Witbooi from page 1

*Hendrik Witbooi was a national hero, a comrade, a traditional leader, one of the bastions of Namibia’s struggle for national liberation, a reconciler, a humble servant of the nation, a patriot, a loving husband, father and uncle, a dear brother, a dedicated SWAPO Party cadet and a servant of God,* said Comrade Pohamba.

For the most part of his life, the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi knew nothing else but a life of the struggle for national liberation, a life of detention, and a life of Christianity.

To many Namibians, the deposed Comrade Witbooi was a man of vision and conviction. He actively participated in the national struggle for Namibia’s freedom and independence.

His early life was not only shaped and influenced by the political situation prevailing in Namibia but also by the political experiences experienced by the forebearers of this land such as the legendary Hendrik Witbooi, his grandfather.

The late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi was a pillar of strength, a fountain of wisdom, a source of inspiration and a torchbearer who stood firm in the face of colonial brutality in defence of people’s rights to self-determination, freedom and independence. The life of the late Comrade Witbooi was a life of selfless sacrifices, bravery and visionary leadership," said Pohamba.

Through his words and actions, he demonstrated his determination to building Namibia that was free of colonialism, regionalism and racism.

"He was a servant of God while at the same time a passionate supporter of PLR. He provided PLR with vital information which led to successful military operations in the South. To him there was no contradiction between the bible and AK47 used to free a nation from bondage.

As one of the leaders of SWAPO, the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi also played a crucial role by contributing to the development of polities and programmes of the party. He was one of those few leaders who could openly travel abroad without fear in order to consult with the exiled SWAPO leadership.

To him there was no contradiction between the bible and AK47 used to free a nation from bondage.

He distinguished himself as a selfless and fearless dedicated freedom fighter that devoted his entire youthful and adult life to the just cause of Freedom and Independence.

"He followed in the footsteps of his great grandfather, the legendary Dr Sam Nujoma, the then Minis-

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The constitution states that The Republic of Namibia is established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State founded on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. A Democratic government is one that gives its people the opportunity to choose their political parties and candidates, based on promises and undertakings made by such parties and candidates. These choices are made by voting in elections. The people of Namibia vote government into power to run the affairs of the country and make laws and policies on their behalf. Government is therefore accountable to the constitution of the Republic of Namibia and all its people.

Pursuant to the electoral Act No. 24 of 1992, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) was established as a semi-autonomous body with its own administration and budget. Although the entity functions as a government ministry, it enjoys absolute autonomy and independence in organizing and managing Namibia’s election processes.

The ECN is responsible for the conducting all electoral activities in Namibia including: Voter registration; Registration of all parties; Nomination of candidates; The organization and administration of elections and The announcement of results.

In addition, the ECN is accountable for voter education and information. Mandated to deliver free, fair and credible elections, we aim to cultivate a culture of human rights, national reconciliation, political tolerance and participation in governance and electoral processes. We also aim to promote sound understanding of the process and are mobilizing resources for the conduct of the 2009 General Elections” says Mr. M Ndjaraka, CEO of the ECN.

The ECN is justifiably proud of their success record since inception in 1994, with the delivery of independently assessed and accredited free and fair national / presidential elections in 1994; 1999 and 2004. This is due to the capacity, capability and experience of staff and their delivery of a credible process.

The institution is proud of this record and plans to maintain it during the 2009 Presidential Elections. The commitment to transparency is no more in evidence than in the way that the ECN has handled the re-tendering process for the printing of the 2009 ballot papers.

The ECN’s mandate is to deliver free and fair elections is rooted in our Constitution, whereby governance demands that we ensure citizen participation: equality; human rights; economic rights; adherence to the Bill of Rights; Adherence to the Rule of Law; Political Tolerance; Free exchange of Ideas; Accountability; Transparency; Multiparty System; Economic Freedom and Freedom of the Media.