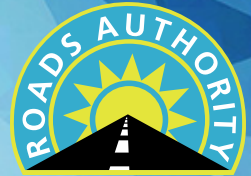


# ROAD NETWORK

RA STAFF NEWSLETTER – DEC 2019



SAFE ROADS TO PROSPERITY

## RA CORPORATE VALUES LAUNCHED TO STAFF AT THE SAFARI COURT AND HOTEL, WINDHOEK

On Thursday, 31 October 2019, all roads led to the Safari Court Hotel in Windhoek for the launch of the new Roads Authority (RA) corporate values.

The newly launched values themed, "out with the old – in with the new" replaces the old values to reflect a shortened, simplified and easy to remember corporate...

[READ MORE ON PAGE 10](#)

## ROAD CONSTRUCTION SECTOR DONATES TOWARDS DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS

On September 18, the Roads Authority's (RA) Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Conrad Lutombi, accompanied by representatives of the road construction companies who pledged donations to the Drought Relief Program visited the office of the Prime Minister (PM) to hand over the cash and in kind donations to Right Honorable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 2](#)



Right Honorable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia joined by Mr Conrad Lutombi, RA CEO and Representatives from CMC/Otesa Joint Venture, Zhong Mei, Unik Construction Engineering, China Railway Seventh Group Namibia, China Henan International Cooperation Group (Chico Namibia); Brandberg Construction and Burmeister & Partners at the drought relief handover.

# ROAD CONSTRUCTION SECTOR DONATES TOWARDS DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS

On September 18, the Roads Authority's (RA) Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Conrad Lutombi, accompanied by representatives of the road construction companies who pledged donations to the Drought Relief Program visited the office of the Prime Minister (PM) to hand over the cash and in kind donations to Right Honorable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia. In the spirit of unity to the Government's call for contributions towards the Drought Relief programme, the various companies from the road sector collectively donated an amount of N\$345 000 to assist with drought relieve efforts.

Speaking on behalf of the consultants and contractors, Mr. Lutombi emphasized that the contributions made by the Road Construction Sector were intended to help meet the Government's efforts in these difficult times, both economically and environmentally.

Receiving the donations on behalf of Government, the Right Honourable Prime Minister welcomed the donations given in support of national efforts, and thanked the Construction Sector for their generosity. "In spite of economic difficulties, our Government has been trying hard to respond to the needs of the affected communities by allocating funding, while at the same time making every effort to protect the economy" she said. Adding that "therefore, Government very much appreciates the contributions made by the industry to this noble cause".

The Right Honorable Prime Minister, who expressed her optimism for rain this year, said that rainfall would be a

welcomed relief to farmers and the agriculture sector in general. She also pointed out that, in the absence of rain, the Disaster Risk Management Unit is trying to integrate resilience into its emergency management program. Through this programme, the Office of the Prime Minister will ensure that support received is not only used to respond to emergency relief efforts, but that part of the contributions will be directed towards minimizing the impact when emergencies arise, for instance taking water to the communities experiencing water shortages, expanding irrigation schemes, diversifying of agriculture produce etc. The Right Honorable Prime Minister further pointed out that meanwhile, donations in support of the drought relief efforts continue to help Government in its quest to minimize the impact of the drought on its communities.

**Companies from the road construction sector that made monetary contributions were:**

CMC/Otesa JV, Zhong Mei, Unik Construction Engineering, China Railway Seventh Group Namibia, China Henan International Cooperation Group (Chico Namibia); Brandberg Construction and Burmeister & Partners.

Tau Pele Construction Namibia also pledged to donate 30 tons of the much-needed animal feed to the drought relief programme.

In June this year, the Roads Authority together with the Road Fund Administration also donated a combined amount of N\$12 million towards the drought relief programme.

## MANAGEMENT CORNER: MS JULIA ITANA, THE FRESH FACE ON THE RA MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Roads Authority (RA) recently appointed Ms Julia Nangula Itana in the position of MANAGER: PROCUREMENT & TENDER COMPLIANCE under the Office of the CEO Division. Ms Itana who brings a wealth of knowledge in procurement processes will be responsible for amongst others, formulating and driving a consistent approach towards the sourcing, purchasing and bidding activity within the RA.

We interviewed Ms Itana on her aspirations for the team she leads and the section she is tasked to manage.

### **Briefly Tell Us About Yourself?**

My name is Julia Nangula Itana, a young and dynamic Millennial. I am a soft-spoken individual who takes great



delight in the simpler things in life. Generally, I consider myself to be an accommodative person, however, I do stand firm by the principles that I set for myself. I am a Ndonga-Qwaaluudhi by ethnicity, Christian by Faith. Grew up in Windhoek. I am extremely Family orientated and nothing for me is more important in life than my family. I spend most of my free time indoors. I consider myself to be a great cook and I always jokingly say that if I was told to choose a different profession, I would probably be a chef. I love challenging myself to always be better and fully believe I can achieve all that I set my mind to.

I graduated from the University of Namibia in 2012 with an honors degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Banking and Finance. I am currently working on my research project to attain a Master in Management Strategies.

I started my first job in 2012 at the Ministry of Finance as a Taxation Officer at the Department of Inland Revenue shortly after leaving university. Thereafter, I joined the Tender Board of Namibia as an Admin Officer and stayed there until March of 2017. It was during my time at the Tender Board of Namibia that I got exposed to procurement. While at the Tender Board, I was selected as one of the two staff members to be understudies of the Consultants who were appointed to carry out a Reform on the Public Procurement system in Namibia. This is really where my extensive knowledge stems from when it comes to the Public Procurement Act and all its implementation tools. I got the chance to work first hand as part of the team that drafted the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15), its Regulations, and Standard Bidding Documents.

At the end of the Procurement Reform process in March 2017, the Tender Board of Namibia was dismantled, I then took up a new role as Chief Learning and Development Officer at the Procurement Policy Unit in April 2017, and stayed at that Office until my time of appointment at the Roads Authority in August 2019.

At the Procurement Policy Unit, I was responsible for Monitoring of Compliance to the Public Procurement Act, Capacity Building in Public Procurement, Advising the Minister of Finance and all Public Entities of matters relating to Public Procurement, Drafting and issuing implementation tools for the Public Procurement Act. As the Procurement Policy Unit was a newly established office, which still needed to be capacitated with human resources at the time of establishment, I was then appointed by the Minister of Finance to be the caretaker of the office while the recruitment process was ongoing for the period of April 2017 to August 2018.

#### **What excites you most about your new Position at RA?**

I think I am most excited at the opportunity to gain new knowledge. It is the first time for me to work in road sector/

engineering sector and there are so many new things that I am learning about this industry on a daily basis. Also coming from the Procurement Policy Unit, where the focus was more on the principle policy relating to public procurement, I now get to experience the opposite side of the coin, where I am now on the operational side putting into action the policies which I played a part in bringing about.

#### **What changes do you bring about/wish to implement?**

Firstly, I would like to really address the matter of the staff complement at the procurement management unit. There really need to be a structural reform so that we have a structure that speaks to all the responsibilities assigned to the procurement management unit through the Public Procurement Act, 2015. The Procurement Management Unit needs to be made up of not only administrative staff but also technical staff who will assist in perfecting our bidding documents and contracts for our road sector procurement. Secondly, there is an urgent need to streamline our procurement process. We need to shift from request for quotations to putting in place multiyear contracts, especially for our operational procurement. This will help to reduce the frequency of procurement activities carried out by Procurement Management Unit daily, hence enabling the unit to run in a more effective and organized manner.

#### **Do you have a turnaround Strategy and if so, what is it?**

I have been at the Roads Authority for two months now, and I have come to realize that much still needs to be done to raise awareness on the requirements of the Public Procurement Act, 2015. Having in-depth knowledge on the requirements of this legislation that Roads Authority is required to use, I will host capacity building programs throughout all regions where our offices are based during February and March of 2020. These sessions will mostly focus on building awareness on the requirements of the legislation, and also offer me an opportunity to hear first-hand the issues on the ground and find workable solutions around them. I fully trust once all business units/divisions become more aware on what the requirements on Procurement are, it will help in bringing about more organization and uniformity to the operations of the Procurement Management Unit.

**"Although we as an organization are facing difficulties in implementing the Public Procurement, I do believe that Roads Authority will in time get it right. And I hope I will continue to get the full support of everyone on this journey".**

# CEO BRIEFS MEDIA ON NEWLY OPENED SECTION OF THE WHK – HK AIRPORT ROAD



*Mr Conrad Lutombi, RA CEO addressing the Media and other Stakeholders.*

A section of Phase 1 of the Windhoek – Hosea Kutako Airport Road, was recently completed and opened to traffic. The newly opened section of the West Bound Carriageway starts at the Traffic Lights of Auas Interchange towards the Windhoek Country Club and Resort where it deviates to connect to the old Western Bypass.

In view of the newly opened section, the Roads Authority's (RA) Chief Executive Officer, Mr Conrad Lutombi, invited the media to a briefing that was aimed at providing general update on progress of the project, newly opened section, as well as to share with the public via the media on compliance to safety on the sections that are still under construction.

*"Due to safety concerns, a number of safety measures were put in place since the opening of this section, amongst them, is the reduction of traffic speed limit from 60km down to 40km/h," the CEO stated.*

The CEO emphasized the need to carry on the message to all motorists to adhere to the regulations put in place on the new section, to avoid unnecessary and avoidable accidents. In addition, he warned the public against illegal riding of Mountain Bikes and Quad bikes on the construction site as it creates safety concerns and a general nuisance for the contractors. The CEO called on

residents living close to the construction site who may be directly or indirectly affected by the noise because of the ongoing construction to "bear with the RA during the construction period".

Other important information shared during the briefing was the closure of Heigel Street in Academia, which was to be permanently closed off in mid-September. The RA has made provisions in the road design for the construction of new accesses to both the Windhoek Country Club and Resort and to Prosperita, of which work on both accesses is anticipated to commence in October 2019.

The CEO further briefed the media on the overall progress of Phase 1 of the project, which he said is nearing completion. This Phase, which comprises of the section from MR49 (Mandume Ndemufayo Avenue or Kupferburg road) to the extension of Sam Nuyoma Drive is anticipated to be completed by November 2019.

The next phase of the project, Phase 2, comprises of the section between Sam Nuyoma Interchange and the Hosea kutako International Airport. Work on this section will commence in November 2019.

# ROADS AUTHORITY'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL EXHIBITIONS, A SUCCESSFUL UNDERTAKING

As part of its stakeholder engagement programme, the Roads Authority (RA) undertook to participate in various exhibitions shows that took place in the various towns of our country.

Since the beginning of this year, the RA participated in the following exhibition shows: Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair, Windhoek Agricultural and Industrial show, Women in Road Safety Expo (held in Mariental) and the NCCI Swakopmund International Trade Expo.

The theme for this year's trade fairs was "where does the money go?", mainly focusing on highlighting the organisations core mandate. The campaign theme looked at educating the public about where the biggest chunk of the RA's budget is allocated to, which is the construction, maintenance and the rehabilitation of our national roads. It also looked at highlighting what the RA has achieved thus far in terms of road infrastructure development.

Other key messages publicized during the shows were information dissemination about the organizations operations; step-by-step demonstrations of how roads are constructed; awareness about the dangers of vandalism, particularly of road signs and a campaign on how to keep our national roads clean. The RA exhibition team also

raised awareness about the dangers of overloading and the consequences of committing such an offense.

At the Swakopmund Expo, the team also displayed the prototype of the Swakopmund – Walvis Bay road upgrade project, displaying how the road and interchanges will look like once this project is completed. Equally, the Exhibition team also introduced a social media competition campaign to encourage the public to like and follow the RA Facebook page "Roads Authority Namibia" for all the latest updates on RA related news and information.

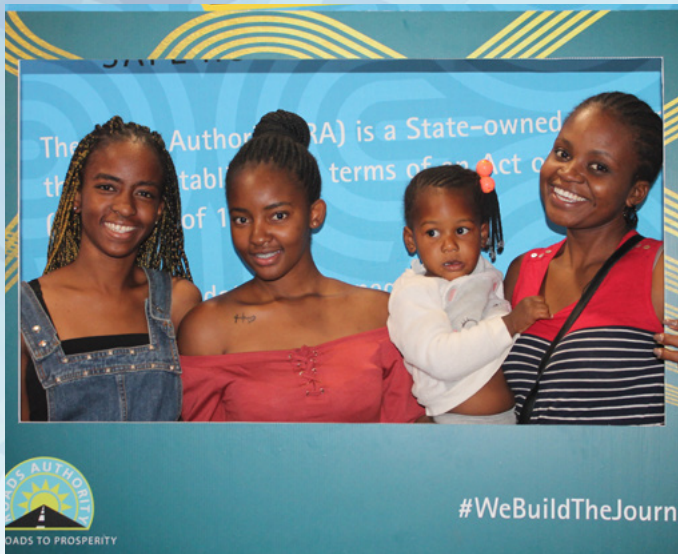
During the trade fairs/shows, NaTIS staff members assisted our customers with the renewal of Motor Vehicle Licenses, a favorite among show visitors, who find the on-the-spot service to be a welcomed service.

"As usual, these type of engagements are always a worthwhile endeavor for the RA, as we get to engage on a one-on-one basis with our various stakeholders who make the time to visit our stands and find out more about our services", said Hileni Fillemon, Manager of Corporate Communication.

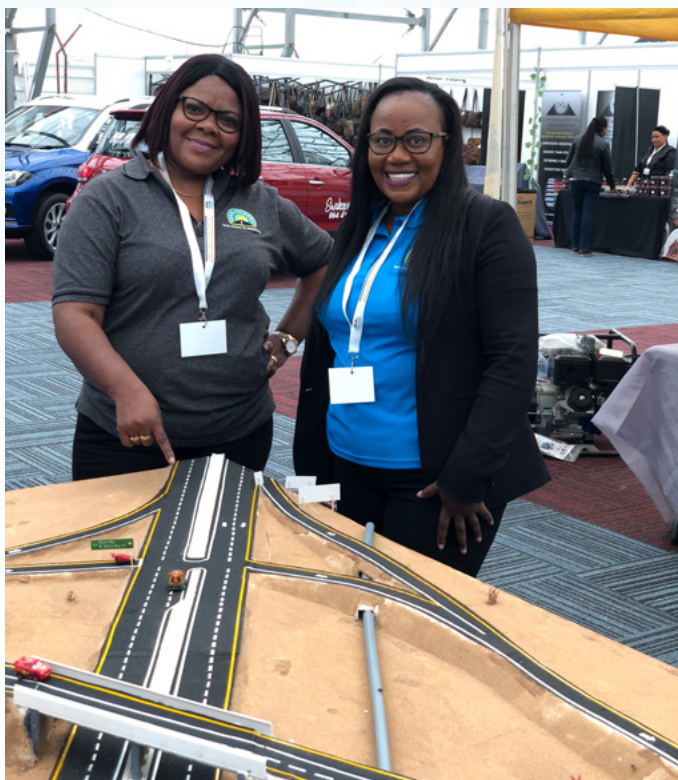
The RA exhibition team scooped the award for Best Exhibitor in the transport services category at the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair.



# PHOTO GALLERY: RA STAFF & SHOW VISITORS POSE AT THE RA SHOWSTANDS



"As usual, these type of engagements are always a worthwhile endeavor for the RA, as we get to engage on a one-on-one basis with our various stakeholders who make the time to visit our stands and find out more about our services"



# KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUES

## FOCUS ON GLORIA KANDJOZE



### Can you briefly describe yourself?

I am a very hard working person, who believes in getting things done and I am always available to help the next person. I have a very friendly disposition.

### When did you join the RA and what is your position here?

I joined the RA in October 2015 as a Senior Administrator for the Executive Officer of Engineering Services.

### Where were you before you joined RA?

I was working at the Ministry of Works and Transport, Maintenance Division as an Admin Officer. I worked for the Ministry for seven (7) years.

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

I like how a lot of people in RA know that I am very dependable and they appreciate my efforts. I also love the feeling of the satisfaction I get when an event or a job is successful and I was part of the process.

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

My biggest challenge in my job is not meeting my deadlines due to reasons beyond my control.

### If at all possible, what aspects of your area of your responsibility do you feel need change?

This one sounds controversial; of course, I would want more control over my responsibilities at RA. I would want more control especially with the procurement aspect. It has become quite tedious and limited since the new Act. There are factors that delay my workflow extensively.

### Any interesting aspects about yourself that you'd like to share.

I have very high levels of energy, which are quite contagious. I laugh a lot, extremely playful but I also have a killer temper when provoked. I like to think of myself as an extroverted introvert (if that's a real word) and an avid bookworm. I never learned how to ride a bicycle but I am a beast when it comes to motorcycles. I am also a sports fanatic.

**"I AM A VERY HARD WORKING PERSON, WHO BELIEVES IN GETTING THINGS DONE AND ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP THE NEXT PERSON. I HAVE A VERY FRIENDLY DISPOSITION."**



## FOCUS ON BERDINE VISAGIE



### Can you briefly describe yourself?

I am Berdine Leana Visagie born on 05 May 1990, in Windhoek. I completed my Bachelors of IT in Business Computing in October 2014 and my Bachelors of Informatics Honors in Web Informatics in October 2017.

I am a committed and hardworking individual who is passionate about the work I do. I enjoy solving problems, troubleshooting issues, and coming up with solutions. Although considered soft-spoken, I enjoy working with people and I am always ready to assist my fellow colleagues where required.

### When did you join the RA and what is your position here?

I am a previous bursary holder with the Roads Authority and joined the organization in 2012, where I started my first job as an ICT student intern.

### Where were you before you joined the RA (background and experience)?

After finishing my Bachelors in IT: Business Computing, I rejoined the Roads Authority as a student intern under Business Applications. In 2015, I was permanently employed as an IT Service Support Technician, a position which I held for 2 years before being employed as a Systems Administrator & Support Technician. I currently hold the position of Applications Analyst under the ICT, Business Applications section.

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

There is always opportunity for growth in my field, you never stop learning and we are always faced with new challenges. Thus, the work does not become monotonous. The sense of cooperation, comfortability, compassion and camaraderie amongst colleagues make this a pleasant work environment while everyone strives to achieve the goals of the organization.

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

My biggest challenge is to change business needs. As organizational regulations and structures change, so does its operations. The challenge comes in when ensuring that new system requirements are in line with these new policies and that it is relevant to the current business needs while meeting stakeholder requirements. With these changes there is also the aspect of resistance to change that arises. However with transparency and appropriate stakeholder engagement it can be mitigated.

### If at all possible, what aspects of your area of your responsibility do you feel need change?

Because of the diverse and growing number of applications, the organization makes use of a limited number of support staff. There is little room for specialization in the field.

### Any interesting aspects about yourself that you'd like to share?

I enjoy dancing, listening to music, visiting new places, learning a new language and spending time with friends and family.

**"THERE IS ALWAYS OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH IN MY FIELD, YOU NEVER STOP LEARNING AND WE ARE ALWAYS FACED WITH NEW CHALLENGES. THUS, THE WORK DOES NOT BECOME MONOTONOUS. THE SENSE OF COOPERATION, COMFORTABILITY, COMPASSION AND CAMARADERIE AMONGST COLLEAGUES MAKE THIS A PLEASANT WORK ENVIRONMENT..."**

# FAREWELL TO A DEPARTED COLLEAGUE, REST WELL ERICH



The Roads Authority (RA) family was shocked and deeply saddened to hear about the demise of a dear colleague and friend, Mr Erich Mbarandonga.

The late Erich was an employee of the RA for almost 18 Years, having joined the Roads Authority in December 2000 as a Licensing Officer in the Division of Transport Information and Regulatory Services (TIRS) (better known as NaTIS).

A dedicated, focused and hard worker, Erich's transition through the ranks was fast paced and he quickly rose through the ranks. He served in various supervisory capacities before his appointment to a managerial position in 2014, when he was appointed Manager of Standards, Compliance Infrastructure and Systems, a position he held within the Division of Transport Information and Regulatory Services (TI&RS) until his passing in August 2019.

Professionally, Erich will be remembered for his passion towards the improvement of service delivery as well as his invaluable contribution to the expansion of NaTIS services across the country. The late Erich is credited for having played a crucial role in the establishment of NaTIS offices at Ludertiz, Opuwo, Eenhana, Outapi, Ruacana and Nkurenkuru.

The Divisional Manager of TI&RS, Mr Melvin van Wyk emphasized the void left in the Division by Erich's passing.

He pointed out that Erich had a very good relationship with all the colleagues he worked closely with. He also had a very good sense of humor and was always willing to give guidance and/or assistance whenever needed. Fondly recalling his late colleague, Mr Van Wyk said, "Erich's contributions, jokes and hard work will surely be missed and all colleagues are taking small steps to overcome the void".

In his message of condolences to the family and friends of the late Erich, the Roads Authority Chief Executive Officer, Mr Conrad Lutombi also referred to Erich as a hard worker, describing him as having been a man of excellence, a great manager and also a devoted father and husband to his wife and children. "Erich was a sincere, earnest and loyal person, a man of integrity and that his departure from this world will be missed dearly," he said.

As we go on, the RA family will continue to celebrate the life Erich lived and the impact he made in all our lives both socially and professionally. Equally, as an entity, we will continue to celebrate every single life he has touched during his time here on earth with us all and everyone at the RA shall forever cherish the memories he created and left behind.

May his Soul continue to Rest in Eternal Peace.

# RA CORPORATE VALUES LAUNCHED TO STAFF AT THE SAFARI COURT AND HOTEL, WINDHOEK



On Thursday, 31 October 2019, all roads led to the Safari Court Hotel in Windhoek for the launch of the new Roads Authority (RA) corporate values.

The newly launched values themed, "out with the old – in with the new" replaces the old values to reflect a shortened, simplified and easy to remember corporate values ROADS. ROADS is an acronym for Respect; Open communication; Accountability; Dedication; and Service excellence.

The launch event was marked with two presentations, one by the CEO of the Roads Authority, Mr Conrad Lutombi, who gave a brief overview of the RA's Mandate and Corporate Charter and how our corporate values ties in with the organization's mandate.

The second presentation and the highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by the Acting Executive Officer of Corporate Services, Ms Franzina Nowases, on the new corporate values. In her presentation, Ms Nowases gave an insightful introduction of the new corporate values, why they are important to organizational culture and how RA employees can integrate these values into their day-to-day work activities.

Madam Nowases further explained that in addition to providing guidance to our business decisions, the corporate values will also serve as guidelines on how we do business at the RA and how we as an organization should hold ourselves accountable in all our business dealings. The new corporate values were also rolled out to all staff members in the regions during November 2019.

# MY MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



*Namibia Mandela Washington Fellowship 2019 Cohort with USA Ambassador to Namibia during orientation (Teopolina on the right).*

It was somewhere in April this year when I received the good news: I had been selected as a Mandela Washington Fellow 2019. I could not contain my excitement when I received a call from the American embassy in Windhoek.

Going to USA had been on my bucket list for the longest time. However, I did not know how and when. I am passionate about travelling and youth development, particularly on the African continent, and when the call for the 2019 application came out last year, I gave it my best shot.

## **Mandela Washington Fellowship**

Mandela Washington Fellowship is a leadership programme for young emerging leaders of Africa. The Fellowship begun in 2014 and is a flagship program of former US President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). It empowers emerging African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring and networking at various American universities for six (6) weeks. Its aim is to foster connections and collaborations with U.S. professionals. The program is fully sponsored by the U.S. Department of State administered by Irex, and participating universities are the executing agencies.

## **Eligibility and selection criteria**

The programme is competitive and the call for application

is somewhere mid-August running for a month. The programme is open to African youth between the age of 24-35 who have demonstrated leadership capabilities and are keen to making differences in their communities.

The application process is quite intense as there is a series of essays one needs to narrate, but it's doable. As a shortlisted candidate, you will be interviewed at the American embassy in the country you are applying from, and final selection is done in Washington DC. For 2019, 700 fellows were selected from across Sub-Saharan Africa. Fellows are then randomly placed at various participating universities in the United States in cohorts of 25 fellows per university.

The programme places emerging leaders into three tracks; Public Management, Entrepreneurship and Civic Engagement. I was selected for the Public Management track and was placed at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Texas Tech University is a public research university with a beautiful campus, and there was always something to do. My selection was mainly based on the roles I have played in the public sector. One of my leadership roles was when I was heading a small regional office, Ministry of Trade and Industry between 2011 and 2015. This experience taught me so much about motivating and managing teams.

## The fellowship experience in the USA

I left Namibia around mid-June with 15 fellow Namibians headed to different states and universities. I safely arrived in Lubbock where I spent five weeks doing academic work and site visits together with 24 other fellows from different African countries. The cohort comprised of economists, bankers, doctors, agriculturalists, accountants and researchers just to mention a few.

The beauty of this fellowship is that you will build friendships across Africa. I was excited to have one of the fellows from Mauritania because it was my first time meeting someone from this country. My stay at Texas Tech University exposed me to various American governance systems. We also connected with local partners through site visits and collaborative projects.

We visited places like banks, municipalities and key government offices where we learned about their services and models as well as non-governmental organizations who are making great impacts to the less privileged. We volunteered in some activities to give back to Lubbock community. I have also learned so much from my fellows about the systems they are using in their specific countries. It was inspiring to hear their success stories and what roles they were playing to better their communities as emerging leaders.

Besides the academics, there was also opportunities for dialogue and exchange of ideas. We attended networking events where we met and mingled with American professionals and business people and engaged about our roles back home for collaborations.

Leisurely, the university prepared various excursions to Dallas, Austin and Palo Duro canyon, the second largest canyon in the United States, where we explored, attended one of the most famous outdoor event in Texas and had great time together as fellows.

I had some few shocking experiences, the level of unhealthy food really shocked me (yikes!!!!). Almost everything has

sugar. I struggled with the food. The meal portions served in the restaurants are so huge. Gosh!! I came back with 2 Kilos extra (Laughs!!). The only cheap thing in the U.S.A. is the junk food.

## Summit and closure

Upon the completion of five weeks academic course at our respective universities, all 700 convened in Washington DC for the summit and official closure. This was a one-week event where we participated in panel discussions with various American professionals. This was one of my best moments of the fellowship because I had a chance to meet other fellows again. Wow! Imagine having 700 emerging leaders from different countries in one room. It was fun and engaging.

## Biggest Takeaway

My biggest takeaway would be the passion the Americans demonstrate towards their jobs or any projects they embark on. If we can demonstrate such passion in our own spheres, there will be so much room for greatness. I was also impressed by how Americans like to volunteer, little impacts making huge differences. Indeed, I came back with a changed mindset, and I would like to do more for the less fortunate in future.

## 30 Days grace period

Upon completion of the official programme, fellows are given a grace period of 30 days to stay in America at their own cost and do what they ever wished to do. I was smart to grab this amazing opportunity and embark on vacation of a life time. Through my entire stay of two months, I was in Texas, Austin, Dallas, Washington D.C, Los Angeles and New York City. I ticked off Disneyland, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Venice beaches, Hollywood Walk of Fame (I could not believe I was there) in Los Angeles, Brooklyn bridge and I visited several beautiful parks in NYC, just to mention a few.

## Final Words

Youth should get out of their comfort zones and go for opportunities like this. Explore, learn, unlearn and re-learn.



Teopolina showing her fellowship completion certificate.



Teopolina at Disneyland in Los Angeles, California with a Namibian fellow.

# ROAD SAFETY TIPS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

- 1 Obey the rules of the road and carry your driver's license with you.
- 2 Plan the route to your holiday destination and allow yourself enough time to reach the destination.
- 3 Make sure that your vehicle is in a roadworthy condition before departure. All lights and indicators, windcreens, windscreen wipers, brakes, steering, shock absorbers, exhaust system and tyres should be carefully examined for faults.
- 4 Do not overload.
- 5 Try to avoid driving after dark if possible.
- 6 Have a good rest before you embark on your journey.
- 7 Take safety breaks every 2 hours or 200km. Rest, have an energy drink and continue once well rested.
- 8 Do not drink and drive.
- 9 Try to recognise potentially dangerous drivers on and pedestrians alongside the road and keep well clear of them.
- 10 Be visible – drive with your lights on.
- 11 Headlights should be dipped well before an approaching vehicle is within the range of the main beam.
- 12 Always wear your seat belt and see that everyone in the car is wearing theirs.
- 13 Drive defensively.
- 14 Stay within the speed limit at all times.
- 15 Only overtake when it is absolutely safe to do so.
- 16 Maintain at least a 2-second following distance – this distance should be increased at night, in foggy or rainy conditions and when the road is wet.
- 17 Expect others to not be as obedient to the law as yourself.
- 18 Avoid distractions on the road such as texting, conversations on cellular phones etc.
- 19 Be courteous towards fellow road users – keep your temper and resist the temptation to retaliate.
- 20 Know your emergency numbers.

Source: ArriveAlive.co.za



# THE ROADS AUTHORITY CELEBRATES THE START OF CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR TWO OF ITS PROJECTS



*Hon. Nangula Namuhuja, Councilor of Windhoek East Constituency delivering the welcoming remarks at the commencement ceremony.*

The Roads Authority (RA) recently celebrated the commencement ceremonies of two projects, namely Phase 2A of the Windhoek to Hosea Kutako International Airport (HKIA) project, which was held in the capital on Monday, 18 November 2019 and Main Road 91 (Gobabis-Aminuis-Aranos road) on 19 November 2019 at Onderombapa in the Omaheke Region respectively. Honorable John Mutorwa, Minister of Works and Transport officiated at both events.

The construction of Phase 2A of the Windhoek-HKIA Road project consists of 19,5 kilometres of dual carriageway (freeway standards) that will include three interchanges and two river bridges. Construction will start at Auasblick and end near Kapps' Farm on the eastern side of Windhoek. The construction period for this phase is projected to be 42 months, at a total cost of an estimated N\$950 million. This phase is co-funded by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the African Development Bank. It is estimated that 400 Namibian workers will be employed during the construction period. The Contractor on this project is Avic International Project Engineering and the Consulting Engineer is VKE Namibia.

Speaking at the commencement ceremony of Phase 2A, Honorable John Mutorwa said that in addition to serving the needs of the Namibian people, this project is also important to Namibia because it will serve as an important corridor for

goods and services to our neighbouring countries. "Service delivery is our Government's most important objective and we are determined to not only provide better access to good roads, but also better access to electricity, clean water and other public services with an aim to improve the livelihood of all our people," Honorable Mutorwa noted.

The commencement ceremony for the construction of Section B of Main Road (MR) 91 from Onderombapa to Aranos also took place in Onderombapa in the Omaheke Region. This project involves the construction of MR 91 to bitumen standard and it is 135 kilometres long. The commencement ceremony for the construction of this section comes after the completion of Section A in 2018, which was a 110 kilometer stretch, covering the road from Gobabis to Onderombapa.

Construction of Section B was awarded to a RCC/Teichmann joint venture and the project will be supervised by Tulipamwe Consulting Engineers. The project is fully funded by Government of the Republic of Namibia to the tune of N\$703 million.

With the commencement of the project, 350 temporary jobs will be created for the Namibian people. In addition, approximately N\$198 million of the total contract cost is reserved for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). This project is anticipated to be completed within 24 months.

During his keynote address, Honorable Mutorwa reaffirmed the Government's commitment to continue taking development to all corners of our country. "We will continue to dedicate resources for constructing and maintaining roads that change the lives of our citizens for the better, he said. Honorable Mutorwa concluded that the Government will continue to invest in innovative methods to grow our road infrastructure for the benefit of the Namibian nation, thus building a more prosperous and inclusive society.

Speaking at both events, Mr Conrad Lutombi, CEO of the RA, assured all stakeholders that the RA will work prudently

with the funds provided for the projects and it will ensure that both projects are completed within the specified contract periods. "Road infrastructure is an important factor for the productivity, safety, and future development of our country. Thus, at the Roads Authority, we will continue to do our part to plan, construct, rehabilitate and maintain our road network, as a valued and strategic asset of our country, he said.

The commencement ceremonies were attended by dignitaries from the Khomas, Omaheke and Hardap Regions and RA Management and staff.



*Hon. John Mutorwa, Minister of Works and Transport performing the groundbreaking flanked by Mr Conrad Lutombi, RA CEO (immediate right) and His Worship Muesee Kazapua (immediate left), former Mayor of City of Windhoek and other dignitaries.*



*Hon John Mutorwa joined by the Governor of Omaheke and Hardap Regions at the commencement ceremony of section B of MR 91 at Onderombapa in the Omaheke Region.*