



MICT Update

JULY-SEPT
2024 Edition

IN-HOUSE NEWSLETTER



**'ADAPT OR DIE' IN DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION, AI ERA:
MICT Champions 8th National Ict Summit**

CONTENTS

3

From the Editor's Desk

4

'ADAPT OR DIE' IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, AI ERA: Mict Champions 8th National Ict Summit

6

MICT activates National Symbols Campaign in Khomas

8

MICT, NIPAM pen down capacity building MOU

10

MICT, LifeLine/ChildLine collaborate on cybersecurity awareness

11

Getting to know Your Colleague

14

HR Corner

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear MICT Family

On behalf of the entire Publications team, I would like to extend our warmest greetings to you. The second quarter of this financial year has been an eventful one for the Ministry, particularly with the preparations for the 8th National ICT Summit, one of the most significant events on our calendar. In this issue, we brief you on what transpired at the summit.

Additionally, we get an update on the progress made in the drafting of the National Digital Strategy (NDS) Plan 2025-2029, titled "The Framework for Digital Transformation", spearheaded by DICTD. This ambitious plan aims to guide Namibia's digital transformation journey over the next five years, ensuring we stay at the forefront of the digital revolution.

During the quarter under review, the Ministry also signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM). This partnership will strengthen collaboration in key areas such as capacity building, marketing programmes, information dissemination, research cooperation and staff development within Namibia's public sector.

Another highlight was the launch of the Khomas region National Symbols Campaign, which aims to promote the correct usage of our National Symbols and ensure adherence to associated protocols. This initiative, targeting Namibians from all walks of life, seeks to foster patriotism by educating the public on the importance of our symbols and promoting proper etiquette.

In line with our commitment to employee wellness, the Ministry recently participated in the NBC Battle of All Sports tournament, an initiative that promotes mental health and physical fitness among staff.

Our teams performed exceptionally well, with the soccer team reaching the quarterfinals for the first time, the darts team advanced to the semifinals and the volleyball team put up a strong fight, winning two matches but unfortunately falling short of advancing to the next round. Overall, the Ministry's performance was commendable! Well done teams!

We are also excited to continue our new section that profiles and helps us get to know our colleagues better: The 'Getting2Know Your Colleague' corner.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all new staff members who joined the MICT family this quarter. We are thrilled to have you on board! Additionally, congratulations are in order for our colleagues who were promoted to new positions, well done!

With that said, thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the Ministry's mandate, vision and mission. Let's keep the momentum going as we strive to achieve even greater milestones in the months ahead.

As always, we value your ideas and inputs colleagues. Please feel free to share any suggestions or topics you believe would be worth featuring in the MICT Update.


**Getting2know
Your
Colleague**



Section Inside!



'ADAPT OR DIE' IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, AI ERA: MICT Champions 8th National Ict Summit

By  Asteria Ndjendja

The Ministry and its stakeholders successfully hosted the 8th National ICT Summit under the theme, "Building Resilience to 'Adapt or Die' in the Era of Digital Transformation & Artificial Intelligence (AI)." The three-day event, held from 9 to 11 September 2024 at the Mercure Hotel in Windhoek, brought together ICT professionals, industry leaders, government officials and innovators to discuss emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in the ICT sector, both locally and globally.

Officiated by ICT Minister Emma Theofelus, the summit showcased cutting-edge products and services through an exhibition, marking a significant milestone in Namibia's journey toward embracing digital transformation and AI.

In her keynote address,

Minister Theofelus urged Namibians to embrace AI responsibly, emphasising the importance of ethical use of AI and mindful digital engagement, especially on social media. "AI is at the forefront of this digital revolution. It holds immense potential to transform industries, enhance productivity and solve complex problems. However, integrating AI into our systems presents challenges, including ethical considerations, data protection, and regulatory frameworks.

As we embrace AI, we must ensure its deployment is transparent, ethical and aligned with our national values and priorities," said Theofelus.

She further stressed the need for clear, tested policies to guide the country in harnessing the full potential of digital technologies. "The theme

of this summit captures the essence of the challenge we face. To thrive in this new digital era, we must not only adapt to technological changes but also build a robust and resilient framework that can keep pace with these advancements. Our focus must be on ensuring that digital transformation benefits all Namibians and drives sustainable development across sectors," she added.

Botswana's Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology, Thulagano Merafe Segokgo, who participated virtually, praised Namibia for hosting the summit and echoed the call for revamping policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to achieve digitalisation goals. "We must qualify these digitalisation outcomes as increased productivity, efficiency, employment



Photos by Emmency Nuukala

and revenue generation across all sectors. This can only be realised if all sectors, including traditionally technology-averse ones, fully embrace digitalisation," Segokgo said.

He also highlighted the benefits of treating open data as a commodity for economic transformation, which could lead to improvements in agriculture, preventive healthcare, road safety and public services. "We could see Smart Government, greater collaboration between citizens, industry and government departments and improved policies and accountability," he added.

The summit concluded with an award ceremony, presided over by ICT Minister Theofelus and Deputy Information Minister Modestus Amutse, recognising innovative ICT pitches by young Namibian entrepreneurs. The top winners were Okaluli in first place, Billet in second and Autono-Me in third, with Datavue and Hydrowatch Investment cc taking fourth and fifth places respectively. All winners will receive mentorship from CC Hub Namibia, providing them

with the support needed to advance their innovations.

Deputy Minister Amutse urged the private sector to collaborate with the government in mentoring and financing youth innovations. "Government alone cannot support these great minds and innovations; it must be a collective effort," he stated.

In closing, Amutse announced that the Ministry had completed the construction of the Ikumwe Tower in Zambezi Region, following the groundbreaking ceremony led by Minister Theofelus in July 2024. "This is a clear demonstration of Namibia's commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that our network infrastructure positions the country to adapt and thrive in the era of digital transformation and AI," he affirmed.

Throughout the summit, discussions centered on the critical need for resilience and adaptation in the face of rapid technological change. Topics such as AI, digital transformation and strategies for building resilience were

key highlights, fostering meaningful dialogue among stakeholders.

The Ministry's Executive Director Audrin Mathe, called on Namibians to prepare for further advancements in digital technology, noting the growing importance of ICT devices in daily life. "We live in an era where cellphones and other ICT tools are becoming more important than cars, as they offer access to a wider digital audience and enable remote connectivity," Mathe remarked.

The summit's long-term sponsors were also recognised for their unwavering support during a celebratory dinner, commending their partnership in fostering engagement and collaboration in the country's ICT sector.

Since its inception, the National ICT Summit continues to provide a crucial platform for addressing challenges and opportunities in Namibia's digital landscape.



Photo by Emmency Nuukala

MICT ACTIVATES NATIONAL SYMBOLS CAMPAIGN IN KHOMAS

By Rachel Nghimulitete

The National Symbols Campaign activation event for the Khomas Region kicked off with a lively march featuring over 1,000 learners from 15 high schools in Windhoek. Led by the Namibian Police Brass Band, the march began on Robert Mugabe Avenue and concluded at Windhoek High School, raising public awareness about the campaign.

Organised by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) in collaboration with key stakeholders like the National Youth Service (NYS), the initiative aims to promote understanding and appreciation of national symbols, including the flag, anthem, and coat of arms.

In his remarks, the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), Modestus Amutse, expressed excitement at the Khomas Region's participation in this important national initiative.

"Today, we take a crucial step in honouring our national identity and promoting unity among all Namibians," he stated.

The National Symbols Campaign, first launched in the Erongo Region, focusses on educating citizens about the proper use and significance of Namibia's national symbols, including the flag, coat of arms, national anthem and presidential standard.

National symbols are the threads that bind Namibians together, serving as powerful reminders of the country's shared history, values, and aspirations. "They represent the very essence of our national pride and identity, and it is crucial that we uphold and celebrate them," Amutse added.

The campaign not only aims to promote a sense of national pride but also pays tribute to Namibia's rich cultural heritage.

The Deputy Minister took the opportunity to honour Namibia's third President, the late Hage Geingob, whose vision of the "Namibian House" embraced unity, inclusivity and solidarity. "By actively promoting our national symbols, we are furthering his vision of a united and harmonious nation," he noted.

Reflecting on Namibia's recent developments, including the discoveries of oil, gas and green hydrogen, Amutse highlighted the nation's bright future, underscoring how these opportunities are positioning Namibia for global recognition. He reminded attendees that these achievements are reasons for Namibians to take pride in their identity and continue working together toward shared prosperity.

As the campaign is activated in the Khomas Region, home to Namibia's

capital, Windhoek, the Deputy Minister acknowledged the region's pivotal role in shaping the country's governance and national identity.


With the highest population in Namibia, Khomas holds a significant responsibility in spreading awareness about the correct use of national symbols. "This region stands as a beacon of our collective identity and it is essential that all residents, regardless of background, understand the importance of our national symbols," he stressed.

He also announced that a monitoring and evaluation exercise would be conducted across all regions to assess the campaign's effectiveness and determine how best to strengthen public understanding of these symbols as tools for nation-building.

With the 2024 national elections approaching, Amutse highlighted the campaign's timely launch, emphasising the importance of unity and shared values during this period. "Our national symbols are key to fostering a sense of pride and identity. By familiarising ourselves with them, we are reminded of our responsibilities as citizens to build a more cohesive and inclusive future".

The Khomas Region now stands united with the rest of Namibia in honouring the country's national symbols and the shared values they represent, paving the way for a more enlightened and harmonious society.

NATIONAL DIGITAL STRATEGY PLAN NEARS COMPLETION

By  Asteria Ndjendja

As part of ongoing efforts to lay the foundation for digitised government services, the drafting of the National Digital Strategy (NDS) Plan 2025-2029, titled "The Framework for Digital Transformation," is at an advanced stage.

This was revealed by the Director of ICT Development, Linda Aipinge-Nakale, during her presentation at the recently concluded 8th National ICT Summit.

The National Digital Strategy serves as a comprehensive blueprint for Namibia to harness digital technologies to drive economic growth, promote social inclusion and advance society as a whole. Its primary aim is to empower Namibians to thrive in a digital era by strategically leveraging digital innovations for national development. The NDS is expected to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval in the third quarter of this financial year, with implementation to follow.

With a mission to create a future where the benefits of digitalisation are accessible to all, the strategy seeks to bridge the digital divide, promote digital literacy, enhance access to digital public services and generate broader economic opportunities over the next five years.

The strategy stands on



DIGITAL STRATEGY - Linda Aipinge-Nakale, Director of ICT Development, delivering her presentation at the recently concluded 8th National ICT Summit. Photo by Emmency Nuukala


five key pillars: infrastructure, digital skills, digital government, digital and innovation and policy and regulation.

These pillars provide a robust foundation for Namibia's digital transformation journey. In addition, it includes important cross-cutting themes such as gender and Youth, cyber security and emerging technology, ensuring that all sectors of society are considered and protected in the digital landscape.

MICT, NIPAM PEN DOWN CAPACITY BUILDING MOU



COLLABORATION - Executive Director of Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Dr. Audrin Mathe and NIPAM's Acting Executive Director Rebekka Kakololo pens MOU.

By  Moses Haufiku

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM). This agreement aims to strengthen collaboration between the two institutions, focusing on capacity building, marketing programmes, information dissemination and research cooperation as well as staff development within Namibia's public sector. The MOU was signed by the ministry's Executive Director, Audrin Mathe and NIPAM's Acting Executive Director, Rebekka Kakololo.

This MOU will benefit both institutions. NIPAM will leverage MICT's multimedia equipment to promote and advertise its programmes, facilities and services, increasing public awareness

of its courses to attract new applicants and enhance its brand. This will boost NIPAM's performance. In turn, MICT will utilise NIPAM's venues and accredited courses for its annual conferences and other engagements. Additionally, NIPAM will provide staff development training for MICT employees in various fields, which will foster a positive workplace culture and equip employees with new ideas and skills. These development programmes will enable staff to handle emerging challenges and advance their careers, ultimately improving the ministry's productivity and performance. Other areas of cooperation between the two institutions include joint research initiatives on topics of mutual interest.

In the past, MICT and NIPAM have had a strong working relationship, particularly in capacity-building efforts. NIPAM

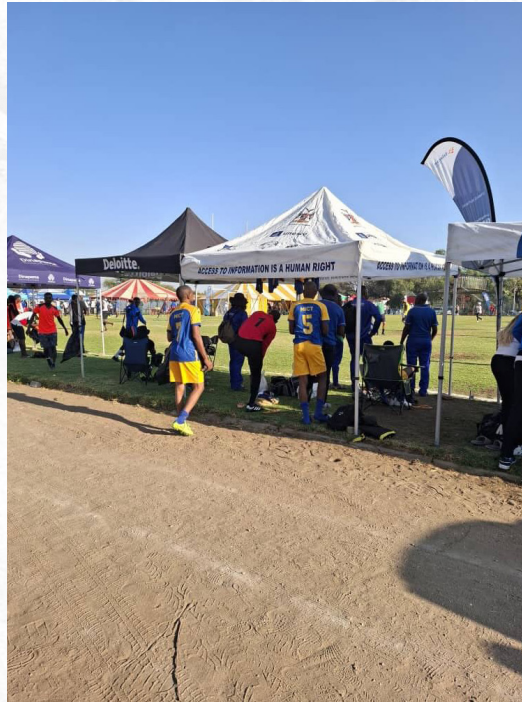
has trained government communication officers in graphic design to enhance public communication strategies. This capacity-building initiative, spearheaded by MICT, empowered over 100 government communication officers, PROs and information officers with the skills needed to implement the government's communication strategy effectively.

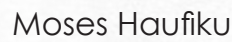
NIPAM's training programmes focus on real-world work environments and practical experience, with the goal of enhancing workplace productivity. NIPAM's mission is to transform Namibia's public service by improving management, leadership and professional competencies while instilling a sense of purpose and public service values among civil servants to better serve the Namibian people.

MICT PROMOTES MENTAL, PHYSICAL WELLNESS AMONG STAFF THROUGH SPORTS



MICT in action at the NBC Battle of all sports tournament.



By 

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) recently participated in the NBC Battle of All Sports tournament, an initiative aimed at promoting mental health and physical fitness among staff members. Fostering mental and physical wellness within the ministry is crucial for maintaining a healthy and productive workforce. Participating in sports activities also helps reduce body fat, control body weight and prevent cardiovascular diseases and obesity. Additionally, sports and exercise contribute to mental health by reducing depression, anxiety and improving mood.

Teams from the ministry participated in various sports codes, such as soccer, volleyball and darts. In its pursuit of a healthier lifestyle for its staff, the Ministry's Wellness Occupational Safety and Health (WOSH) committee has embarked on implementing various initiatives and

programmes this year to support staff well-being. One such initiative was MICT's participation in the NBC Battle of All Sports tournament.

The annual tournament, held on 30 August 2024 at the Eros Primary School's sports field in Windhoek, aims to bring together government ministries, corporate entities, friends and families to promote physical fitness and mental health in the workplace. The event also fosters team building.


MICT's overall performance was impressive. The soccer team reached the quarterfinals for the first time, securing victories against Namibia Airports Company B and Dinapama and drawing with MegaBuild and Namibia Civil Aviation Authority. The darts team also delivered a strong performance, reaching the semifinals after defeating the Road Fund Administration and Namibia Airports Company.

The volleyball team won two matches, beating Nampost 2-0 and Namibia Engineering Medical 3-0, but unfortunately fell short of advancing to the next round after losing three games.

The 11th edition of the Battle of All Sports Tournament concluded successfully, with 30 teams from state-owned enterprises and government ministries competing for top honours in various sports disciplines. NBC claimed first place in the netball category, followed by the Roads Authority and Namibia Training Authority. Deloitte took the soccer prize, with NamPower and NamPharm finishing second and third, respectively. NBC also won the tug-of-war competition, Namibia Civil Aviation Authority came in second and Social Security finished third. Nampower won the darts category, followed by NamDia and MVA Fund. NamDia triumphed in volleyball, with NAC taking second place and MVA Fund finishing third.



MICT, LifeLine/ChildLine collaborate on cybersecurity awareness

By  Memory Mutenda

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) and LifeLine/ChildLine Namibia signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21 August 2024, to collaborate on cybersecurity awareness and public education, with a special focus on protecting children in the digital space.

This partnership aims to enhance public cybersecurity education through initiatives led by LifeLine/ChildLine Namibia, equipping children with the necessary knowledge to navigate the online world safely.

At the signing ceremony, MICT Executive Director Audrin Mathe stated that

the MOU will complement the Ministry's ongoing cybersecurity awareness efforts, noting that cybersecurity requires collective efforts from all sectors to build a cyber-resilient nation.

Nicolette Bessinger, Director of LifeLine/ChildLine Namibia, commended MICT for partnering with the organisation to help implement the National Cybersecurity Strategy and Awareness Creation Plan.

MICT oversees the National Cybersecurity Strategy & Awareness raising Plan, a five-year document from 2022-2027, aimed at safeguarding the netizen's privacy, educating the public and protecting the National Critical Information

Infrastructure. The plan also fosters collaboration on cybersecurity to enhance the safety of vulnerable groups in the cyberspace.

In line with this, the Ministry has been hosting a series of awareness sessions in collaboration with Salt Essential IT (Pty) Ltd to empower netizens with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions when faced with potential cyber threats, whether in everyday life or at work.

The online training covers a wide range of topics, including Prevention & Resilience against Cyber Threats, Managing Cybersecurity Attacks and Incidents, Building Immunity to Cyber Attacks, Identifying and Preventing Phishing Attacks and more.

Getting2know Your Colleague

DR AUDRIN INAMBAO
MATHE



By Rachel Nghimulitete

Dr Audrin Mathe, the Executive Director of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), is not just a public servant, he is a trailblazer whose journey exemplifies resilience, commitment and the power of education.

Growing up in Namibia's Zambezi region, Dr Mathe's early years were rooted in traditional African values. "In my childhood, I lived most of it in the Zambezi region, where the old African values held that a boy must always go and look after cattle, plough and hunt rabbits," he recalls. This upbringing provided him with a unique perspective with a blend of both rural and urban environments that shaped his worldview.

Despite these humble beginnings, Dr Mathe's passion for knowledge was evident from an early age. His journey into education began with a twist of fate when a local school principal, Bernard Machinga, noticed his eagerness to learn and suggested that he start school a year earlier than his peers.

This early start marked the beginning of an academic journey that would take him across five universities and through a multitude of degrees, including a Ph.D. in public rhetoric from the University of Cape Town.

Dr Mathe's career began at the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) as a trainee in television production. "My salary was N\$1,000. That was a lot of money back then," he

fondly remembers. Over the years, he climbed the ranks, eventually becoming assistant manager before moving into government service as a spokesperson for then Prime Minister and late President Hage Geingob. He honed his skills in political communication and gained valuable experience in managing complex government affair

His transition from journalism to public relations was not without its challenges. Despite his initial lack of experience in public relations, Dr Mathe relied on his strong writing skills and quickly adapted to the new role. This adaptability and willingness to learn became cornerstones of his career, guiding him through various roles, from academia to executive positions in public service organisations.

Dr Mathe's leadership philosophy is deeply rooted in risk-taking and continuous learning. "As managers, we must be willing to take risks in good faith while being in the course of executing our task," he advises. This mindset has allowed him to spearhead significant initiatives at MICT, including the implementation of a government communication strategy approved by Parliament within two months and establishing a roaming agreement with Botswana.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr Mathe believes in the importance of giving back to his community. In 2015, he founded the Zambezi Education Foundation,

aimed at supporting underprivileged students. One of its beneficiaries recently graduated as a pharmacist, a milestone that Dr Mathe holds dear. "We should always pull back whatever God has granted us to share with the rest of the community," he reflects, emphasising his commitment to uplifting others through education.

A dedicated advocate for balance between work and personal life, Dr Mathe finds solace in sports and travel. Whether playing soccer on Sundays, practicing karate, or exploring Namibia's scenic coastlines, he prioritises activities that keep him grounded. "It's very important to create a work-life balance because, at the end of the day, if your focus is entirely on your work, without having to rest in between, you're going to burn out," he stresses.

As motivation for MICT employees, Dr Mathe concluded, "Let's make MICT the benchmark of excellence in government. Every one of us has a role, and our daily contributions matter. When we commit to our work with purpose and dedication, we set the standard, showing that government is a place where real services are delivered to the people of Namibia. Together, let's prove that when MICT takes action, we do it right".

Johannes EKANDJO

By Ngaevarue Katjangua

At one point or another, many of us have been guilty of calling Johannes Ekandjo at odd hours, usually to enquire about our subsistence and travel allowances, so let's get to know him a little more than that.

Ekandjo is a young fella from Uukwanampanda village, located within walking distance of Okahao in the Omusati region. This is where he attended and completed both his primary and secondary education.

Raised by his grandmother, who was his key source of strength and motivation, Ekandjo stayed in Uukwanampanda for as long as he could.

"I was my grandmother's boy. I could not even go to boarding school or anything because I had to stick around for her and I only left when I had to come to the university," he says.

Now an accountant at

the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Ekandjo's career journey was not straightforward. He briefly worked as a teacher at High Gate Private School in Windhoek, a career he believes was fated.

"When I finished high school, I thought I would become a teacher, an accountant or an economist, but here I am," he says with a smile.

Ekandjo is not much of a football fanatic. Well, unless Chulachula Football Club is in the finals, but he does have a passion for race cars and a bit of reckless driving. "I'm considering joining a car spinning club; it fascinates me," he admits.

With an Honours Degree in Accounting and a Master of Science Degree in Accounting and Finance under his belt, Ekandjo finds his job fulfilling and his colleagues a joy to work with. "Perhaps they can call me a little less after working hours," he jokes.



HR INFORMATION SHARING

Photos by Petrus Katonyala



The Human Resources Subdivision under the General Services Division undertaking an information sharing exercise during the quarter under review on issues pertaining to Human Resources.

The exercise took place at a local hotel in Windhoek,

where a number of staff members from Head Office attended and were engaged on a host of issues.

According to the Chief Human Resources Practitioner, Edward Ndjamba, the information sharing sessions take place annually to share general information pertaining

to human resource issues.

“We host these sessions annually to sensitise all staff members on issues related to human resources.

All staff are welcome to attend, including management cadres,” Ndjamba said.

HR CORNER

01 JULY 2024			
1. Mr. Ngava Humbu Humbu	Media Officer	Audio Visual Media	Newly Appointed
2. Ms. Johanna Shihepo	Development Planner	DIC	Newly Appointed
01 AUGUST 2024			
3. Mr. Benjamin T. Amoomo	Development Planner	DICTD	Newly Appointed
4. Ms. Beata Shingenge	Intern	Media Liaison Service	Newly Appointed
5. Ms. Panduleni Nekongo	Intern	Media Liaison Service	Newly Appointed
6. Mr. Yanique Zimmer	Intern	Media Liaison Service	Newly Appointed
7. Ms. Ndumba Magdalena	Intern	Office of the executive Director	Newly Appointed
8. Mr. Heita Henok Shoopala	Intern	Finance	Newly Appointed
9. Ms. Paulina Ndalikokule	Information Officer	AVM-Nkurenkuru	Newly Appointed
01 SEPTEMBER 2024			
10. Mr. Gustaf N Angula	Administrative officer	General Service	Newly Appointed
11. Ms. Tuwilika Kahuika	Senior Information Officer	PMA	Promoted
12. Mr. Christoph Muhapi	Senior Media Officer	NFC	Transferred
13. Mr. Uutoni Teofilus Uutoni	Intern	Internal Audit	Newly Appointed
14. Mr. Paulus M. Lukas	Intern	DICTD	Newly Appointed
15. Mr. Ruben M. Nampolo	Intern	DICTD	Newly Appointed
16. Ms. Evelina Shikongeni	Cleaner	AVM- Ohangwena	Newly Appointed

Statistics provided by Sigrid P. Ashikuti, Senior HR Practitioner



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