

HUMAN RIGHTS INDABA/ROUNDTABLE

Thursday, 23 March 2023

Time: 15h00 – 17h30

Venue: IUM Dorado Campus,
TUNANA Building Hall 5 & 6, Windhoek

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Joshua Mario, Faculty of Management Sciences, NUST

Anthems

South Africa, Namibia and African Union

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Aquilinus Nashilundo, Acting Vice Chancellor, IUM

Opening Remarks

Thenjiwe Mtintso, High Commissioner of South Africa

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses, United Nations in Namibia

Human Rights and the Youth: Protecting our Future generations

Lloyd Sikeba, Youth Representative, IUM

The struggle for Human Rights during the struggle for freedom of Namibia and South Africa and Post Liberation.

Hon. Ben Amadhila, Stalwart of the Liberation Struggle

Collaborating to Advance and protect human rights in South Africa and Namibia and Building a strong Human Rights Movement within and between the two countries.

Adv Bience Gawanas, Social Justice Champion

Musical Interlude

**Promoting, protecting and defending Human Rights:
Experiences of the Office of the Ombudsman**

Adv Basilius Dyakugha

**Advancing, Protecting and Promoting the Human Rights of
Women, Children, the discriminated, the marginalised and
vulnerable groups.**

Adv Mojanku Gumbi, UN Special Advisor

**Promoting, enhancing, protecting and defending human rights
under democracy: Advances and challenges: The Namibian
Experience.**

Hon. Minister of Justice Yvonne Dausab (MP)

**Struggle for Human Rights and Liberation during apartheid and
Promoting, Enhancing, Protecting and Defending Human Rights
under democracy: Advances and challenges - The South African
Experience**

Hon. Deputy Minister of Justice John Jeffery (MP)

Musical Interlude

Moderated Discussion

John B. Nakuta, Social Justice Academic, UNAM

Closing Remarks

Thenjiwe Mtintso, High Commissioner of South Africa

Anthems

African Union, Namibia and South Africa

Refreshments

End of Programme

1. INTRODUCTION

The South African High Commission in Namibia in partnership with the International University of Management (IUM) will be hosting a Human Rights Indaba/Roundtable on the 23rd March 2023 at IUM Dorado Campus in Windhoek.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. In South Africa

21 March is commemorated as the Human Rights Day. This is historically linked to 21 March 1960, the day on which the apartheid police shot and killed more than 69 people and wounded more than 180 people in Sharpeville, in the then Transvaal, who were peacefully marching in protest against carrying the much hated “Dom Pas”. The ‘dom pass’ was an identity document that had to be carried by only Africans to ensure they did not move out of their designated areas of residence or work to which they were restricted by the apartheid laws. Many other people were killed in other parts of the country. The massacre exposed the apartheid government’s deliberate violation of human rights to the world. This day, an affirmation by ordinary people, rising in unison to proclaim their rights became an iconic day, the Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa’s history standing out as a painful reminder of the cost paid for our treasured human rights.

In 1994, South Africa’s democratic government declared 21 March as the Human Rights Day to commemorate and honour those who fought for South Africa’s liberation and the rights that South Africans enjoy today. Human Rights Day is a national day that is commemorated annually to also remind South Africans about the Sharpeville Massacre and the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa. It is also a day to affirm South Africa’s commitment to the promotion, enhancement, protection and defense of Human Rights in South Africa and the World over.

2.2. In Namibia

March 21 is Namibia’s Independence Day after the bitter and heroic armed liberation struggles waged by the gallant sons and daughters of Namibia to liberate their beloved country from the yoke of both the German and the then Racist South African occupation and oppression. Indeed both the people of South Africa and Namibia paid a very high price for their independence and human rights and justice. They have a shared past of pain, struggle, resilience and heroism. They therefore share the same commitment to the advancement, and promotion of Human Rights.

It is therefore on this firm basis that, the South African High Commission in Namibia in partnership with the International University of Management.(IUM) , in commemoration of the Human Rights Day, March 21 and Namibia's freedom and Independence is hosting this Human rights Indaba at IUM

3 EQUALITY

Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. No one may be discriminated against on one or more grounds including, race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, and birth.

- Human dignity – everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected.
- Freedom of movement and residence – everyone has a right to freedom of movement and to reside anywhere in the country.
- Life - everyone has the right to life.

4. Objectives of the Indaba:

- To discuss the economic and social impact of COVID19 on human rights, especially gender rights and strategize for socio-economic recovery that center human rights
- To explore ways of collaborating and finding best practices between the two countries, their governments, Businesses, Diplomatic and UN representatives, Academic and other Institutions, CBOs, NGOs, Political Parties, Women and Youth Organisations and other related entities, on matters related to promoting, enhancing, protecting and defending Human Rights including those of women and LGBTQ1+ rights, children, elderly and young people and people with disability
- To promote the Culture of Human Rights as part of building a Better Africa in a Better World
- To promote and deepen people-to-people relations between the Namibian and South African peoples.

5. General Theme

The COVID19 health crisis and the necessary measures implemented to curb transmission have caused serious economic and social consequences for many countries in the world including in Namibia and South Africa, exposing existing structural gaps, especially fault-lines in human rights, as vulnerable groups have been affected differently by the lockdown restrictions. The pandemic has also intensified social inequality especially, gender inequality. The poverty, joblessness,

inequality especially class, race and gender inequality and gender-based violence and femicide remain some of the glaring gaps in Human Rights as articulated in the Constitution.

6. The theme of the event will be:

“Bitter Human right struggles against apartheid and colonialism in South Africa and the protection of human rights under democracy” in a time of democracy and during the rise of political, economic and social crisis: finding solutions from South Africa to Namibia”

7. Anticipated Outcomes

- Shared information among participants about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human rights in general and women in particular.
- Explore solutions to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19
- Relate South Africa’s and Namibia’s journey in the struggle for human rights before and after their liberation.
- Strengthened relations with Namibian Human Rights Formations and think tanks and create a platform for future discussions amongst South African and Namibian stakeholders and in other fields.

8. Partners

- The Namibian Ministry of International Relation’s and Cooperation Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation (MIRCO);
- The South African Department of International Relations and Co-operation (DIRCO)
- Ministries of Justice in both countries
- The South African Department of Women, Youth and Persons with disability & its Namibian counterpart
- The South African and Namibian Commissions for Human Rights.
- Namibian Universities
- Local artist

9. Target audience/Participants

- Namibian Government
- Namibian Academic Institutions,
- Ambassadors, UN representatives and the diplomatic corps.
- Namibian and SA Business and stakeholders in other fields.

- SA and Namibian Human Rights, Women and Youth rights groups, students, youth, women, people with disabilities, people living with Albinism, LGBTIQ+ community, marginalized community etc.