

National Archives of Namibia

Findaid 1/1/164

**Department of
Governmental Affairs
1980-1990**

Preliminary Findaid

**Transfer list compiled at unidentified date
Digitised and introduction compiled December 2012**

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December 2012**

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**Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Education
National Archives of Namibia
P/Bag 13250
Windhoek
Namibia**

nat.arch@moe.gov.na

Introduction

The *Department of Governmental Affairs* (also named *Department of Government Affairs*) evolved in Namibia during the efforts of the South African Government to establish a pseudo-independence for Namibia under exclusion of the liberation movement. Initially established in 1977 as the *Department of Constitutional Development*, it became the *Department of the Council of Ministers* on 1 October 1981. When the Council of Ministers was dissolved on 19 January 1983, it was renamed *Department of Government Affairs*.

In 1983, the department consisted of the following directorates:

- **Secretariat and Government Affairs** – dealing with matters of political development, secretarial services to the Administrator-general, liaison with the Representative Authorities (i.e. Bantustans) and reserves not falling under a “representative authority” such as “Bushmanland”.
- **Inter-state Relations and Information** – While Foreign Affairs remained with the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, this directorate was basically in charge of international public relations activities
- **Bureau for Development Co-ordination and Statistics** – dealing with economic development issues
- **Local Authorities and Civil Defence**

An institutional history of the department is still lacking.

Records from the Department of Governmental Affairs from various directorates, as well as its predecessor offices, are scattered over several archival fonds: GAS, GAP, CAP, BEP, CCO, GOVN.

With Namibian independence on 21 March 1990, its staff and functions were split and taken over by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, and the National Planning Commission.

This findaid covers only one transfer from the Department of Governmental Affairs, being the storage units 29 – 151. It consists of a handwritten transfer list to which the storage unit numbers have been added.

No findaid exists for the storage units 1-28.

This transfer has not been appraised.

Werner Hillebrecht, December 2012

