



UNICEF's Tate Kapolo retires after 28 years of service

8 August 2018, Windhoek: UNICEF Namibia Country Office this month bade farewell to Senior Driver, Tate Abisai Kapolo, who is going into retirement after 28 years of dedicated service.

In his speech during a farewell ceremony held at the UN House, Tate Kapolo said he feels honoured to have served the children of Namibia over the last 28 years and feels extremely blessed to have made cordial relations with all the colleagues he worked with.

"I have played my part, and it is now time to take a rest from the duties of UNICEF and allow others to pick up from where I am leaving. I have had some high moments and some low moments during my time with UNICEF and I am confident that my colleagues will learn from my different experiences over the years," said Tate Kapolo. "I now look forward to enjoying retirement and to be with my age mates in the village," said Tate Kapolo, explaining some of the recreational and cultural festivals he anticipates attending during retirement.

Tate Kapolo was among the first drivers to be recruited when the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) was set up in 1989 following Namibia's war of liberation. Later he became a senior driver in UNICEF, responsible for the transportation of the Representative, high level officials, and other authorised personnel during official travels.

He also held a supervisory and oversight responsibility for the entire UNICEF fleet and drivers, ensuring that transport arrangements are co-ordinated in an effective and smooth manner.

As a Senior Driver, entrusted with meeting many high-level visitors to the country, Tate Kapolo always presented a positive first impression about Namibia and its people. Through his courteous disposition, his humble nature and the wealth of knowledge about the country, he was able to give every visitor a positive taste of what to expect of the country and her people.

"I joined the Namibia Country Office just over a year ago, and from my first day in the office Tate Kapolo has been a good friend, a brother and a reliable colleague," said UNICEF Representative, Rachel Odede.

All the colleagues who spoke during the farewell ceremony saluted Tate Kapolo for being a distinguished colleague, who was always available to give constructive guidance and encouragement in many different contexts of the work environment. He was also applauded for the humility and dignity he displayed when he interacted with the members of the various communities where he travelled on duty.

Colleagues also helped Tate Kapolo to prepare for the time of retirement by presenting him with an array of gifts. He was also presented with a plaque, which was personally signed by the UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta Fore, detailing UNICEF's appreciation for the time Tate Kapolo has served in the office.

Apart from looking forward to spending quality time with family and loved ones in his home village in the Omusati Region, Tate Kapolo looks forward to devoting his retirement years to farming – rearing his cattle and cultivating different crops. Tate Kapolo's legacy will continue to inspire others to ensure that no child is left behind in Namibia.