On Sunday, March 14, marks exactly two years since the untimely death of the late Cde John Alfonso Pandeni, in a car accident. He is always remembered for his dedication, commitment and loyalty to the SWAPO Party and the country. Cde Pandeni was Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development at the time of his death. May his soul rest in peace.

All is not well at Poly

Registrar dubiously enrolls own daughter in a degree course

By Asser Ntinda

Allegations of corruption and nepotism are flying high at the Polytechnic of Namibia, with staff members and students alleging that Namibia’s second biggest institution of higher learning is dragging its feet on the formation of a trade union.

The Registrar of the Polytechnic, Mr Korneers Jafta, has also come under fire for having allegedly engineered his daughter to be admitted on a sponsored programme, despite the fact that she did not meet the requirements but was nevertheless preferred over those who met the requirements.

Students are now up in arms over how the Registrar’s daughter, Ludmira Jafta, was admitted for a degree course on the medical science programme, even though she did not have the required points. In 2007, the Polytechnic advertised the two programmes under its Health Science Division, namely the Medical Science and Environmental Health programmes. Thirty students were needed in each programme. As a requirement, successful applicants needed to have high grades in mathematics, physical science and biology, at least 30 points and above.

More than 600 applications were received from which 30 successful applicants for each programme were selected.

When the pre-selection started, many needy students especially from rural areas were allegedly left out, even though they had met the requirements, while Jafta’s daughter was admitted though she had fewer points. One student who applied for the course said that she had worked hard to get good points when she saw the advertisement in the newspapers in 2007. She had 34 points, but her application was rejected.

“I do not understand why I did not get admitted at the Polytechnic,” she told Namibia Today. “I was reliably informed that some students who did not do well, as I did, were admitted. It is very sad for me to tell you that one of the students admitted to the Medical Science Programme is Ludmira Jafta who did not have enough points to qualify for admission.

“I want the leadership of the Polytechnic to investigate this case. It reeks of corruption and nepotism. I am very disappointed. The Anti-Corruption Commission, ACC, should investigate this case. It is very serious. How can the Registrar admit his daughter to a degree course?”

Cont on page 2

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Cont on page 2