

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

WITNESS PROTECTION ACT NO. 11 OF 2017)

COME INFORCE: 31 AUGUST 2023

DR. JOHN SHIMANENI
ACTING DIRECTOR: WITNESS PROTECTION UNIT

WITNESS PROTECTION ACT COMES INTO FORCE

The Witness Protection Act, 2017 (Act. No. 11 of 2017) commencement notice was published in the Government Gazette of 31 August 2023, this effectively brings the Act into force by 01 September 2023. The commencement of the Act requires a Witness Protection Unit to carry out and ensure the full implementation of the mandate contemplated on, in the Act. The Witness Protection Unit will among others be responsible for formulating regulations, policies, agreements, and operational activities.

Dr John Shimaneni, Deputy Executive Director in the Ministry, has been appointed as the Acting Director of the Witness Protection Unit, effective 01 September 2023 until 31 March 2024. The Witness Protection Act is administered by the Ministry of Justice, and it provides the legal framework for the procedures to be followed for protection measures, on behalf of the State, to witnesses and related persons who face potential risk or intimidation due to them being witnesses or related persons. This is another highlight achievement and demonstration of the government's commitment in fighting crimes and ensuring the safety of all persons aiding to fight the destructive acts towards the country's socioeconomic development agenda.