

# Private sector chips in on education

A successful conference was held this week at the town of Walvis Bay, where the Minister of Education Dr Abraham Iyambo met with business and industry leaders at the town to see how businesses can assist Government in improving the state of Education in the Erongo Region.

The meeting hosted by the Walvis Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hoped that

the meeting come forth with ideas how to tackle challenges facing the region.

Key agendas that form part of the discussion were the promotion of literacy, tertiary and vocational training, technical institutes, trade institutes, involving the youth in economic development, opportunity for further studies, skills training and managerial competence as well as land allocation for edu-

cational institutions.

Minister Iyambo applauded the NCCI Walvis Bay office for organizing the gathering emphasising that for education to succeed it needs partners that are willing to dig deep into their pockets and uplift the standard of their education set up.

"We need partnership to take our education set up to greater heights, we can no longer wait alone that Government address

the education - it is our responsibility all of us - more so our entrepreneurs because the skills that we produce will one day work for you".

He also applauded the business community for pledging N\$500 000 at the conference to go towards improving the education sector in the country.

Minister Iyambo also used the gathering to enlighten the participant about the state of Education in the region. He pointed out that the Erongo is one of the region in the country, whose infrastructures are the envy of other regions. But nonetheless despite its massive economic position, it still lacks classrooms and other education materials.



Minister of Education Dr Abraham Iyambo

Swakopmund still needs six additional classrooms, while the ten classroom at Walvis Bay, local businessman and women have indicated to the Ministry that they will built the

classroom.

"As I am speaking now I am happy to announce that the community of Walvis Bay has come on board to help Government and that is what we need".

## Pohamba

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tional development plans and Vision 2030.

To be effective in their work, governors should adopt a strategic position, know where they want to go and how to get there. This, the President said, required them to fully understand the development dynamics in their respective regions.

"Our country faces ongoing challenges in rural areas," said President Pohamba. "While the majority of communities have been provided with basic amenities such as water, electricity, health care and education, more work remains to be done.

"Regional governors are therefore expected to do all they can to facilitate the expansion of service delivery to the needy communities in their respective regions.

"Part of your mandate is to ensure that all citizens of

Namibia, especially the rural communities, feel that they are part and parcel of our society, and that they can also enjoy the fruits of independence."

The President directed all governors to focus on the provision of quality public services such as clean drinking water, housing, electricity and other basic public amenities that could improve the quality of life of more Namibians.

He told the governors that they should also pay more attention to the provision of ploughing services, the expansion of agriculture extension services and the overall improvement and modernization of the agricultural sector.

Since Namibia could develop without modern infrastructure, the President urged the governors to work closely with the Ministry of Works and Transport, National Planning Commission, NPC, as well as other government agencies to accelerate the implementation of capital projects, especially

the construction of roads.

"Specific attention must be paid to the construction of feeder roads to serve rural communities and improve access for these communities to facilities such as schools, hospitals and health centers as well as to markets," said President Pohamba.

"The implementation of these projects should also be managed so as to create maximum numbers of employment opportunities for our people. Thus, it is important to ensure that, when road construction projects are implemented in rural areas, the labour-based method of construction must always be used.

"Today we are facing different enemies. Our enemies are poverty, hunger, disease, ignorance, underdevelopment, racism, tribalism, regionalism, ethnicity and corruption. Let us all become foot soldiers to confront and defeat these enemies under the banner of the SWAPO Party government."

## Nujoma

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Nujoma and President Pohamba to the airport early in the morning the next day and were ordered "not to leave" the airport until the plane had taken off.

Swanepoel said that they were given some food and coffee. This account tallies with what Cde Nujoma had written in his autobiography. He said he did not eat the food because he did not trust the Boers.

While Swanepoel accounts tally with what Cde Nujoma had said in his book, Malan's Autobiography, was way off the mark, and according to Swanepoel, Malan never saw Cde Nujoma in Windhoek as

he had claimed in his book.

According to Malan book, Nujoma's "visit" was planned so as to coincide with "marches, uprisings and violence against the authorities" and that "Nujoma was the only passenger on the plane, and was "kept in Windhoek for four to five days."

Swanepoel's book disputes this account, saying that there were no plans afoot to hold meetings in Damara, Owambo and Herero locations in Katutura.

Malan also claimed that when the plane carrying Cde Nujoma landed, there was a "reception committee" consisting of himself, Brigadier Crous and a "few police officers." He also claimed that it was only after an "evaluation of enemy

targets" was completed that it was considered that "Nujoma would be more valuable to us while with his own forces, than if he were to be in our hands."

Swanepoel's book dismisses Malan's accounts, saying that Cde Nujoma and Pohamba were deported the very next day: "It never ceases to amaze me how we old men tend to lose our memories with the passing of time," said Swanepoel in his book. "General Malan was the chief of the local defence force in Windhoek on the day Messrs. Nujoma and Pohamba arrived there.

"His recollections of Nujoma's visit make interesting reading, but I am sad to say, the old (Malan) man's memory is not all that good anymore." Swanepoel's book may put to rest insinuations that Cdes Nujoma and Pohamba spent several days in Windhoek before they were deported.

"Now that Malan's book has been dissected by one of his own," said one SWAPO Party Youth League leader, "will Malan apologize to our Founding President?"

Swanepoel joined the South African Police Special Branch in the 1950s, and saw it growing through many formations and names until it was eventually renamed BOSS. He came to Namibia first in 1961.

# WACS land at Swakopmund

Namibia is among the elite nations that has bought its share of the pie on a underwater marine sea cable with the landing of West African Cable System (WACS) on its shores this week.

Minister of Information and Communication Technology Joel Kaapanda was at hand alongside his Botswana peer Frank Ramsden to witness the significant achievement by the two Governments.

Minister Kaapanda says the landing of the cable has great potential for contributing to sustainable development in the country.

WACS a 14 000 km undersea telecoms fibre-optic cable laid along the West African coast to allow high bandwidth connectivity for the country and its neighbours, and is set to change the internet landscape for Namibia forever once it becomes operational early this year.

Minister Kaapanda, also the Deputy Secretary for Information and Mobilisation of Swapo pointed out that with the WACS, Namibia stands at a threshold of history, but more visible is the enormous financial gains that the country stands to gain from the fibre optic cable.

The new infrastructure will reinforce Namibia's status as a reliable and trusted location by hosting and transmitting content-rich, mission-critical data, while keeping the cost of transmission competitive.

"This, in turn, will enhance Namibia's attractiveness for foreign direct investment. It is for these reasons, among many others, that today's landing of WACS is significant," pointed out Kaapanda.

The project cost a massive US\$600 million, Namibia and Botswana jointly financed US\$37,5 million, it was not easy convincing Government that we needed that kind of money but



History in the making: Minister of Information and Communications Technology, Joel Kaapanda, and his Botswana counterpart, Frank Ramsden, pulling the cable onshore last Tuesday in Swakopmund. Behind are Telecom MD Frans Ndoroma and Botswana High Commissioner to Namibia, Duke Lefhoko. The West Africa Cable System, WACS, landed at Swakopmund on Tuesday.

it was for a good cause and a worthy one to see that our infrastructure and connectivity will be boosted by the landing of the cable". said Kaapanda.

According to Minister Kaapanda that is an indication of the Swapo Government's intention to bring Namibia towards a heavy industrialized nation as outlined in the Vision 2030.

"We are at the dawn of an infrastructure revolution in the Namibian ICT landscape where broadband communication services will be further enhanced to benefit business, in-

dustry, internet community, academia and the entire Namibian population. It is expected to be an ICT landscape where affordability, quality, reliability and speed of services will become a common place and business will prosper which will contribute towards attaining our vision of becoming and information base and technology driven nation by 2030".

Also speaking at the official ceremony marking the landing of the cable system was Member of Parliament and Botswana Transport and Com-

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