



**MINISTRY
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

MEDIA STATEMENT

For immediate release

17 July 2026

**MINISTER GROENEWALD SIGNS CORRECTIONAL SERVICES COOPERATION
AGREEMENT WITH NAMIBIA AND ADVANCES AGENDA FOR INTERSTATE TRANSFER OF
SENTENCED OFFENDERS**

The Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Pieter Groenewald, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in correctional services with his Namibian counterpart, the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Ms Lucia Ipumbu, during the Fourth Session of the South Africa–Namibia Bi-National Commission.

The MoU establishes a framework for technical cooperation between the Department of Correctional Services and the Namibian Correctional Service in a number of areas.

This marks the second agreement paving the way for the future interstate transfer of sentenced offenders, building on the momentum of the recent agreement concluded with Botswana. Transfers will, however, only become possible once the necessary enabling legislation is in place. The Bi-National Commission undertook that the South African legislative enabling tool is to be concluded by mid-2027.

To this end, the proposed amendments to the Correctional Services Act have been drafted and are currently before the National Council for Correctional Services (NCCS) for comment and input, after which the formal parliamentary process will commence.

Engagements with foreign nationals in the correctional system indicate that many prefer to serve their sentences in their countries of origin, as family and community support are integral parts of rehabilitation. A subsequent reduction in the offender population benefits South Africa by easing budgetary pressure associated with incarceration costs.

The Minister welcomes the positive support for this initiative from the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services and notes the backing received across party lines.

“I hope that this support will translate into the swift passage of the amendments through Parliament. This amendment to the Act will bring much-needed solutions to the challenges facing the Department.”

ENDS.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Euné Wessels, Media Liaison Officer:
Office of the Minister of Correctional Services on 079 492 5234 or email eune.oelofsen@dcs.gov.za

ISSUED BY: MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES