

Namibians

from page 4

where they lived together became a peculiar classroom where Spanish language was taught by the smartest Cubans, and that provided the setting for not a few funny and even embarrassing situations.

In September, we completed several scouting missions, some of them against Battalion 32^o of the South African armed forces.

Namibian fighters stayed with us until the 25th of that month. We organized a farewell dinner, and they left that same night for their homeland. Later, we learned that Nelumbo had acted outstandingly in the fierce fighting against the racist forces. He was shot in the back of his head and in his back; he was even bitten by dogs but he managed to evade persecution.

By the end of 1982, he returned to Angola in a serious condition. He was able to survive and, to his greatest happiness, was sent back to our unit, this time accompanied by the First Lieutenant Silas Abisay.

They both left with us to Cangamba on August 2, 1983, and participated the day after in the first

and failed attempt to reinforce the troops that were defending the village. During the days that followed, they accomplished every mission just as they always did: in a responsible and disciplined way.

He later joined a mixed battalion made up by Angolan and Cuban Special Troops, which was placed under my command. That battalion carried out a helilifted landing at the enemy's rearguard on August 7.

On that same day we engaged in combat and almost at dusk and after an unequal battle Nelumbo was killed.

Inexplicably, that young officer, who was already a seasoned combatant at the age of 25, stood up in the middle of a heavy fire, very close to the enemy lines, looking perhaps for a better shot, and fell down after being hit by several bullets.

Someone cried: "Nelumbo was killed! And that left a deep impression in me. We were very close and managed to understand each other very well even though each of us used to speak in our respective languages. I fully trusted his courage and experi-

ence.

Lieutenant García Arrieta and soldier Méndez Páez moved to the place where Nelumbo's body lay. At dusk, Páez dragged Nelumbo's body to a certain place. Later on the corpse was again moved to a safe place by a group of combatants, among them, Silas Abisay.

We gathered under some trees to pay tribute to our fallen comrade. We were all deeply moved by his loss. It was a moment of sadness but also of reaffirmation. No one felt scared and we responded with greater courage in the battles that followed.

On the tenth, after attaining victory, I suggested Nelumbo to be considered a Cuban citizen, and so it was decided. His corpse was among the first to be evacuated.

In the morning of August 15 a decoration awarding ceremony took place. One such decoration was awarded to Nelumbo post-mortem. His fellow countryman and comrade, Silas Abisay, who was among the decorated, received it on his behalf.

That day I knew that Nelumbo had been buried, next to the



Victims of the Kassinga Massacre, 4 May 1978: one of two mass graves

fallen Cuban internationalist combatants, in the cemetery of the Cuban Military Mission in Luanda, with his cap on his chest, tied up with a string to a button-hole of his shirt, just as he used to wear it.

The battle of Cangamba was no doubt one of the most outstanding and heroic events among the many that led to the absolute eradication of colonialism in Southern Africa, and made the Apartheid dig its own grave in Angolan soil.

FIRST LIEUTENANT
SILAS ABISAY⁴

In 1981 I graduated from the Isle of Youth military academy. Two years later I was assigned to a Cuban Internationalist Special Troops Unit detached in Angola. Our mission was to support the work of liaisons, assist in communications and participate in the reconnaissance operations. There was another Namibian there by the name of Samuel Nelumbo.

On early August 1983, the unit was transferred by helicopter to Menongue, which was on the way to Cangamba, where we arrived in the evening.

At dawn the helicopters dropped us to the West of the vil-

lage. We could not accomplish the mission, so we were picked up in the afternoon and taken to Luena, in the province of Moxico. The two Namibians and some Cubans who were there were assigned the mission to fly on board of eight helicopters to Cangamba the day after in order to resupply the troops that were under siege.

I traveled as a light machine gunner on board of the leading helicopter, which was the first to land in the area controlled by the FAPLA, located to the northeast of the village, which was under heavy enemy artillery and mor-

Cont on page 7



President Nujoma (in lighter clothing), with SWAPO secretary of Defence Peter Mueshihange, inspecting Casspir captured in battle. Lubango, Angola 28 December 1987



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

OPENDAY

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, hereby invites established and emerging entrepreneurs to an Open Day, where they will have the opportunity of meeting him and any member of the Ministry's management cadre to discuss any issues pertaining to the mandate of the Ministry, namely investment, business establishment and operation and industrial development.

Venue: Ongwediva Trade Fair Centre
Date: Monday, 24th August 2009
Time: 09h30 – 17h00

Enquiries: Ms. L. Frans Tel: (061) 2837314
Ms. T. Garoes Tel: (061) 2837365
Ms. T. Philemon Tel: (061) 2837334



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT

DEPARTMENT: LAND REFORM AND RESETTLEMENT
 DIRETORATE LAND REFORM
 DIVISION LAND BOARD TENURE AND ADVICE

VACANCIES

Post Designation	:	12 x Development Planner Grade SP2
Salary Scale	:	N\$94 590 x 3 441 – 108 354
Salary Notch	:	N\$94 590 p.a.
Benefits	:	Housing allowance N\$4 800 p.a.
	:	Transport allowance N\$4 800 p.a.
Duty Station	:	1 x Katima mulilo 1 x Rundu 1 x Tsumeb 1 x Oshakati 1 x Outapi 1 x Eenhana 1 x Opuwo 1 x Otjiwarongo 1 x Swakopmund 1 x Gobabis 1 x Mariental 1 x Keetmanshoop
Minimum Requirements	:	A 3 year National Diploma in Land Management specializing in Land Registration OR Land surveying OR Land use Planning
NB:		Preference will be given to applicants in possession of sound knowledge in Geographical Information System (GIS) and experience related to the registration (verification and mapping) of communal lands. Qualifying candidates in possession of Drivers licence will be given preference.
Enquiries:		Ms. Maria Kasita OR Mr. Paulus Amuthenu
Telephone:		061 – 2965120 / 2965333
Benefits:		Remunerative package(s) consists of a monthly salary according to the above-mentioned salary scale(s), housing subsidy/rent allowance (if applicable), pension, social security and medical aid benefits.
NB:		Candidacy is limited to Namibian citizens; women and people with disabilities are also encouraged to apply. Applications must be completed on form 156043 and 156094, which are obtainable at any Government office.
Address:		The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Lands and Resettlement Private Bag 13343 WINDHOEK

CLOSING DATE: 11 September 2009