Create more jobs or miss some Vision 2030 targets

By Staff Reporter

Unemployment in the country has reached alarming proportions and unless drastic measures are taken to arrest the situation, some targets outlined in Namibia’s long-term Vision 2030 are likely to be missed. This warning came from President Hifikepunye Pohamba at the one-day Employment Creation Summit in Windhoek on Thursday. The President’s speech was read by Prime Minister Nahas Angula.

The summit brought together government officials, business gurus and various stakeholders to identify industries which had the potential to grow the economy and create more jobs.

A labour survey carried out in 2008 revealed that unemployment has reached 51.2 per cent, which means that 51 people out every hundred employable Namibians were without jobs. Young people are the worst hit group, whose unemployment exceeds the overall unemployment rate.

“We face some critical social and economic challenges that are worsened by the increasingly constrained global environment,” said the President.

“If we do not address these challenges head on, we are likely to miss some of the key targets of Vision 2030.”

Vision 2030 aims to promote the creation of a diversified, open economic system, with resource-based industrial sector and commercial agriculture, and the promotion of competitiveness in the export sector in terms of product quality and differentiation.

Fidel Castro celebrates 50th birthday of “vigilance” committees. Page - 10

Unemployment rate alarming among youth

By Staff Reporter

Government has described as irresponsible and premature remarks by the Namibia Seaman and Allied Workers Union, NASAWU, which has alleged that the government is not protecting sea workers from being exploited by Africa Personnel Services, APC.

NASAWU actions irresponsible

Dismissed NASAWU members held a one day demonstration at the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare and of Fisheries and Marine Resources on Wednesday, where they handed in a petition, claiming that their arbitration of their case was being postponed unfairly. They also alleged that their arbitration was “not normal”.

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SWAPO Party’s stand is one of the attractions at the Windhoek Show, which started last week. Photo by Levi Upula.