**President grants parole and frees some prisoners**

By Staff Reporter

President Hifikepunye Pohamba used Heroes Day on Thursday to grant pardon and release prisoners who have been serving sentences of two years or less. The pardon also includes prisoners who are serving sentences of two or less who have not served one half of their sentences, who should first serve such one half. The third category includes prisoners who are not likely to pose a risk to society when released. The fourth and last category includes prisoners whose conditional release or parole has been approved on or before 26 August 2010. The criteria for pardon and release approval are now being published in the Government Notice Gazette. The Prison Department in the Ministry of Safety and Security is now busy identifying prisoners who have met the criteria for pardon and release.

President Pohamba said that the pardon he had granted did not apply to prisoners who were convicted and sentenced to jail for murder, attempted murder, rape, assault causing grievance bodily harm, robbery with aggravating circumstances, illegal conveyance of persons, illegal or supply of dependence-producing substances, illegal conveyance of firearms with aggravating circumstances, illegal conveyance of ammunition with aggravating circumstances, murder, rape, assault causing grievance bodily harm, robbery, or supply of dependence-producing substances.

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**New Polytechnic Council members inaugurated**

By Asser Ntinda

New members of the Council of the Polytechnic of Namibia were recently appointed by Cabinet. Amongst the new appointments is a Vice Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr Tjama Tjivikua, and Education Deputy Minister, Dr David Namwandi. The first category includes prisoners who are serving sentences of two years or less, and who have served one half or more of their sentences. The second category includes prisoners who are serving sentences of two or less who have not served one half of their sentences, who should first serve such one half. The third category includes prisoners who are 60 years old or older and have maintained good discipline in prison and are not likely to pose a risk to society when released. The fourth and last category includes prisoners whose conditional release or parole has been approved on or before 26 August 2010.

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