



Joel Kaapanda



Frieda Shimbuli



Sven Thieme



Yvonne Boois

NBC

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management, recruitment and selection and training and development. Television news bulletin had also been lengthened from 28 minutes to one hour. Parliamentary coverage had also been lengthened from 30 minutes to one hour.

"I cannot list all the achievements and reform initiatives, but all I can say to the entire outgoing Board is that your talents, your dedication, your tireless efforts made it worthwhile to travel on the same journey as you at the NBC. To all staff members of the NBC, thank you very much for your support and good will that we as the outgoing Board members received during our tenure", said Shimbuli.

New chairperson of the Board, Sven Thieme said that he and his colleagues in the Board looked at their appointments as their national duty to support government to have parastatals run in way which had the interest of the nation at heart.

"I also believe that we need

as a country to work on our values further and one of them is that we should not only look at what government can do for us as citizens but equally what can we as citizens do for the government – with this I can assure you that we as a board will do everything possible to make a difference and lift the NBC to the next level," he said.

But Thieme was also quick to point out that for the turnaround strategy as suggested by Minister Kaapanda to succeed, there were several steps that needed to be followed. A due diligence would have to be made, and, depending on the outcome, corrective measures, if not overhaul, would have to be made. He also promised to launch a new culture and craft the future with a robust strategy inspired by a great vision.

"And trust me, we don't need to reinvent the wheels here. There are pockets of good work that have been done in the past and that we will take and build upon. We then need the ruthless implementation of the strategy. Many may think that this is a daunting task," said Thieme

"However, if we follow a structured process, trust me I

cannot see why we will not create a great institution. My dream is always to create a world class institution and hopefully we will achieve exactly that again."

The new Board members are Thieme as chairman, (he is Chief Executive Officer of the Ohlthaver and List Group of Companies), Andrew Kanime, (General Manager of Human Resources and Strategic Training at Telecom Namibia,) Diana Louisa van Schalwyk, (Director of Corporate Affairs and Marketing at Hartlief.)

Only two old Board members were retained. These are Yvonne Boois, who is now Acting Director General, and Rev Ludwig Siyaka Hausiku. Boois is a Trust Manager at the Namibian Literacy Trust, while Hausiku is the Kavango Regional Secretary for the Council of Churches in Namibia. Shimbuli, Dean of Students at the Polytechnic,) Colonel Gallen Kolokwe of the Namibia Defence Force, NDF, Engel Nowatiseb, Mayor of Tsumeb and Eric Biwa, were not reappointed.

The outgoing Board was appointed in 2005, only to find

that the NBC had an operational budgetary shortfall of N\$44 million. That shortfall was inherited from the previous Board. The current Board takes over the NBC that is technically insolvent. The last Auditor General's Report contained damning findings for the NBC's financial position.

When Kandetu was fired early last year, Matthew // Gowaseb was appointed Acting Director General in the middle of last year. When he took over, the NBC had 366 permanent employees whose salary bill stood at N\$5 million per month. In less than 10 months, new recruitments and promotions pushed the salary bill up.

Now, the NBC is financially suffocating through careless spending and lack of financial discipline, with its salary bill now standing at nearly N\$9 million per month, up from N\$5 million per month last year.

NBC staff complement has risen to nearly 500 permanent employees, up from 366. That rise has pushed the NBC's annual salary bill to nearly N\$108 million. This year's government subsidy is N\$103 million. NBC's own contribution this

year is N\$35 million from the Marketing Division, and N\$17 million from TV licences and other sales.

A forensic audit report on NBC conducted by Grand Namibia in 2006 revealed some damning findings on appointments, promotions and transfers.

Between 2001 – 2006, it only found three requests for advertisements out of 228. Of the 228 appointments tested over the

same period, the audit found only 82 advertisements. Of the 228 appointments tested, only 107 job applications could be found.

Of the 228 appointments tested, only a short-list of potential employees for 51 interviews could be found. Of the 274 promotions tested, only 56 performance appraisals could be found. Grand Namibia was commissioned by the Auditor General's Office.

A Poem dedicated to Africa on Africa day (25 May)

Africa CJ Kaevarua (Otjiwarongo)

My Africa, you are my beginning, my end, my roots, my past, present and future;

You gave me the black badge and proudly I will parade with it from the Cape to Cairo for others to see that indeed I am an African in my Africa;

Whether developed or developing, Industrialised or not, you are and will always remain but My Africa!!

Africa, penduka and be vigilant against those who preaches bad against you,

yet, they come back under the pretext of Global Economic Partnership seeking nothing,

but to milk you and exploit your children... for their own good.

To the leaders of Africa, I say...Let us be masters of our own destiny,

for our Africa is so blessed and purely endowed with rich mineral resources

so abundant that the rest of the world could tap from them...

Africa, penduka and watch against the "brain- drain" of your sons and daughters,

to the so-called developed world in which they find themselves as foreigners in foreign countries (my Africans in Diaspora)

You have immeasurable and non comparable depth of attraction that breeds jealousy among those who hates you and who wish it was theirs, i.e.

our culture...the African culture that depicts our identity,

the Sand dunes of the Namib Desert in Namibia, the Victoria falls in Zimbabwe,

the Table Mountain in South Africa, the Okavango delta in Botswana the Kilimandjaro in Kenya, the Nile River in Egypt, your Perennial Rivers, Waterfalls,

Valleys, Landscapes and Mountains

Your BIG 5(Elephant, Lion, Rhino, Buffalo, Leopard)

You will remain but My Africa!

Israeli from page 1

nuclear equipped missiles and minutes of meetings held in 1975 in which then Israeli defense minister (now Israeli president) Shimon Peres bargained with his South African counterpart, P.W. Botha, over the terms of such a sale.

These minutes, signed by Peres, include his statements indicating that Israel was prepared to sell Pretoria its Jericho missiles and warheads that came in "three sizes," meaning conventional, biological and nuclear.

The book states that South Africa wanted the nuclear missiles for possible strikes against neighboring African states—such as Angola

and Mozambique—where the apartheid regime had repeatedly intervened.

"South Africa's leaders yearned for a nuclear deterrent—which they believed would force the west to intervene on their behalf if Pretoria were ever seriously threatened—and the Israeli proposition put that goal within reach," Polakow-Suransky writes in the book.

The publication of the documents provoked a blustering protest from the Israeli president's office. It issued a statement saying that "there exists no basis in reality for the claims" published in the *Guardian* about the nuclear bargaining between the Zionist and apartheid regimes, despite the vis-

ible evidence to the contrary. It added that his office would send a "harsh letter" to the newspaper, demanding that it publish "the true facts."

Polakow-Suransky has indicated that Israel attempted unsuccessfully to pressure the current government of South Africa not to declassify the documents, which had been declared secret at the time by both Tel Aviv and Pretoria.

While the 1975 deal was not consummated, Israel continued to serve as the apartheid regime's principal arms dealer and intimately collaborated in nuclear arms programs, testing Jericho missiles in South Africa, providing nuclear weapons material and, apparently, conducting at least one joint test of a nuclear weapon in 1979 in the Indian Ocean, a flagrant violation of international treaties.

The Israeli government and its supporters have routinely branded anyone drawing attention to the obvious parallels between the conditions imposed upon Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza and South Africa's apartheid system as anti-Semitic. But, as the book elaborates, the similarities between the two regimes were evident to Israeli officials themselves, who cited them in defending the close ties between Tel Aviv and Pretoria. Another document published in

the book is a diplomatic message sent by Peres (a pivotal figure in both Israel's foreign as well as nuclear policy over the past half century) to Pretoria following a secret visit to the South African capital in 1974. Proposing an alliance between the two regimes, Peres wrote that "this relationship is based not only on common interests and on the determination to resist equally our enemies, but also on the unshakeable foundations of our common hatred of injustice and our refusal to submit to it."

What precisely was the "common hatred of injustice" that Israel shared with the white supremacist regime in South Africa, dominated as it was by avowed Nazi sympathizers (Prime Minister B.J. Vorster, welcomed to Jerusalem in 1976, had been jailed in World War II because of his support for Hitler)? Clearly it was shared hostility to the demands of the populations that they oppressed; the Palestinians on the one hand, and the black majority on the other.

Even more explicit are the statements of Israel's ambassador to South Africa, Likud Party supporter Elisha Lankin.

Polakow-Suransky cites a statement written by Lankin to Israel's South African allies in 1987, just three years before the opening of negotiations between the government and the African National Congress: "What the ANC is demanding today is nothing less than 'one

man, one vote'... If the whites were to agree to this in present circumstances, they would be committing suicide, not only politically but physically as well."

Speaking to an audience at Tel Aviv University, the Israeli army's former chief of staff, Rafael Eitan, warned that South African blacks "want to gain control over the white majority just like the Arabs here want to gain control over us. And we, too, like the white minority in South Africa, must act to prevent them from taking us over."

Israel has long held to a policy known as nuclear "ambiguity," refusing to confirm or deny the existence of its nuclear weapons stockpile. It has also refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and rejected any international oversight of its Dimona reactor in the Negev desert.

In 1986, a technician at the Israeli nuclear plant, Mordechai Vanunu, leaked to the *Sunday Times* of London detailed information and photographs of secret operations at Dimona, confirming that Israel had amassed a considerable nuclear arsenal. Vanunu was subsequently kidnapped by the Mossad secret police, tried in secret and sentenced to 18 years in prison, a decade of it served in solitary confinement.

As the documents from Polakow-Suransky were published, it was reported from Israel that Vanunu had been thrown back

into prison on charges that he had violated the terms of his parole.

"Shame on you Israel ... for putting me in prison after 24 years of speaking the truth," Vanunu said after leaving the courthouse Sunday. "Shame on you all the world media ... for not protecting freedom of speech," he added.

The timing of the documents' publication could hardly have been worse as far as Washington is concerned, coming at the opening of a nuclear non-proliferation conference at the United Nations, which US officials had hoped to utilize as a forum for ratcheting up pressure on Iran. This has taken the form of Washington portraying Iran, which has no nuclear weapons and claims to be involved only in the development of nuclear power for peaceful purposes, as an imminent threat.

The new documentary evidence not only confirms the open secret that Israel—with Washington's protection—has amassed hundreds of nuclear weapons, but also was prepared to sell them to a criminal regime.

This only underscores the increasingly obvious fact that Washington's anti-Iranian campaign is driven not by some abstract interest in containing nuclear proliferation, but rather by US interests in dominating the vast energy resources of the Persian Gulf and Central Asia and eliminating a regional rival. WSWWS

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