

Trim foreign trips, says President

President Hifikepunye Pohamba has called on government ministries to seriously trim local and foreign trips by government officials to avoid unnecessary waste of scarce public resources.

Addressing this year's first Cabinet meeting, the President said that all ministers and permanent secretaries had been directed to avoid unnecessary local and foreign trips.

"When official missions are undertaken," the President said, "the number of officials accompanying senior officials must be kept to a minimum of only essential staff. I have undertaken to do the same."

The President had also expressed concern about the slow expenditure of the development



President Hifikepunye Pohamba

budget and called on ministers and permanent secretaries to improve the implementation modalities of public policies and all service delivery interventions.

velop around this major project."

With unemployment now estimated at around 50 percent of the working population, the spinoffs from this factory will have an impact on job creation, especially when it comes to self-employment opportunities.

Statistics show that for every direct job created, five more indirect jobs are created. For Ohorongo Cement Factory, this effect is estimated at seven times, which will result in other things such as the establishment of distribution networks in rural areas, where infrastructure needs to be created.

Ohorongo Cement Factory is not only the most modern factory in the region but also in Africa. Discussions have already started with the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic to identify areas in which partnerships for training could be established.

"The success of any initiative depends on hard work and dedication," said President Pohamba. "To this, I add team work. In this regard, I call upon the management of the company to promote and maintain harmonious labour relations with its entire work force. We have no doubts about the immense benefits that this project holds for Namibia."

"This is unacceptable," he said. "In order to arrest this undesirable situation, measures will be put in place to compel greater accountability in the implementation of the development budget. It will also involve the improvement and strengthening of current administrative procedures to eliminate unnecessary delays and bureaucratic red tape."

President Pohamba also pointed out some lapses in the submission of quarterly reports which he introduced a few years ago. Some reports were submitted late, while others were just "too long." He promised to introduce a simpler format soon.

"Thus the political principals and accounting officers must work closely together for the achievement of the common goals. For greater efficiency and the elimination of duplication of efforts, such coordination should extend to other stakeholders such as regional and local authorities, traditional and community leaders, civil society and the cooperate world," he said.

On corruption and crimes, the President said there would be no let up in fighting such evils tooth and nail to prevent a reversal of the positive gains Namibians had made over the past 20 years.

"The snake of corruption must be hit very hard on the head," he said. "So too must all other forms of unethical behaviour that may occur in our society. Our citizens must adopt an ethical posture and expose all forms of corruption, embezzlement of funds and abuse or wastage of public resources.

"In the same vein, law enforcement agencies and officials should resolutely and mercilessly deal with the perpetrators of such abhorrent conduct. Namibians should stand together to defeat crime in all its manifestation.

"Let us approach the New Year with renewed resolve to overcome the challenges facing our country. Let us continuously strive to improve and sharpen our systems and processes of government in order to deliver public services more efficiently, effectively and transparently. Let us entrench the culture and ethos of hard work as we build a more prosperous society, free from hunger, poverty and diseases."

Read Namibia Today. Stay informed.

Cement

from page 1

houses was hampered by the biting prices of cement.

"This particular investment will enhance and accelerate the development of both physical and communication infrastructure, while contributing to the provision of housing and the growth of our towns, especially the newly proclaimed areas, where the demand for the construction of houses and other facilities is high. Cement is an important ingredient in these activities," said President Pohamba.

"Our government welcomes the opening of this factory, bearing in mind that it will have positive impacts on the industrialization of our national economy as envisaged in Vision 2030. I am pleased that the investment policies that our government has put in place are continuing to bear fruit by attracting foreign direct investment.

"This is a significant investment, which indicates that Namibia is a viable and attractive location for foreign investors. We expect that it will have a multiplier effect in terms of employment creation and service industries that could de-



Etale and Pereira Fishing companies donated fish to the SWAPO Party Veterans Trust in recognition of the veterans' contribution to SWAPO Party's landslide victory in last year's National Assembly and Presidential elections, as well as this year's Regional and Local Authority elections. Comrade Maano Neliwa, Deputy Chairperson of Veterans' Trust hands over the donation to the veterans. Photo by Levi Upula.



Rare riding skills. Fikameni Tomas from Okalongo in Omusati Region, surprises many people with his style of riding his bicycle. He rides it reverse with his back on where he is going while he faces where he comes from. Photo by Levi Upula.

Eldest Cuban woman turns 126

HAVANA, — Juana Bautista de la Candelaria Rodriguez, the eldest person in Cuba, celebrated her 126th birthday on Wednesday in good health, the official Prensa Latina news agency said.

Rodriguez lives in her birth town of Campechuela in the eastern Granma province. According to local authorities and her relatives, she was born on Feb. 2, 1885.

An original document of the Campechuela Civil Registry confirms her age.



Juana Bautista de la Candelaria Rodriguez

With three children including two having been dead, six grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren, Rodriguez said her long life is due to pure country air, rich diet and a "heart always full of love for her fellows."

Georgian woman Antisa Khvichava who was born on July 8, 1880, is considered the oldest person in the world. (Xinhua

Namibia Today is published by SWAPO Party, Department of Information and Mobilization. Tel: 061-276370/78/79/80 Fax: 061-276381

Cell: 081 124 2749

General E-Mail: inform@namibiatoday.com.na
 Advertisements: adverts@namibiatoday.com.na
 Letters: letters@namibiatoday.com.na
 Editorial: editor@namibiatoday.com.na
 Personal: asserntinda@namibiatoday.com.na
 Queries: enquires@namibiatoday.com.na
 Subscription: subscribe@namibiatoday.com.na
 SWAPO Party: swapoparty@namibiatoday.com.na
 Accounts: accounts@namibiatoday.com.na