

Namibia Today

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Dr Richard Kamwi

Kamwi appeals to public to access Special Fund

By Asser Ntinda

Health and Social Services Minister, Dr Richard Kamwi, has appealed to the public to access and use a special fund set up under his Ministry to help state patients with medical conditions that cannot be treated in Namibia.

Many people do not know about the existence of the Special Fund and the Ministry only learns about such cases through the media as patients seeks treatment privately, a trend which has disappointed Minister Kamwi.

"Please access the funds," he told his management staff re-

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Forgive yes, forget no'

The price Namibians had to pay for freedom

By Asser Ntinda

Former members of the notorious and killer unit, Koevoet, and the South West Africa Territorial Force currently living in South Africa have sleepless nights these days as the ghosts of innocent civilians and former combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, they had brutally killed during the war have come to haunt them psychologically.



Flashback – Three white former members of Koevoet and SWATF photographed next to the corpses of murdered former PLAN combatants. In the background are black Ex-Koevoets. Photo by an Ex-Koevoet soldier.

Most of them have become born-again pastors and want to show remorse and apologize to the families of the people they had killed, accusing them of being combatants of PLAN, when in actual fact, they knew that they were innocent civilians.

These ex-Koevoets were so happy to be photographed with the civilians and former combatants they had killed, but today those pictures have come to haunt them, causing them to

have sleepless nights.

They now want to apologize and clear their consciences. Most of them have resorted to preaching in born-again churches to erase the psychological burden that daily tortures their conscience – 21 years after Namibia's independence.

Sources close to them have revealed that they now want to make available more than 1000 photos taken during the war to Namibia Today, similar to the

two Namibia Today has published today. Some of the photos in possession of Namibia Today are too gruesome to publish.

"Those people are traumatized by what they had done," said the source. "They cannot live happily while their consciences remained blurred by such ugly brutalities.

"One told me that one day in the 1980s, they rounded up six civilians, made them to confess

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President Hifikepunye Pohamba welcomes his counterpart, Finnish President Tarja Halonen at State House. Photo by Levi Upula.

Namibia and Finland set to expand trade relations

The just ended State visit by Finnish President Tarja Halonen to Namibia is likely to result in closer trade and economic relations in areas such as energy, industrial goods and other components for Namibia's fast growing mining industry and the agricultural sector.

These were some of the areas extensively discussed during the official talks at State House last Tuesday. President Hifikepunye Pohamba who opened the official talks put more emphasis on those areas, saying that such efforts would strengthen and boost local food production.

Namibia and Finland signed an agreement on promotion and protection of investments in 2003 to strengthen economic relations and expand trade. The President said that the two countries should work together to achieve the objectives contained in that agreement.

"Specifically," said President Pohamba, "Namibia wishes to strengthen bilateral economic relations in the areas of trade and investment. We would like to see many Namibian products, including meat, grapes and other agricultural products, entering the Finnish market.

"At the same time, we would like to see more companies from Finland investing in Namibia in order to add value to our natural resources and expand Namibia's manufacturing base."

Finland supports various projects in Namibia and has greatly assisted with the development of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management, NIPAM, especially the Institute's Middle Management Programme.

President Halonen agreed with President Pohamba, saying that Namibia with its abundance of sun and wind, and Finland which had more water could cooperate in these areas which could turn into a good sector for renewable energy. But she admitted, however, that there were limitations. See more pictures on page 8.

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