

Namibian Federation of the Visually  
Impaired (NFVI) – Equipment Handover

## **Capacitating People with Disabilities**

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On 31 May 2022, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Namibia – Angola Office handed over equipment to the Namibian Federation of the Visually Impaired (NFVI), at their head office in Windhoek. The main objective of this handover is to support the federation with equipment including a *Perkins Braille Classic Manual* and a *Tactile Heat Swell Form Machine*, to aid the braille/transferral of text to braille. Additionally, to enable the federation to capacitate their members with the necessary resources, to bring crucial information closer to persons with visual impairments (inclusion) and promote practical application of the Namibian Constitution, with special reference to Chapter 3.

The event started off with opening remarks by Mr. Moses Nghipandulwa (NFVI Director) who pointed out that although Namibia is being praised for good policies on disabilities, they are not being implemented. He then thanked KAS for the support, and assured them that the federation will work towards ensuring that issues in the disability sector are addressed. Ms. Angelique Philander, Director of the National Disability Council of Namibia (NDCN), who was the keynote speaker pointed out that there is a need to conduct impact assessment on disabilities that are inclusive and transparent, to help formulate policies that better serve people with disabilities and the nation at large.

Finally, Mrs. Natalie Russmann, KAS Resident Representative emphasised that the handover of these equipments will also go a long way in supporting the United Nations' (UN) 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mantra of '*leave-no-one-behind*', alongside SDG 10 reduced inequalities, SDG 4 quality education, SDG 8 decent work and economic growth, and SDG 11 sustainable cities and communities. She further pointed out that the equipment will play a role in the realisation of President Hage Geingob's Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPPII) and the National Development Plan (NDP5).

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FIGURE OF THE DAY

## PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS RECEIVE BRAILLE TYPEWRITER

7 HOURS AGO - 2022-06-01 08:32:00

The Namibia-Angola Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) held a handover ceremony yesterday in cooperation with the Namibian Federation for the Visually Impaired (NFVI) in Windhoek. A 'Perkins Brailier Classic Manual' and a 'Tactile Heat Swell Form Machine' were handed over to support the translation of text into Braille. The aim of the association is to promote democratic participation in the Namibian disability sector and to provide access to information. "When we focus on people with visual impairments, we should keep in mind that this population group, which makes up the majority of people with disabilities in Namibia, may not be able to read the kind of books that most of us can read or gain access to information in the way most of us do," explained the KAS employee, Natalie Russmann (left). "KAS is proud to partner with the NFVI to launch a special initiative to help people with visual impairments and the wider disability sector in Namibia gain access to information, especially on the Namibian Constitution, so that they know their rights. As part of this cooperation, we have already started translating and printing the Namibian Constitution in Braille Grade 1." The association's Braille proofreader, Mwangelwa Purity Hashiyana, expressed her sincere thanks and explained: "The ability to do things on their own is part of the greatest pride a person can have in his life. Always being fed or getting help doesn't really fulfill a person's desires. We are so grateful for this support. We can now do math, physics, and even geography because now we can print our own maps. I will never again have to ask anyone where the Tropic of Cancer is. I will be able to feel it myself, because the machine will draw it for me." • Photos: claudia reiter

Allgemeine Zeitung, 2022-06-01, <https://www.az.com.na/lokales/menschen-mit-sehbehinderungen-erhalten-blindenschrift-schreibmaschine2022-06-01>



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