### **ROADS AUTHORITY INTERNAL NEWSLETTER**



### Honourable Veikko Nekundi officially opens NaTIS office in Okongo, Ohangwena Region



The Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable Veikko Nekundi officially opened the new NaTIS office at Okongo Constituency in Ohangwena Region.

The Okongo NaTIS office is the latest addition offering NaTIS services in the Ohangwena Region, the other being located in Eenhana town. Speaking at the event, the Deputy Minister explained, "the establishment of a NaTIS office at Okongo village was part of the government's overall agenda to bringing services closer to the people".

Honourable Nekundi narrated that during colonial times, communities from the Ohangwena, Omusati and Kunene Regions had to travel hundreds of kilometers to get services from the only NaTIS center in the northern region at the time, the Oshakati NaTIS branch. Fast forward to post-independent Namibia, the government, through the Roads Authority (RA) constructed fully-fledged modern NaTIS centres in various towns across the country and in the northern regions. "NaTIS services are now available in towns such as Ongwediva. Opuwo, Eenhana and as of today, here in Okongo village", said Hon. Nekundi.

Cont pg2







RA holds media briefing for the commissioning of 4km dual carriageway in Oshana



RA undertakes awareness campaigns on conmen and fraudsters





Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable Veikko Nekundi unveils the plaque at the official opening of Okongo NaTIS, while Ohangwena Regional Governor, Honourable Walde Ndevashiya looks on.

"This new NaTIS office in Okongo will ease the burden of communities from this area who previously had to travel about 200 kilometers to and from Eenhana to access NaTIS services," said Hon Nekundi

Located at the Okongo Village Council's Offices, the Okongo NaTIS office will offer the following services;

- Registration and licensing of vehicles;
- Annual renewal of vehicle licences:
- Renewal of driving licences;
- And testing and issuance of learner licences.

While officially opening the NaTIS office, the Deputy Minister also announced that the Vehicle Licence Mark allocated to the Okongo Village Council, will be known as N-KO.

Further elaborating on the operation agreements, the Deputy Minister explained

that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the RA and the Okongo Village Council, for the Village Council to serve as agents to provide NaTIS services to the people of the area and region as a whole.

During his official speech, The Deputy Minister also used the platform to inform the gathering that his Ministry has been tasked to deliver on certain Government deliverables such as addressing all previously abandoned Government projects across the country. Adding that this will include the rehabilitation of some road projects in the Ohangwena Region.

Speaking at the same event, the Governor of the Oshana Region, Honourable Walde Ndevashiya thanked the RA for bringing NaTIS services to Okongo, adding that "these services will add to the development of the village".



### Managing business during the Covid-19 pandemic



Around the world, our very way of life was shaken to the core by the sudden emergence and rapid spread of a new virus, the Novel Corona Virus also better known as Covid-19.

In a global effort to curb the spread of the virus, countries across the world introduced unprecedented actions of imposed mandatory lock-downs, an action never before experienced in living memory. The measures put in place by many countries ranged from shutting down borders (restricting movements in and out of a particular country) to mandatory compliance of staying and working from home (with the exception of essential service providers) literally putting normal life, as we knew it to a stand still.

Namibia was not spared the wrath of the fear and with the first confirmed cases of Covid-19, the Government of the Republic of Namibia took immediate action to prevent any further spread of the virus.

As the nation entered into a complete lock-down of two major regions, followed later by the State of Emergency, organisations, institutions and businesses had to adopt to "the new way of doing business" or rather, "the new normal".

The Roads Authority (RA) was among the many public entities that had to re-strategise and redesign its operational modalities by applying its Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to adopt to the new way of doing business.





With most workers/staff working from home, a select few were classified as essential service providers, to continue serving as the foot soldiers of the organisation during the initial critical stages of the national Covid-19 prevention period.



In accordance with its existing BCP and full compliance to the State Regulations of the lock-down period and subsequent Stages of Emergencies as communicated by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the RA swiftly adopted to the new way of doing business. With most workers/staff working from home, a select few were classified as essential service providers, to continue serving as the foot soldiers of the organisation during the initial critical stages of the national Covid-19 prevention period.

At the RA, many divisions were at the forefront of this drive, but none so then the NaTIS staff and Road Traffic and Transport Inspectorate Services, who due to the nature of their business required staff to work directly with the public to ensure uninterrupted service delivery during those critical early stages.

Other divisions within the RA also worked tirelessly to provide essential support services that were necessary to ensure provision of effective operations and the functioning of the organisation. These included sections of Information Communication Technology, Human Resources, Procurement, Finance, Administration Services and the Office of the CEO.

As decision makers, management played a pivotal role in not only guiding the work of those working from home but also the essential workers in the line of duty. Additionally, management from the onset of the initial concerns of the possible spread of a global pandemic, formed an internal Covid-19 Task Force Team to serve as, amongst others, an advisory on mitigating measures on Covid-19 as well as the application of all necessary measures to mitigate risks for staff members and RA clientele.



...RA resumed business operations in full compliance with the State Regulations in place.

With the country having successfully completed the lock-down and the transition into the different stages of the State of Emergency periods, RA resumed business operations in full compliance with the State Regulations in place.

"Moving forward, the RA can firmly state that despite the challenging times we find ourselves and the threat brought to our doorsteps by this virus, Namibia as a whole, under the guidance of our Government leadership will continue to play its part in fighting to kick this virus out of our country. As for our employees, no amount of words can adequately convey the gratitude to all our staff members who individually and collectively contributed and continue to do so, to ensure continued service delivery at all times", Mr. Lutombi expressed.



# RA holds media briefing for the commissioning of the 4km dual carriageway in Oshana



On 25 June 2020, the Roads Authority (RA) held a media briefing in Oshana Region to commission the opening to traffic of a 4km dual carriageway on Main Road (MR) 120.

The briefing was aimed at informing the public through the media that a newly completed 4km section of the road on MR120 was officially opened to traffic. The new dual carriageway starts from Main Road 92 (Oshakati-Outapi-Ruacana Road) junction to the traffic circle in Okatana past District Road-DR3671 (Okatana-Ongwediva-Onamutai Road).

During his briefing statement, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Conrad Lutombi, of the Roads Authority explained that this section of the road forms part of the existing MR120 from Okatana through Endola to Onhuno that was inaugurated by his Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, on 15 March 2019 at Onhuno in the Ohangwena Region.

While providing further details about the project, Mr Lutombi explained that the

construction of the 4 km dual carriageway commenced in 2017 and included a bitumen standard detour road from Okatana to DR3609 (Oshakati to Omungwelume road). Adding that during the construction work on this project, approximately 95 labourers and 12, SME's were employed on the project.

Mr Lutombi also confirmed that construction of this section was fully funded by the Government of the Republic of Namibia at a cost of N\$210 million. The contractor on the project was Tecnoman/OTESA joint venture with Burmeister and Partners (PTY) Ltd as Consultant Engineers.

Various media houses and dignitaries attended the briefing, including the Governor of Oshana Region, Honourable Elia Irimari, who thanked the Roads Authority for bringing road infrastructure development to his region.



### RA undertakes awareness campaigns on conmen and fraudsters



Fighting crime has always been the goal of any functioning law abiding society. However, too often, despite the best prevention measures to root evil minds out of our society, criminals always seem to find ways to infiltrate even the best of systems, often resulting in innocent victims falling prey to orchestrated schemes of these scrupulous lawbreakers.

services to be targeted by scrupulous conmen and fraudsters, whose sole intentions are to defraud people of their hard-earned money.

The methods and tactics employed by these criminals varies, and are often targeted at desperate and misinformed people, who either intentionally or unintentionally became the prime targets of these criminals. As unfortunate as this maybe, the Roads Authority has not been spared the evil claws of conmen and swindlers. As an organisation that offers designated services to the public, the Division of Internal Audit in collaboration with Corporate Communication teamed

lowadays, it has become common for up to develop and carry out awareness  $f{V}$  unsuspecting public seeking NaTIS campaigns, aimed at educating the public, about conmen and fraudsters that target Roads Authority services, particularly those offered through NaTIS.

> The team carried out extensive outreach campaigns at regional level, travelling from region to region to sensitise the public about conmen and fraudsters. In addition, radio campaigns were also carried out in all local language stations, supplemented by active live radio interactions with the public on the topic of fraud awareness and prevention. These campaigns were well received by the public who were eager to learn more about campaign as well as where to report suspected fraud attempts.





The Permit Officers from the section of Transport Regulation and Competent Authority, also joined the campaign trail to provide information on public road carrier transport permits, transport regulations and application processes for public transport permits.

"In our effort to continuously educate the public of the importance of remaining vigilant, the RA also made use of its social media platforms such as Facebook to emphasise continued caution and for the public to report fraud perpetrators to the relevant authorities", said Hileni Fillemon, Manager of Corporate Communication.

"Our awareness campaigns focused mainly on educating the public on how to identify and where to report suspected conmen and fraudsters as well as how not to fall victim to them", said Hileni. "Additionally, we also educate the public on the importance of doing the right thing, following the right



procedures and being exemplary citizens of our beloved country".



# Impact of Covid-19 on traffic using our national roads



**Mr Adamu Teklu -Senior Specialist:** Traffic Surveillance System, Road Management System

Traffic data is a crucial input for the management of roads. It is also important for road safety interventions and for researches pertaining to road transport. Furthermore, the traffic trend mirrors the socio-economic condition of the nation to various discerning interest groups. The impact of COVID-19 on Namibia and the effectiveness of the lockdown is a good case in point.

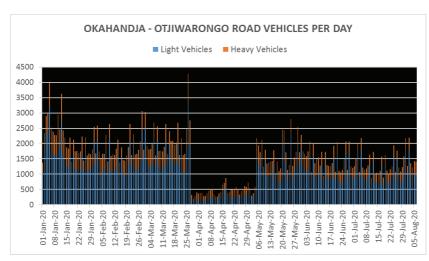
Just before Khomas and Erongo regions were put under lockdown on 27 March 2020 at 23:59, a high flow of traffic was recorded on many roads located north and south of these regions as depicted in the following graphs.

On 26 March 2020, 4272 vehicles have travelled on the Okahandja – Otjiwarongo road as people rushed to their respective destinations ahead of the start of the lockdown period.

A similar trend in the flow of traffic was also observed at our monitoring station located between Kalkrand and Rehoboth.

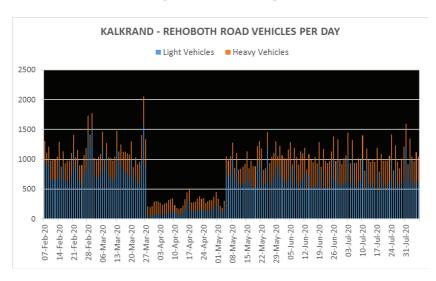
Normally, this kind of peak on the flow of traffic is observed on days around Christmas or Easter holidays.

During the lockdown period, the volume of traffic was reduced to only essential light and heavy vehicle travels, see graphs below for statistical details.





#### (GRAPHS CONTINUED)



The traffic data can be used in efforts geared towards curbing the spread of contagions such as COVID-19 and evaluation of the effectiveness of measures taken to restrict movement.



# **End of a career for retired Engineer, Mr Horst Schommarz**



The Roads Authority (RA) recently bade off farewell to one of its long serving senior managers, Mr Horst Schommarz, who served in the portfolio of Senior Divisional Engineer of Maintenance, before retiring in February at the age of 60.

Shortly before his official retirement, the RA Corporate Communication team caught up with Mr Schommarz to talk about his life and tenure at RA.

### 1) Can you please give us a glimpse of who Mr Schommarz is as a person?

Schommarz comes from a family consisting of four brothers with mom and dad all still living today, what a blessing. In my family, we had four

children, two boys and two girls. Of the girls, one passed on at 6 weeks, while the second one will be turning 23 years old this year, but she is extensively disabled. On the other side of the spectrum, the eldest boy is a Mechanical Engineer who specialised in turbine impeller optimisation. The youngest one is in his second year of tertiary education, majoring in Electronic Engineering. My wife teaches German in the mornings and gives extra lessons during the afternoons. In December 2020, we will be celebrating 29 years of marriage.

# 2) What is your background? Give us a brief overview of your background, in terms of your professional career?

I was born in Mariental on Valentine's Day, many years ago. Schooling was not easy for me, as it was boarding school from grade one all the way to grade 12 and my parents exercised farming to make a living. After school, I did a Diploma in Surveying which was followed with a Degree in Civil Engineering. My work career started during pre-independent Namibia in Pretoria, now Tshwane. At independence, I moved back to Namibia and joined a consultancy. This was followed by a self-employed year and then the return to consultancy work. Before joining RA in May 2009, I spend 8 years at the City of Windhoek where I was responsible for road maintenance and the City's laboratory.

### 3) When did you join the RA and what has been your role since coming to RA?

As mentioned earlier, in May 2009 my RA Maintenance career started. It was not easy finding my feet in a post with roughly the same monetary responsibilities as the entire City of Windhoek had at the time. Fortunately, for me, I had the privilege of receiving valuable guidance from Mr Hartmann who helped me a lot especially in the initial stages when I was also tasked with



the responsibility of being the chairperson to the editorial team compiling the History book of Namibian roads. For close to 11 years now, I have always been in charge of the Maintenance Division at the RA, up until my retirement in a months' time.

#### 4) Having served as Divisional Manager (DM): Maintenance for many years, what are some of your memorable contributions?

In my recollection, four memorable moments stand out for me. The first is the completion of the history book, which was a very good schooling for myself, regarding my responsibilities as DM Maintenance. The second, was the introduction of the Grader Unit development contracts within the routine maintenance of gravel roads. This exercise resulted in stretching the life of gravel roads by approximately 5 years. Once the battle to preserve the gravel roads could not be won, it became clear that the surfaced roads of Namibia needed to be preserved at all costs. This was then the third achievement, to keep reseal projects going, as rehabilitation is not taking off. Finally, I have realised that during my time at RA, 5 PMR (Professional Management Review) awards were achieved, 3 gold, 1 silver and now the diamond arrow.

## 5) What are some of the standout (most important) projects that you worked on during your tenure at RA?

The most important projects that I have worked on would be to maintain the surfaced road network acting as the skeleton of the Namibian economy. Thus, getting successive reseal projects going with permanent site supervision to ensure quality, this was a first within maintenance. The uncompleted maintenance strategy, specifically

optimising spending and rebuilding the gravel network, would have to be continued by my successor. "Indeed, retirement came too quickly".

### 6) You are now going on retirement, what are some of your fond memories here at RA?

Praise and motivation came through recognition and thus the PMR awards were special moments while being at RA.

## 7) What footprints would you wish to leave behind and what would you wish your legacy to be as you leave the working world behind?

I would like to be remembered for my contribution to the Namibian road sector. I would also like to emphasis the importance of continuing to maintain our national roads, as maintenance is a vital component, to ensure that the next generation benefits from the footprints we set for them now.

#### 8) Any message to your former colleagues, either to the entire RA or perhaps to your colleagues in the Engineering Unit?

My message to my colleagues is to encourage them to do everything possible to maintain the surfaced road network, as that is the skeleton of the Namibian economy. My message to the RA is to continue supporting the entire Engineering Unit to rebuild the unsurfaced road network

### 9) What is your advice to those who will carry on the torch in your absence?

Always do the right thing; never forget that you are giving a service to the nation, to eventually contribute to an improved lifestyle and to consequently reduce poverty.



# KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUE

#### **MR HENRY OLU-KING**

Principal Examiner:
Windhoek Registering Authority



### 1) Can you briefly tell us about yourself, who is Henry Olu-King?

My name is Henry Emanuel Olu-King, Sierra Leonean born, Namibian citizen and a father of four children. I did my Secondary school in Sierra Leone, where I got married for over two decades now in the early 90's. I did part of my high school studies in my home country and Namibia. I am the second eldest in a family of six sisters and a brother, with many dependents back home.

### 2) When did you join the Roads Authority and what is your position here at RA?

I joined the Roads Authority in 2006, the same year our organisation attained the vehicle and driver testing function from the Namibian Police, in Windhoek. Currently, I am one of the Principals - Vehicle & Driver Examiners within the Windhoek Registering Authority, in the division of TI&RS of the RA.

#### 3) Background and experiences

Before I joined the RA, I was a self-employed entrepreneur. I like working with cars and

enjoy mechanical jobs. I was involved in the Hospitality Industry in Windhoek, too. Before I came to Namibia, back home in Sierra Leon, I was with the Military Force in the Government Garage for a period of time before joining my wife and family in Namibia.

# 4) What do you like most about your job here at RA and what fascinates you about it, if anything at all?

I take great delight in the examination and inspection of vehicles and drivers, for competence and fitness. What interests me the most is being in a customer centric department, a place where it is mandatory to treat all our clients in a polite, lawful, fair and dignified manner. However, I must also emphasis that I am a straightforward and frank person.

### 5) What are the biggest challenges of your career?

 My biggest challenge is to eliminate or lessen chance takers within our clientele populace, in the Vehicle & Driver Section.



- In addition, unroadworthy vehicles that dodgy clients bring to our station, when some members of our public know very well the fitness level of some of these vehicles are way below the legal requirements, to pass the roadworthiness test.
- And the eradication of con artists, scammers and their accomplices, including some of our staff members, who make themselves guilty of such acts, and whose actions at times smear the image of our esteemed organisation. These acts are like having a knee on our organisation's neck and if left unattended, we all know the end result.

# 6) If you had any powers, what aspects of your area of responsibilities do you feel need change?

- In an effort to curtail chance takers swarming to our premises, I believe that the fees for some of our services need to be increased, such as roadworthy tests, learners & drivers licences. Alternatively, the waiting period for test re-takes should be increased from 14 days to 21 or 30 days, in an effort to reduce the failure rate from inadequately unprepared applicants.
- Reckless and negligent drivers licences must be revoked, in an effort to curb road crashes and reduce reckless driving.
- We need to employ disciplined and hardworking staff and root out passengers. In other words, put greater

- emphasis on discipline and encourage hard work.
- Finally, yet importantly, if I had the power and resources, I would build another establishment of a spacious testing center, for Windhoek Registering Authority.

### 7) Any interesting facts about yourself that you would like to share?

I am a straightforward person who don't appreciate lazy and arrogant people. I am a handyman and enjoy doing some handy work around the house. I enjoy reading, I am an active member of my Parish and I like music, particularly playing the keyboard.

I loved soccer and to this, some of my colleagues can testify, such as Peter Ndjulu, Andrew Shafombabi, John Shuuya, Lawrence Uatanaua and some of our now departed former colleagues, the likes of the late Eric Mbarandonga, George Mutenda and Cornelius Humbu, 'May their Souls Rest in Peace', and so many others with whom we enjoyed playing soccer together back then, during the RA fun days.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my employer, the Roads Authority. I am very grateful for the educational investment accorded to me over the years and pledge my continued loyalty and support to the organisation for the duration of the time our Almighty permits.

God bless the Republic of Namibia! God bless our Organisation, the RA!



# KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUE

MR CALVIN MWILIMA
EXAMINER: NaTIS Katima Mulilo



#### 1) Tell us about yourself

I am Calvin Mwilima, born on 12 December 1975, in Katima Mulilo. I completed my school in the same region. I am a very humble, responsible and kindhearted person, having respect for everyone and love to work with people.

### 2) When did you join RA and what is your position at RA?

I joined the Roads Authority in January 2013 as an Examiner at NaTIS.

#### 3) Background and experiences

I started my first job in 1998 in Windhoek. I joined a lower industry as a security guard with Gray Security Company, which is today known as G4S Security. During that time, I was stationed at Hosea Kutako International Airport where I had the opportunity to interact with different people from different countries until my resignation in the year 2000. In January 2000, I attended a course at the Vocational Training Center as a Carpenter in the Hardap Region. Thereafter,

in 2001, I joined the Namibian Police, deployed at Noordoewer Boarder Post. During my first six months in the Police, I worked in the Charge Office, where my duties were to receive complaints and attend to public reports. I was then later transferred to other departments where I was investigating reported crimes. In 2004, I was transferred to Lüderitz were I served my duties until 2006, when I took a cross transfer to Mariental. In 2008, I decided to change careers and became a traffic officer where I stayed until 2013, before joining this bigger organisation, the Roads Authority.

### 4) What do you like most about your job at RA?

What I like most is when I speak to my customers about safety and how to save lives on our public roads. I am passionate about educating the public on road safety and always remind my customers who they are and the importance of living spiritually. I witnessed a lot of accidents when I was a traffic officer and premature deaths on our public roads. This led to my decision to become an examiner, a career that enables



me to play a meaningful role in ensuring that only qualified drivers are allowed on our public roads.

### 5) What is the biggest challenge of your career?

The biggest challenge is temptations, which can lead to corruption. I try in my day-to-day dealings to instill the values of honesty in those around me. I must admit that dealing with human beings is not easy, as different people have different kinds of conducts, as some people like short cuts. Therefore I make it my responsibility to eliminate any evil doers from operating in my zone.

# 6) If you had any powers, what aspects of your area of responsibilities do you feel needs to change?

The only thing I can say is to emphasise the importance of encouraging one another. I would also like to see the expansion of our facilities and perhaps, where resources permit, look into the introduction of online registration/application for some of our services to reduce the influx of applicants to our offices.



What I like most is when I speak to my customers about safety and how to save lives on our public roads. I am passionate about educating the public on road safety and always remind my customers who they are and the importance of living spiritually.



### 7) Any interest facts about yourself that you would like to share?

An interesting fact about me is that I am a hard worker who believes that God created me for a purpose and that I can do everything according to His Will. I always admit my mistakes when I am wrong and try to rectify my wrong doings. I am God fearing and always try to be led and guided by the Almighty.



### Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable John Mutorwa takes a familiarisation tour of the RA Control Laboratory



Mr Lukas Wakudumo, Senior Engineering Manager of the Roads Authority, briefing the Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable John Mutorwa, during his familiarisation tour to the RA Control Laboratory.

The Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable John Mutorware cently undertook a familiar is at ion visit to the Roads Authority Control Laboratory, located along Bell Street, in Windhoek.

The purpose of the Honourable Minister's visit was to gain an understanding of the functions of the Control laboratory and the role the laboratory plays in the road construction sector. The Minister also took a tour of the facility to familiarise himself with the different machinery available at the Laboratory, and the types of samples tested at the laboratory.

At the end of his visit, the Minister expressed satisfaction with the work done at the laboratory, noting that, "I am impressed with the type of skills and expertise that our local engineers possess, which is essential to curbing the reliance on foreign expertise or consultancies". The Minister encouraged the Laboratory team, which consist of 18 staff members, to "continue doing the good work"





# South Africa's RTMC delegation visits the Roads Authority in Windhoek



The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) South Africa represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Advocate Makhosini Msibi and his delegation, visited the Roads Authority (RA) in March 2020, at the RA head office building in Windhoek.

The purpose of the RTMC visit was to strengthen relations between the two institutions, as well as to enhance services regarding NaTIS. In addition, RTMC is also in the process of assisting the RA to establish an online service for e-NaTIS.

The South African team was accompanied by the Chief Operations Officer of the Cross Border Road Transportation Agency (CBRTA), Mr Nchaupe Maepa, whose assignment was to strengthen relations between Namibia and South Africa, in terms of cross border road transportation,

through the piloting of the integrated Cross Border Transportation Management System, between Namibia and South Africa.

The Divisional Manager of Transport Information & Regulatory Services, Mr Melvin van Wyk and Ms Marjorie Cloete, Manager of Transport Regulation and Competent Authority at the Roads Authority, are instrumental in the piloting of the system, in conjunction with RA's Information Communication Technology (ICT) Section.



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# The Vice President (VP) visits NaTIS for the renewal of his driver's licence



The Vice President (VP) of the Republic of Namibia, H.E Dr Nangolo Mbumba, recently visited the NaTIS Corporate Services Section, for the renewal of his driver's licence. NaTIS personnel, in line with all driver's licence renewal protocol, conducted the test. After successful completion of all procedures, The VP was issued with a temporary licence and informed that a new driver's licence card will be issued in due course.





### **Opening Of Arandis NaTIS In Erongo Region**



#### On 27 October 2020, the Roads Authority officially opened a NaTIS office in Arandis.

ocated at the Arandis Town Council building, Arandis NaTIS office will be offering the following services:

- Registration and licensing of vehicles;
- Annual renewal of vehicle licences;
- Renewal of driving licences;

Arandis NaTIS office.

Testing and issuance of learner licences.

While delivering his keynote address at the official opening ceremony of Arandis NaTIS, the Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable Veikko Nekundi, encouraged residents of Arandis with vehicles registered at other registering authorities to move their vehicle registrations to Arandis, in order to increase the vehicle population for the towns new registering authority.

The licence mark designed for Arandis NaTIS is N – A.



NaTIS team posing for pictures in the newly opened Arandis office.





Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Hon Veikko Nekundi, with the Mayor of Arandis, Mr Risto Kapenda, as they unveil the first suffix number plate for Arandis.