

IOM and UNODC support GRN on combatting TiP

5-9 February 2018, Swakopmund: Trafficking in Persons (TiP), a violation of human rights which robs human beings of their freedom and dignity, has been in existence for many years and is known as slavery. Like many other countries, Namibia vows to fight this practice.

For this reason, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGE CW) and the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG) with support from the UN Migration Agency (IOM) and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) equipped law enforcement officers, social workers, customs officers and labour inspectors with the necessary skills for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking as well as prosecuting traffickers, a practical step towards combatting TiP and giving hope to the victims.

Speaking at the official opening, Prosecutor in OPG, Advocate Innocentia Nyoni said that of the 600,000 to 800,000 people that are trafficked across international borders every year, 80% are women and 50% children. With a net profit of USD 32 billion every year, human trafficking stands as the third highest grossing international crime industry.

Advocate Nyoni also explained that, incidents have pointed to TiP in Namibia, and thus training relevant stakeholders and equipping them with the tools they need will help address the issue.

The IOM Officer in Charge, Sascha Nlabu, reaffirmed IOM's commitment to fighting TiP, educating people and assisting victims. He also said that partnership is key in combating TiP, congratulating the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) for bringing stakeholders together in the name of justice and to streamline messages.

TiP is a crime and any person that commits this crime or helps someone commit this crime can be fined up to NAD 1 million or imprisoned for up to 50 years in Namibia. ***SDG 16 'Justice & Strong Institutions'***

