low, I turn to prayer. My faith is my anchor.



Saara, Chairperson of the Wellness Committee... she leads to help you become your best self

I also spend time in quiet reflection, speak to someone I trust, or simply rest. I believe in taking time to recharge so I can give my best again.

What does happiness mean to you?

SS: Happiness is knowing that I am walking in God's purpose for my life and seeing others smile because I was able to help them in some small way. It's found in the simple things—peace, kindness, and love.

What does happiness mean to you?

SS: A perfect day for me is one where I bring comfort to someone, make others feel equal and valued, and return home with a peaceful heart. It doesn't have to be big, just meaningful.

Who inspires you?

SS: I'm inspired by people who serve others selflessly. My faith and the life of Jesus Christ guide my actions. I also draw inspiration from those who lead with humility and strength, even when no one is watching.

continue on page 4

continue from page 3

What was the best advice you've ever received?

SS: "Always treat others the way you want to be treated". This has become my daily principle, whether I'm helping a colleague or making a decision, I always try to choose love, fairness, and respect.

What would your advice be on work/life balance?

SS: Make time for rest. Listen to your body and protect your peace. Family, faith, and health are not things we can afford to neglect. A balanced life is a blessed life.

If you were to die and come back as anything, what would you be?

SS: I would come back as a light—a gentle, warm presence that brings hope, clarity, and comfort to anyone going through darkness.

THROUGH THE LENS

