



MICT Update

OCT-DEC
2024 Edition

IN-HOUSE NEWSLETTER



MICT REFINES STAFF MEDIA SKILLS AT OTJIWARONGO

CONTENTS

- 3** From the Editor's Desk
- 4** MICT refines staff media skills at Otjiwarongo
- 6** MICT holds year-end function in Windhoek
- 8** Govt hosts 2nd PECO awards at Luderitz
- 10** MICT hosts high-level ICT sector engagement
- 12** MICT sound engineer shines at UNAM
- 14** Bigman hangs rugby boots
- 16** Getting2Know Your Colleague: Modestus Amutse
- 17** Festive season messages from colleagues
- 19** HR Corner

Editorial Team

Editor: Asteria Ndjendja
Subeditor: Vilho Hangula

Contributors: Publications & HR | **Designer:** Lazarus Wilheikkie

Photographers: Mercia Windwaai,
Petrus Katonyala and
Emmency Nuukala

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear MICT Family,

As we bid farewell to 2024, the year of expectations, let us take a moment to reflect on the journey we have travelled together and celebrate the milestones we have achieved as a Ministry. This year has been one of collaboration, resilience, dedication and it is fitting to acknowledge the collective efforts that have propelled us forward.

Firstly, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, colleagues, for your unwavering commitment to advancing our Ministry's mandate. From implementing innovative communication strategies to promoting access to information and showcasing Namibia's development stories, your contributions have been invaluable.

Special congratulations go to those of you who excelled in your roles in 2024 and were recognised for your outstanding performance. We equally applaud everyone who celebrated a decade or more of service in the Ministry. Your dedication and loyalty are deeply appreciated and serve as an inspiration to us all.

To my team in the Directorate of Print Media Affairs, thank you for your hard work, especially during the busy periods of the year. Your commitment to excellence and innovation has not gone unnoticed and I am proud of what we have achieved together. Your energy and creativity have been the backbone of our efforts to keep the nation informed and engaged.

This festive season, as we celebrate with our families and loved ones, let us also celebrate the camaraderie and unity we have built within the MICT home. It is these bonds that make us not just colleagues but a family working towards a common goal.

As we look ahead to 2025, there is much to be excited about. The new year presents an opportunity to build on our successes and explore new horizons in the ever-evolving world

of technology, communication and information dissemination. Together, we can achieve even greater heights, guided by our shared vision and a renewed sense of purpose.

Let us continue to bring the same energy, enthusiasm and dedication to our work in 2025. Together, we can overcome challenges, seize opportunities and make a meaningful impact in the lives of the Namibian people.

Finally, thank you for being loyal readers of the MICT Update. Your feedback and engagement have been invaluable in shaping our newsletter into a platform that informs, inspires and connects us all. We look forward to sharing more stories, achievements and updates with you in the year ahead.

Wishing you a joyful festive season and a prosperous New Year.





WELCOMING - Print Media Affairs Director Frans Nghitila welcomes staff members at the training. *Photo by Petrus Katonyala*

MICT refines staff media skills at Otjiwarongo

By **Moses Haufiku**

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) this quarter hosted a refresher training workshop aimed at enhancing the skills of media officers, information officers, marketing officers, photographers and graphic designers.

The workshop, held in Otjiwarongo from 11-15 November 2024, was designed to equip participants with the latest knowledge and tools to navigate the dynamic media

landscape, particularly in the field of development journalism.

The training focused on empowering staff to effectively disseminate timely information about government development programmes and policies. Key topics covered during the workshop included the coverage of the November Presidential and National Assembly elections, the strategic use of social media in line with the Access to Information Law and the Government

Communication Strategy.

Print Media Affairs Director Frans Nghitila underscored the importance of collaboration between the MICT Head Office and regional offices when compiling key publications such as Namibia Review and executing ministerial campaigns. "Please take note that you have two delegated functions: audiovisual media and print media affairs. You need to reflect both functions in your annual work plans to ensure that you align

with the objectives of the decentralisation initiative,” Nghitila emphasised.

Echoing Nghitila's sentiments, Deputy Director for Audiovisual Media and Regional Offices Reagan Malumo urged regional staff to actively contribute to Namibia Review to ensure it accurately represents all regions. Malumo also encouraged better consultation with regional offices during the planning phase of various campaigns.

Laurence Kamwi, a media consultant, guided MICT's media professionals through specialised reporting techniques, offering insights into covering topics such as sports, elections and sensitive issues like death. Kamwi also shared practical tips on how to conduct impactful interviews.

In addition, NAMPA's Confidence Musariri led an engaging session on development journalism,

emphasising its focus on people. “Development journalism is about the people,” Musariri remarked, highlighting the importance of focusing on community issues and fostering positive change through media.

New Era's Subeditor Paulus Shiku contributed by leading a session on newsroom management and the editing of publications, helping participants refine their editorial skills.

The workshop also included hands-on learning through field visits. Participants had the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge during visits to B2Gold and Fabupharm Pharmaceutical Company, allowing them to put their skills to test in real-world settings.

The training programme was attended by staff from the Publications, one campaign Senior Information Officer and 14 information officers from

MICT regional offices across the country. These regional representatives, were designated as focal points for Namibia Review and national campaigns and now tasked with contributing developmental stories to the publication and ensuring its coverage reflects regional diversity. Additionally, they will play a key role in promoting the correct use of national symbols as part of the Nationhood and National Pride Programme.

The workshop was aligned with the MICT's strategic and annual plans, reinforcing the ministry's commitment to building the capacity of its media staff and supporting the decentralisation of communication efforts. With the new skills gained, MICT staff are better positioned to serve the public and contribute to the government's communication objectives.

SPECIALISED REPORTING - Media Consultant Laurence Kamwi facilitates a session on specialised reporting at Otjiwarngo *Photo by Petrus Katonyala*





HIGH TABLE - MICT management at the 2024 year-end function in Windhoek.

MICT holds 2024 year-end function in Windhoek

By **Rachel Nghimulitete**

On Friday, 13 December 2024, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) hosted its highly anticipated year-end function at Eagle Beer and Restaurant in Windhoek.

The evening was a great success, filled with laughter and a celebratory spirit that highlighted the achievements of the year.

The event was graced by the presence of Information and Communication

Technology Minister Emma Theofelus and Executive Director Audrin Mathe. Their attendance added an air of significance to the occasion as employees took the opportunity to reflect on it's journey and accomplishments.

Hon. Theofelus delivered a heartfelt speech, expressing her gratitude to the MICT employees for their unwavering dedication and hard work throughout the year. She commended the team for

their resilience, particularly during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting that the ministry managed to retain all its staff while many other institutions faced layoffs.

"Your hard work and commitment have been the backbone of this ministry's success," Theofelus stated. "The fact that we did not lose a single employee during the pandemic is a testament to our collective strength and the value we place on each member of this ministry."

One of the highlights of the evening was the award ceremony, which recognised outstanding performance across various departments. Several employees were honored for their exceptional contributions, and cheers filling the venue as each award recipient took the stage. Hon. Theofelus congratulated the winners and emphasised that their achievements serve as inspiration for everyone within the ministry.

“While these awards are reserved for a select few, I want to stress that they represent the collective efforts of all our employees. Your hard work, even if not formally recognised tonight, does not go unnoticed. As a ministry, we value each and every one of you,” she said.

The event also featured entertainment, a delicious dinner and opportunities for staff to connect and relax after a busy year. The relaxed atmosphere allowed colleagues to bond and celebrate their shared successes, giving a sense of unity and motivation for the year ahead.

As the evening concluded, the team left with renewed enthusiasm and a sense of pride in being part of MICT. The year-end function was not only a celebration of past achievements but also a reminder of the ministry’s collective strength and commitment to excellence.





RECOGNITION - Government through MICT held the second PECO awards to recognise public communicators at Lüderitz. *Photos by Mercia Windwaai*

Govt hosts 2nd PECO awards at Lüderitz

By **Moses Haufiku**

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) held the second edition of the Public Entities Communications Officers (PECO) Awards on 18 October 2024 at Lüderitz, in the //Kharas region, to promote regional inclusivity. The awards aimed to recognise outstanding officials and communication champions in various Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), Regional Councils, Local Authorities and Public Enterprises who have contributed to the successful implementation of the government communication strategy and to improving government functioning and service delivery.

In recognition of excellence in government communications, Romeo Muyunda of the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Forestry was honoured for the second consecutive year with two prestigious titles: Best Overall Communication Officer and Best Communication Officer in OMAs of the Year 2024. Muyunda received N\$15,000 for the overall award and N\$10,000 for the Best Communication Officer in OMAs. This accolade highlights his exceptional skills and contributions in the field of communications, particularly in media relations, the best use of social media, broadcasting, internal communication, corporate branding and

more. Muyunda continues to set a high standard for government communication nationwide.

Jona Musheko, the Senior Public Relations Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, who is now the Manager for External Affairs at the Namibia Green Hydrogen Programme, came second and was awarded N\$5,000. In the category of public enterprises, Kuda Brandt, the Corporate Communications and Marketing Manager at Namibia University of Science and Technology, won Best Communication Officer in Public Enterprises and received N\$10,000. In the municipality category, Linda Mupupa was named Best Communication Officer

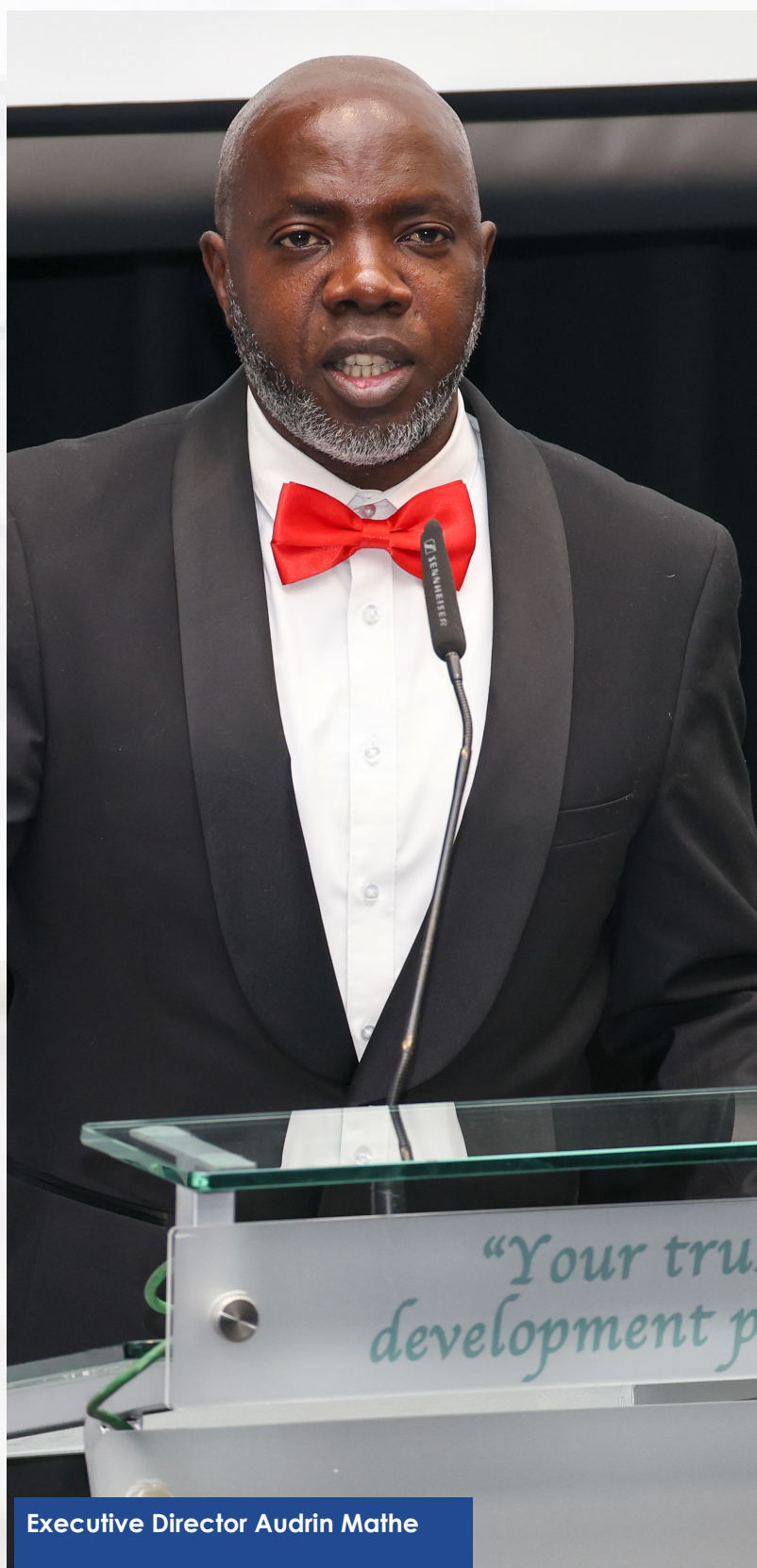
and walked away with N\$10,000. In the Town Council category, Oshakati Public Relations Officer Katarina Kamari took first place, followed by Victoria Haihambo of the Okahao Town Council. Both received N\$10,000 and N\$5,000, respectively.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology's Executive Director, Audrin Mathe, stated that the government formulated the Government Communication Strategy (2022-2027) to inform and engage the public, ensuring that government information reaches the public. The Ministry initiated the Public Entities Communication Officer's Awards as part of implementing the strategy to motivate communication specialists across government to innovate in public sector communication.

The Ministry also established a Government Communication Centre (GIC) where various government institutions can communicate to the public about government activities and success stories. "We have to take into account that some journalists don't always write the truth; they write what they are told. For instance, I have to tell journalists what I want them to write without necessarily giving accurate information. Therefore, from that perspective, we should fill that gap by creating positive narrative stories about the government," said Mathe.

In the same vein, Secretary to Cabinet George Simataa emphasised the need for Public Relations Officers to close the gap between the government and citizens by disseminating information effectively. "As communicators and frontline workers through which information is disseminated, we must ensure that we work hard to bridge the gap between the government and citizens. We are the bridge between the government and the citizenry; we deliver services on behalf of the government," said Simataa.

Simataa also encouraged Executive Directors of various Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs) to involve Government Public Relations Officers in management meetings to ensure effective communication. "Public Relations Officers cannot do their job in the absence of information. Management meetings are not always for Deputy Directors or above; it's about the function you perform," he said.



Executive Director Audrin Mathe





Minister Emma Theofelus

MICT hosts high-level ICT Sector engagement

By **Rachel Nghimulitete**

Information and Communication Technology Minister Emma Theofelus hosted a pivotal high-level ICT stakeholders' engagement at the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) on 14

November 2024.

The meeting, attended by industry leaders, ICT experts and government representatives, focused on shaping the future of Namibia's ICT sector and addressing critical

challenges.

In her address, the Minister highlighted the importance of collaboration and innovation in the rapidly evolving digital landscape. "The rapid evolution of technology presents

both opportunities and challenges, and it is through collaboration that we can overcome barriers and unlock the sector's potential," she said.

The Minister outlined several government initiatives designed to strengthen the ICT sector. These included, rolling out network towers to bridge the digital divide, implementing the approved 5G strategy and enhancing cybersecurity through the establishment of the Namibia Cybersecurity Incident Response Team (Nam-CSIRT). Furthermore, she provided updates on legislative progress, such as the Cybercrime and

Data Protection Bills and the ongoing review of the Communications Act.

Addressing entrepreneurs in the ICT sector, the Minister expressed her commitment to enabling growth and employment creation, "The Ministry is ready to support you in any way possible, recognising that creating an enabling environment doesn't always require a budget but demands collaboration."

Stakeholders were urged to engage freely and share their perspectives on key trends, challenges and actionable solutions. Topics such as reducing the digital divide, improving internet

connectivity, and addressing the absence of an ICT professional body were emphasised as well as the need to ensure inclusivity, calling for every voice to be heard.

The event concluded with a commitment to align efforts with Namibia's national development goals. The Minister encouraged stakeholders to actively prioritise recommendations from the engagement and drive impactful actions that will improve the lives of all Namibians.



MICT sound engineer shines at UNAM

Engineering Technician Marius Olloy

By **Vilho Hangula**

Marius Olloy, an Engineering Technician at the MICT Omaheke Regional Office, is making impressive strides in his studies at the University of Namibia (UNAM). Year after year, he continues to earn academic accolades for his outstanding performance.

Olloy, whose studies are funded by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), is currently pursuing a BA Honours in Music, Sound and Video Production. Now in his second year, he not only passed with distinction but was also honoured as the Best Second-Year Student. This follows his achievement in his first year, where he

received the award for Best First-Year Student.

But Olloy's connection to the Namibian music industry goes far beyond the classroom. As a seasoned producer, he has worked with several renowned local artistes, contributing his expertise to the country's diverse music scene. His career at MICT began in 2012 when he joined the Ministry after a period as a part-time lecturer in music and sound production at the College of the Arts (COTA). True to the adage that "knowledge grows when shared," Olloy has generously imparted his expertise, even leading a nationwide training initiative for MICT's sound technicians during his time with the Ministry.

Olloy's passion for music took root long before his academic success in Namibia. After studying in Congo Brazzaville, he came to Namibia and earned a Diploma in Music and Sound Production in 2010 from COTA. His exceptional talent did not go unnoticed: he was selected by the Arts Council to receive specialised training from a Grammy Award-winning producer in the United States. Olloy describes this experience as life-changing, providing invaluable insights into the world of professional music production.

When discussing the state of the local music industry, Olloy stresses the importance of thinking beyond Namibia's borders. He believes that

for Namibian artistes to succeed globally, they must make music that resonates with a wider audience. "Given our small population, I encourage artistes to produce music that breaks international barriers. It's the key to turning art into a sustainable livelihood," he explains.

Olloy's academic journey is made possible through the Ministry's Training Committee, which was established to centralise training resources and support staff in enhancing their skills. By fostering such growth, the Ministry aims to improve the productivity of its staff and, in turn, the quality of service within MICT.

Olloy's dedication to both his work and studies is exemplary and a testament to MICT's resolve to support professional development through capacity building initiatives made possible by the training committee.





Bigman hangs rugby boots

RUGBY PLAYER - Bigman Kaura in his rugby gear with fellow players. *Photo contributed*

By **Moses Haufiku**

One of MICT's own employees, Bigman Kaura, recently retired from rugby. The former hooker hung up his boots after fulfilling his childhood dream. Kaura's rugby love began at Swakopmund Primary School in 2002, inspired by the school's principal, who invited him to attend a single training session—after that, the rest was history.

"I began playing rugby

during my 'tjokkers' years, before the age of seven, at Swakopmund Primary School, where rugby was a popular sport," Kaura said. "One day, the principal invited me to train with the school team. I told him I needed to ask my dad first before making a final decision. The next day, after consulting with my father, he dropped me off for training after school, and from then on, I enjoyed playing rugby."

Born and raised in the

Okakarara Constituency, Kaura progressed through the ranks, playing rugby at school level before reaching the national team, during a time when rugby was still considered a predominantly white sport in Namibia. Breaking through to the national team during those years was no easy feat, and a player of colour had to be at the top of their game to be selected.

"During my primary school years, I played for Suiderhof

Primary School, Eros Primary School and Swakopmund Primary School. Then, during my high school years at Windhoek High School, I represented the junior national teams. After high school, I joined Western Suburbs Rugby Club, where I played for one year before moving to UNAM Rugby Club, where I continued until I retired,” Kaura explained.

Kaura began his club rugby career at Western Suburbs, and quickly found himself playing for the national team, representing Namibia at various levels. He played for the Welwitschias at the senior level, participated in the TISAN Games in Swansea, Wales and also represented Namibia at the U-19 level.

“My greatest accomplishment was playing for the Welwitschias and representing my country at the senior level,” he said. “It was with the national team that I made a name for myself. I learned how to be a student-athlete from a coach named Leyn Jones from Wales. He taught me not just the basics, but also new aspects of the game, such as set piece skills and understanding my opponent.”

Kaura emphasised that rugby taught him many lessons beyond the sport, and he has no regrets about his career. “I fell in love with rugby because of its sense of brotherhood, team spirit, and the opportunity to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds to achieve a shared goal. Rugby has taught me to work hard, be humble and prioritise the team’s needs over my own,” Kaura said. “Because of rugby, I have had the chance to explore the world, and I will always cherish those memories.”

He added that it was the right time for him to step away from the sport and focus on life beyond rugby. “The body has taken enough hits, and it’s time to think about other interests and develop a career outside of rugby,” he said. Although his playing days are over, Kaura has no intention of turning his back on the sport that made him a household name. He plans to pursue a coaching certificate and focus on coaching junior teams.

His advice to young, aspiring rugby players is to seize opportunities, work hard, be coachable, and, above all, take their education seriously, as a career in sport is often short-lived.



Getting 2know Your Colleague

MODESTUS AMUTSE



By Memory Mutenda

Information and Communication Technology Deputy Minister Modestus Amutse is no stranger to the Information and Communication fraternity. He worked as a journalist for 15 years before ascending to the high ranks of politics.

Born in Oshikuku, Amutse lived in the areas of Ongandjera and Uukwambi before moving to Usakos to live with his uncle. He started school at Nuukata Primary School in Oshikuku and later relocated to Usakos. He then attended Namutoni Primary School in Windhoek and completed high school at Katutura Senior Secondary School, now known as Immanuel Shifidi Secondary School. Throughout his schooling, Amutse was one of the top-performing students. He began correspondence studies at 16 years old while at Shifidi, as he had developed a love for reading magazines, where he came across information about distance learning.

"Indeed, I was smart enough. While I was schooling, I knew that I could do correspondence

(distance learning), and thus, I finished secondary school much earlier. I was always number 1 or 2," said Amutse.

He acquired diplomas in Administration and Personnel Management through distance learning while still a learner at Shifidi. Amutse is a certified accountant and holds an LLB, an MBA and a Master's in Communications. He is also an alumnus of the Africa Internet School.

His journey began while he was still a learner, generating his own income by writing articles for magazines and participating in writing competitions. "I could buy my school supplies and clothes by myself through writing and drawing display boards. I also learned how to print T-shirts using silkscreen printing, all of which I taught myself by reading and seeking information from magazines. Reading can provide a lot of useful information that can improve lives," he said.

Amutse is also an author, renowned for his Oshindonga novels *Omithitu nomakuya gaka nale*, prescribed for Grade 12; *Etapati* and

likangwa, both prescribed for Grades 7-9 in public schools; and his award-winning piece, *Kokona*. In 1989, Amutse narrowly escaped death after numerous interrogations by South African colonial agents, following the discovery of his manuscript titled *Eendume dhomomuthitu*. *Eendume* is a common name for SWAPO's PLAN combatants, and the manuscript's introduction included Dr Sam Nujoma.

His ability to write TV and radio dramas earned him a position as a journalist at NBC. He started as a radio producer in Oshakati before being transferred to TV News and Current Affairs in 1992, where he practiced political and investigative journalism. This move made him Namibia's first TV news reporter based outside the capital, Windhoek. "Before my appointment, all television reporters were based in Windhoek and would often travel to various regions to gather news," he explained. "I was responsible for the four northern regions, Kunene, the two Kavangos, and Zambezi for a period of time."

Among other accolades,

he was honored with an award of excellence and bravery by the NBC Board of Directors for his coverage of the Kasikili and Situngu disputed islands under life-threatening conditions.

In 2009, Amutse was elected Regional Councillor for the Oshikuku Constituency, a position he held until he resigned at the end of 2019 after being elected to the National Assembly. As a

councilor, he also served as the Chairperson of the Omusati Regional Council from 2015 to 2019. After his swearing-in at the National Assembly in March 2020, Amutse was elected as the new Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on ICT and Innovation, a position he held until his appointment by H.E. Dr Nangolo Mbumba, on 9 February 2024, as Deputy Minister of MICT.

He aspires to see more people rise above the poverty line and for the government to invest more in start-ups and incubation hubs. "My dream is to see the country roll out free Wi-Fi to schools, hospitals, government offices and public places," Amutse remarked.

FESTIVE SEASON MESSAGES FROM COLLEAGUES



Mberii Kapuku

Deputy Director: Security and Risk Management

"As 2024 draws to a close, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities and achievements we've shared as a team. Serving as Head of DSRM and Chairperson of the Wellness Committee has reinforced the importance of collaboration, innovation, and prioritising the well-being of our people. These pillars have been key to our success this year.

Looking ahead to 2025, I envision a year of renewed focus, greater innovation and deeper connections. Together, we have the strength and vision to navigate challenges and unlock new opportunities. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence and collective growth."



Laurencia Gowaseb

Senior Admin. Officer: General Services

"As the year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the milestones achieved, the challenges overcome and the resilience that continues to define us as Namibians.

The festive season offers us a unique opportunity to come together with family and friends, to celebrate the joy of giving and to cherish the bonds that unite us.

We extend our heartfelt wishes for a joyous festive season filled with peace, love and happiness. Let this be a time of rest, gratitude and renewal as we prepare to embrace the opportunities of the coming year.

As we step into 2025, may it be a year of prosperity, good health and success for each and every colleague. Together, we can continue building a brighter future for our beloved nation. Happy holidays and a prosperous New Year to all!"



Herman Katjipu

Administrative Officer: General Services

“To the Hon. Minister, Hon. Deputy Minister, ED, Management and staff. Thanks for making MICT our home away from home filled with love. Thanks for your words of inspiration, commitment and wisdom. Lets keep up the good work we are doing. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.”



Bernardo Witru

Driver: General Services

“Its an honor to be part of this amazing team. As we step into 2025, may it be successful and prosperous for all of us, filled with opportunities for personal and professional growth.”



Brumelda English

Chief Info. Officer: Media Liaison Services

“As the year I've called ‘expect the unexpected’ draws to a close, I reflect on everything we have accomplished as a Ministry. I believe that we should take pride in every achievement and contribution made in serving the nation. We came, we saw and we conquered. As we wind down, let us make time to rest, relax and recuperate, so that we come back in 2025 rejuvenated. May God bless you and your family during this festive season and into the new year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!”



Emily Vries

Leader Hygiene Officer: General Services

“The Lord carried us through this year and I am grateful for His hand over me and all of you. I wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and New Year. Keep working hard and giving your best. Thank you to everyone who made my stay at the Ministry a great one. It was a pleasure to work for the Ministry.”

HR CORNER

Name of Staff Member	Effective Date	Post Designation	Movement
1. Shanyengana Nghidimondjila	1 October 2024	Media Officer	↑ Transferred in rank
2. Gerharda Amutenya	1 October 2024	Chief Administrative Officer	← Newly Appointed
3. Ms Cecilia Xavier	1 October 2024	Information Officer	↑ Transferred in rank

Statistics by Sigrid Ashikuti



Republic of Namibia

MICT
Update