Our public service has come of age

By Dr Hage Geingob

After 20 years of independence, it is only appropriate that we reflect on what we have so far achieved in building public institutions, which one of those institutions need improvement particularly to make them responsive to the challenges of the next 20 years, when Vision 2030 is expected to be realized.

A topic of this nature does not allow me to don exclusively a politician’s hat or an academic’s hat. Forgive me if I change hats in between various ideas. On the positive side, switching hats would allow for blending realism with theory.

All functioning societies, regardless of their size have three universalities as follows:

First, societies develop institutions to make rules. In different places they might be called parliament, Congress (in the United States), or Ohale (a gathering place under the tree in the Oshivambo speaking culture of Namibia).

The second universality is that societies create institutions to carry out the adjudication function. This function might be performed by a supreme court.

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Namibia at 20

SWAPO Party has made history

By Jerry Ekandjo

The Namibian people in the depth and breath of this country will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Independence on Sunday, 21 March 2010. The 20th Independence Anniversary Celebration will be a momentous occasion for it signifies the achievements of the liberation of Namibia and founding of the new nation.

The people of Namibia from all walks of life, irrespective of their race, colour, social status, young and old and of all political persuasions are called to seize this upcoming real occasion, take part and participate in activities marking the 20th Independence Anniversary Celebration. This particular Anniversary affords us an opportunity to reflect and to take stock of the past as a way to plan for our future. We owe it to ourselves to celebrate our achievements and remember the day of the birth of our nation to ensure that Namibia becomes as a rule governed country and people abide by the laws in order to enjoy the freedom that we have fought to gain.

Windhoek is set to be a hive of activities this weekend as several sitting and former Heads of State and Government begin arriving in the country to witness Namibia’s 20th Independence Anniversary and the swearing in of President Hifikepunye Pohamba for his second term on Sunday.

Among the key Heads of State that are coming are Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe, South Africa’s Jacob Zuma, Tanzania’s Jakaya Kikwete, Botswana’s Lt General Ian Khama, Zambia’s Rupiah Banda, Congo Brazzaville’s Denis Sassou Nguesso, Democratic Republic of Congo’s Joseph Kabila and Mozambique’s Armando Guebuza. Cuba is being represented by its Vice President, Esteban Lazo Hernandez.

Among the former Heads of State that will grace the occasion are Zambia’s Kenneth Kaunda, Botswana’s Quett Masire and Festus Mogae, Finland’s Martti Ahtisaari and Mozambique’s Joaquim Chissano.

The widow of Angola’s first President, Maria Eugenia Neto, will also attend. She was married to Angola’s first President, the late Antonio Agostinho Neto. The late Neto died in 1979 and was succeeded by President Dos Santos the same year.

Most of these countries supported SWAPO during Namibia’s liberation struggle. The Frontline States, among them Angola and Zambia, suffered the most as they were constantly attacked militaril

Several Heads of State to grace Nam’s 20th Independence Anniversary

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