

Namibians

from page 5

tar fire.

I received the order to shoot non-stop against the enemy positions while my Cuban colleagues unloaded the ammunition. The artillery fire intensified

and everything was covered with dust. The flames dangerously engulfed the helicopter's fuel tank and it all became a pandemonium. The Cuban crew rushed to the cockpit and managed to take off. They shot some rockets and with great difficulty they managed to arrive in Menongue. The helicopter's rotors had been seri-

ously damaged. Other helicopters also suffered considerable damages, but they all managed to go back and could be repaired.

We Cubans will always feel proud of our modest contribution to that great achievement and will forever feel indebted to those who fought and died in the attempt.

In Menongue I received medical assistance for some burns I suffered in my arm, while Nelumbo and other colleagues were ordered to board an AN-26 plane whose mission was to supply the troops that remained under siege in Cangamba with provisions. In trying to do so the aircraft was severely damaged by the

enemy fire, but fortunately none of the comrades was injured.

After spending a few days in Menongue we flew back to Luena, and from there a mixed battalion made up by the Cubans, Angolans, Nelumbo and I was flown by helicopter to the northern part of Cangamba. Our mission was to attack the enemy forces' rearguard. Nelumbo was shot dead in the chest during the first combat.

We moved on to Cangamba during the night. It was very dark and cold; it was so difficult to move forward that we had to make a stop and wait for the first light of dawn to resume our march.

At dawn break we attacked the enemy positions but were repelled by a heavy artillery and mortar fire. Some Angolan combatants were wounded. The enemy controlled several rocket launching positions set up over the hills to the East of Cangamba. On that same morning they were attacked by our helicopters which managed to tip the balance in our favor.

Thus, we attacked Cangamba next day in the morning and managed to rescue Nelumbo's corpse, which was finally buried in the Cubans cemetery in Luanda. The Cuban government decorated both of us with the Medal of Valor.

THE FRUITS OF SACRIFICE

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.

The attainment of victory did not prevent us from making a profound analysis of the causes that led to that very difficult situation and to the creation of the conditions required

to defeat the new escalate of the aggressors and their regional allies.

Nevertheless, another five years of fierce combats were necessary to expel, once and for all, the Pretoria soldiers from Angola, and for Namibia to be able to start walking down the path towards independence after the victorious actions in Cuito Cuanavale and the even more decisive actions in the southwestern front.

In 1989 the Namibian people exercised for the first time ever their sovereign rights and elected their leader, Sam Nujoma, as their first President. Ever since then, Namibia has become the owner of its own destiny; a nation that struggles to provide their sons and daughters with a better future.

We Cubans will always feel proud of our modest contribution to that great achievement and will forever feel indebted to those who fought and died in the attempt.

(Footnotes)

¹ Lieutenant Colonel Rafael Ramos Fajardo. He was then the Chief of the Special Troops Scouting Company of the Cuban Military Mission in Angola. He is now an officer of the Ministry of the Interior in the province of Granma

² First Lieutenant Neritson Samuel Nelumbo.

³ It was also known as the Buffalo Battalion, which for years operated in Angolan territory.

His true name is Silas Amukanda Jeremia.

He is now Lieutenant Colonel of the Namibian armed forces.



PUBLIC INVITATION PUBLIC HEARING ON SECTION 66 (1) (A) OF THE MAGISTRATES COURT ACT (ACT NO. 32 OF 1944)

The public is herewith being invited to attend Public Hearings that will be conducted by the National Council Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs from 17 August to 04 September 2009. The Committee is holding public hearings with a view to giving individuals, organizations and members of the public the opportunity to express their opinions in writing or orally and ascertain whether or not Section 66(1) (a) of the Magistrates Court Act (Act No. 32 of 1944) violates the letter and the spirit of the Namibian Constitution. Thereafter, the Committee shall report back to the House.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Select Committee on Home Loans are to:

- (a) Investigate the current sale-in-execution practice;
- (b) Review Section 66(1)(a) of the Magistrates Court Act, 1944 (Act No. 32 of 1944) and ascertain whether it violates the letter and the spirit of the Namibian Constitution;
- (c) Make consequential recommendations or propose appropriate remedies to the House; and
- (d) Examine any other matter in respect of the Act, as the Standing Committee deems fit

Individuals, organizations and any other interest party residing in places where the Committee does not conduct public hearings are welcome to make written submissions to the Committee. Submissions may be sent electronically to the following e-mails: m.bessinger@parliament.gov.na or a.shali@parliament.gov.na or by facsimile to 061-226121 for the attention of Ms. M. Bessinger or Ms. A. Shali. Submissions can also be delivered to Office No. 2.25 or 2.29 old National Council Building, 2nd floor.

Please confirm your attendance in writing at least one week before the public hearing takes place.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
Monday 17 August 2009	09:20-10:20 10:25-11:25 11:30-12:30 12:30-13:00 14:15-15:15 15:15-16:20 16:25-17:00	CRO, Oshana Regional Council CEO, Oshakati Town Council Magistrate L. Amutse CEO, Ongwediva CEO, Ondangwa Rev. E. Shaanika (ELCIN) Members of the public	Oshana Regional Council Chambers Oshana Regional Council Chambers Oshana Regional Council Chambers Oshana Regional Council Chambers Oshana Regional Council Oshana Regional Council Chambers
Wednesday 19 August 2009	09:20-10:20 11:30-12:30 14:15-15:15 15:30-16:30 16:30-17:00	CEO, Otjiwarongo Municipality Rev. John Guidao-Oab Magistrate Mr. Shikulo Spes Bona Primary School Members of the public	Otjozondjupa Regional Council Otjiwarongo Municipality Chambers Otjiwarongo Municipality Chambers Otjiwarongo Municipality Chambers
Friday 21 August 2009	10:00-11:00 11:00-12:00 12:00-13:00 14:30-15:00 15:30-16:30 16:30-17:00	CRO, Erongo Regional Council CEO, Swakopmund Municipality CEO, Walvis Bay Municipality Rev. Strydom Rev. A. Marsh Members of the public	Swakopmund Municipality Council Chambers Municipality Council Chambers Municipality Council Chambers Municipality Council Chambers Municipality Council Chambers Municipality Council Chambers
Monday 31 August 2009	09:20-10:20 10:20-11:30 11:30-12:30 4:00-15:00	CEO, Luderitz Town Council Magistrate CEO, Waterfront Development Company Ms. C. Jantjies, Principal Lüderitz Secondary School	Town Council Chambers Town Council Chambers Town Council Chambers Town Council Chambers
Tuesday 1 September 2009	08:00-09:00 09:00-09:15 09:20-10:20 10:30-12:30 12:30-13:00 14:00-14:30 15:00	Set up venue Courtesy call on Governor CRO, Karas Regional Council CEO Keetmanshoop Municipality Magistrate Principal, Suiderlig High School Departure for Mariental and overnight	Karas Regional Council Chambers Office of Governor Karas Regional Council Chambers Karas Regional Council Chambers Karas Regional Council Chambers Karas Regional Council Chambers
Wednesday 2 September 2009	08:00-09:00 09:00-09:15 09:20-10:20 10:30-11:30 11:30-12:30 12:30-13:00 14:15-15:15	Set up venue Courtesy call on Governor CRO, Hardap Regional Council CEO, Mariental Municipality Magistrate ELK Church Members of Public Overnight in Mariental	Hardap Regional Council Chambers Office of the Governor Hardap Regional Council Chambers Hardap Regional Council Chambers Hardap Regional Council Chambers Hardap Regional Council Chambers Hardap Regional Council Chambers
Thursday 3 September 2009	10:00	Departure for Gobabis and overnight	
Friday 4 September 2009	08:00-09:00 09:00-09:15 9:20-10:20 10:30-11:30 11:20-12:20 12:30-13:00	Set up venue Courtesy call on Governor CRO, Omaheke Regional Council CEO, Gobabis Municipality Magistrate ELK Church	Omaheke Regional Council Chambers Office of the Governor Omaheke Regional Council Chambers Omaheke Regional Council Chambers Omaheke Regional Council Chambers Omaheke Regional Council Chambers

Change was for the worse!

It is depressing to see what happened in Henties Bay after the 'change'. The first trouble started when ERED was established in Erongo Region, prices for electricity went up from year to year with huge increments but the energy supply did not change for the better; in reality, power outages became a common occurrence and where communities made money out of the commodity, they now are bled dry by ERED.

The last infernal price hike regarding especially the pre-paid user - he suffers enormously - simply has to be condemned by us. I repeat, the effects of this price-hike to the poorer peoples household budget is shattering! This is the 'cherry' on top of the doings of an unfeeling and incompetent management, we have reason to believe.

When the coalition changed in our town council during the last year, there too the real troubles started. Doors were quickly closed, the mayor did cut out communication most effectively, a road was tarred at a price of 14 millions to be a 'monument' for those now in power.

Those 14 millions are short in the town's coffers now, our new property taxes have to make good for this, it was and is said. These

property taxes 'exploded'. From 50% to 100% up they went from the 1st of July. For those who longed for their own house, all this has a ruining effect. Incidentally, Luederitz municipality also did spend 14 millions. Luedentz is building 200 houses, low-cost houses with that amount of money. These houses are for the not so 'comfortable' within the town's population - this is seen by us as caring for the poor and as fighting poverty.

Here the exorbitant price hikes by ERED and by our MUNICIPALITY are seen as foolish, as discriminatory and as plain bad and as an unprofessional, even an unethically type of management, which effectively creates poverty. Nothing good will ever come out of the town councils doings behind closed doors, this now becomes obvious to those who use their brains and are still able to see and feel together with their heavily suffering fellow-citizens.

ERED and our towns 'ruling coalition', both have to go. There is a need for positive change now, an urgent need!

By P. Hager
Citizen of Henties Bay