

Namibian Bar Association

Chairman's Report

First Year in Review

Esteemed Colleagues,

David, a young shepherd boy from Bethlehem, started with a humble beginning. He tended his father's sheep. David's courage and faith led him to become one of Israel's greatest kings. He rose to become a powerful king, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire people today.

It is with great honour and a sense of accomplishment that I present this report, marking the successful culmination of the Namibian Bar Association's inaugural year. The past twelve months have been a period of significant challenges in solidifying the Namibian Bar Association ("NBA") as a small but conspicuous institution within the Namibian legal fraternity.

Foundational Year

The establishment of the NBA was a momentous occasion, driven by the collective desire of a few visionaries to strengthen the profession and better the delivery of advocacy services to the Namibian public. Our founding members, with their diverse characters, experiences and unwavering dedication, laid the groundwork for a vibrant and impactful organisation. Special mention must be made of Herman Steyn for his commendable contribution in drafting the constitution of the NBA.

Key Achievements

- We as members have supported one another throughout and we have given credence to the core values of the constitution of the NBA. A sense of belonging is what jumps to mind.
- Maintaining a high standard of professionalism and giving effect to the NBA's constitution. We have a robust and practical constitution which has shown in the past 12 months that it has achieved its original objective through guiding our members in their respective practices and to effortlessly assist in maintaining the highest standards of professional behavior.
- We have managed to attract and admit a pupil candidate to commence with his pupillage on 15 January 2025.
- We have actively engaged with the Law Society and other key stakeholders to advocate for the interests of our members and to promote our institution. Our efforts have resulted in positive outcomes, such as the rejection of the draft bill pertaining to senior status of advocates practising under the auspices of the Namibian Society of Advocates.

Challenges and Opportunities

While we have made significant strides, challenges remain.

- **Membership growth:** Membership growth was not as expected although there still seems to be enthusiasm amongst individual practitioners inquiring about membership. The current legal landscape presents both opportunities and obstacles. However, I am confident that through collective effort and innovative thinking, we can overcome these challenges.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** We have fostered strong relationships with certain attorneys but still need to engage them more often through social events. These collaborations have enabled us to market the NBA as a new

institution, to strengthen our relationships and to share our views on matters of legal and public interest. We need to make a collective effort in this regard.

- Proposed projects: The owners of Schanzen chambers intend to develop and build a boardroom to be used as arbitration/mediation facilities for all members of the NBA. The intention is to start with this project early next year.

Looking Forward

As we embark on our second year, I am excited about the future of the NBA Association. We will continue to focus on our core objectives of respecting, protecting and promoting the interests of its members where they can exchange knowledge, skills and information, and share ideas and experiences, on the practice of law as an advocate.

I also look forward in training our first pupil member in order for him to successfully complete pupillage training.

I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow members for their efforts, support and unwavering commitment. Together, we have built a strong foundation for the future of the NBA.

I look forward to working with you all to build an even stronger and more influential organisation.

Thank you.

Marius Boonzaier

Windhoek

02/12/2024

