

President says prisons are not hotels

By Anna Nakambale

President Hifikepunye Pohamba has said that prisons are not hotels and those serving sentences should know that they have committed crimes and should therefore not expect to live a luxury life while serving their sentences.

Speaking at the official opening of the new Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility in Rundu, Kavango Region, the President said that such offenders should embrace this chance and commit themselves to a life away from crimes, once released from jail.

He said that they should take the lessons seriously, respect their instructors and should obey the rules and regulations, seeing that they had been given a second chance through rehabilitation.

“The bottom line is that a correctional facility is just that, a correctional facility,” he said. “It is not a hotel. The inmates are here because they committed crimes. They violated the law and offended society.

“Their being here is therefore, above all else, a form of punishment. This must be understood clearly and loudly. Of course on



President Hifikepunye Pohamba

humane grounds, government provides rehabilitation services to help those who are willing to change their lives for the better.”

The Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility was built to cater for offenders who are under 29 years. It is named after one of the famous female traditional chiefs of the Mbunza Community, the late Hompe Elizabeth Nepemba, who firmly believed in the maintenance of law and order and the protection of the community from criminal elements.

The President said he was daily disturbed by the rising rate of crimes such as rape, violence against

women and children, murder, robbery, and theft. He said that it was even more disturbing to see young girls and elderly women being violated by such unscrupulous criminals.

“Those who commit such offences disturb peace and stability in our country,” he said. “They spread fear and trepidation among the community and undermine our efforts to build a peaceful society.

“Our women and children have the right and they are entitled to go about their daily chores, such as going to school, fetching water and collecting firewood without fear of being attacked or violated by ruthless criminals.”

The President called on law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned in tracking down and arresting such perpetrators to face the law. They should use all the means at their disposal to combat crime forcefully and decisively in all parts of the country.

“Do your best to ensure that there is no room for criminals to hide within the borders of this country,” said the President. “Anyone who decides to commit crime, either against another person, against property or against the State, must be arrested, tried and sentenced appropriately by our courts of law.”

Sam Nujoma Marathon on the way

By Asser Ntinda

The Namibian Sports Commission is planning to stage an annual sports event tailored around Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma to promote and get an edge over a worldwide trend which promotes sports around key personalities.

Chairperson of the Sports Commission, Rusten Mogane and five other commissioners, paid a courtesy call on Founding President Nujoma on Wednesday to inform him about the event and get his blessing.

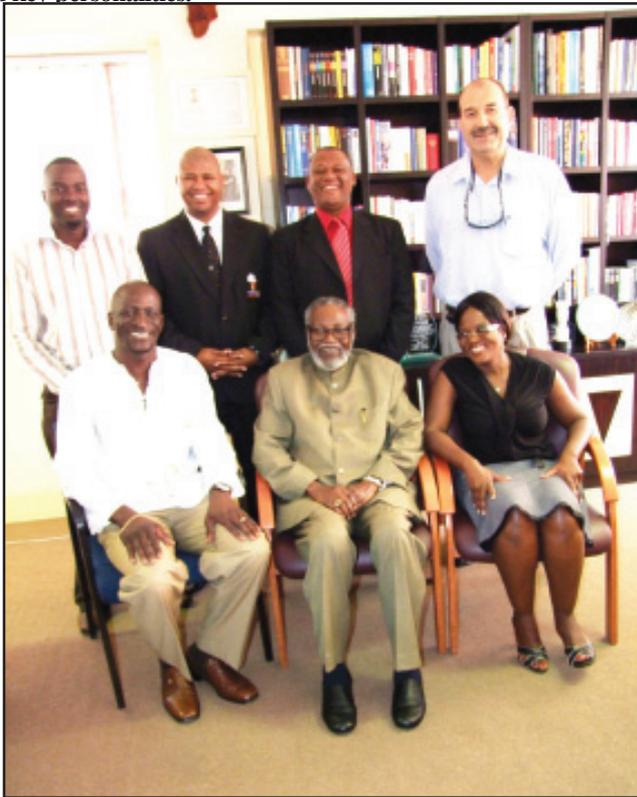
The Commission plans to stage a Dr Sam Nujoma Windhoek Marathon to promote that sports activity around Dr Nujoma, which will spread to other regions as well at a later stage.

“For now, we want to keep it in Windhoek, but the long-term objective is to ensure this event takes place in all the regions. We know that you have streets named after you, you have a sport stadium named after you, but there is no sport event named after you,” said Mogane.

“That is why we thought about this event and decided to approach your office to brief you on this issue. Many a times people just start events tailored around your name but they do not brief you before. We are here to get your blessing so that we can go ahead.”

The marathon is expected to start in the second week of May to coincide with Founding President Nujoma’s birthday. The Founding President birthday falls on May 12.

“What we want is to encourage the youth to be more active in sports and take them away from alcohol and drug abuse,” said Commissioner Amos Shiyuka. “We want the



Chairman of the Sports Commission with Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma. Photos by Asser Ntinda

youth to be inspired by role models like you. This is set to be a big event, and once it spreads to other regions, obviously companies will start sponsoring such an annual event.”

Accepting the offer, the Founding President said that the commission should really encourage the youth to be more active in sports to put Namibia on the world map and discourage them from alcohol and drug abuse.

“We should popularize our youth around sports event,” said the Founding President. “Nowadays, young people are indulging in criminal activities, abus-

ing drugs and alcohol abuse.

“We were once world champions, especially in boxing. We brought that world belt all the way from Asia. We had brilliant boxers here, but that talent is unfortunately slowly going down. We must pull up our socks.

“I welcome the idea of the marathon. It will certainly keep our young people off the streets. It will also discourage them from carrying out criminal activities. The youth are our future leaders.”

Caption: Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma and commissioners of the Namibia Sports Commission.

New strategy and new Senior Management Structures at NBC

Windhoek, Friday, 25 February 2011 - The NBC Board of Directors today, Friday, 25 February 2011, approved a revised organisational structure for its executive management. This structure is a result of a wide-ranging consultation which involved senior management, the Board and the NBC Shopstewards’ Council.

The revised structure consists of a Chief Financial Officer, a Chief Commercial Officer, a Chief Technology Officer, a Chief Human Capital Officer and a Chief News & Programming Officer (see attached document).

“All five positions will be advertised internally, as well as externally,” explained the Chairman of the NBC Board of Directors, Sven Thieme. “We will make sure that the recruitment process is as fair and transparent by ensuring that we draw on internal and external experts to help us in the process.” All the new executives will be appointed on five (5) year performance based contracts.

“The new structure is derived from the newly unveiled NBC strategic triangle and extensive consultations with key stakeholder,” Thieme elaborated. “The corporation has identified four critical success factors, namely *Drastic Revenue Improvement, Passionate, Empowered & Motivated Team, Audience-focused & Quality Programming* and *Effective Financial Management*. The Chief Financial Officer will be responsible for the review and implementation of financial policies and procedures that will allow the corporation to reach its growth goal. The Chief News & Programming Officer will ensure that the programmes we produce are of a superior quality and relevant to our audience. The Chief Human Capital Officer will make sure that our staff will be passionate about their work, suitably qualified and motivated. And the Chief Commercial Officer will ensure that the NBC reaches its goal of tripling own income by 2015,” the Chairman of the NBC Board noted. The Chief Technology Officer’s main task will be to work towards the NBC’s overall purpose, namely that of becoming a leading multi-media public broadcaster of choice in Africa.

Although the current position of Chief Financial Officer is already filled on a 12 month contract basis, the board has decided that for the sake of transparency and fairness, this position will also be advertised.

The new structure differs significantly from the old structure, whereby nine General Managers were reporting directly to the Director General. These positions were as follows: General Manager Commercial Services, General Manager Marketing & Corporate Communications, General Manager Human Capital & Organisational Development, General Manager Finance & Administration, General Manager Project Planning & Strategy Execution, General Manager Engineering & IT, General Manager TV Services, General Manager Radio Services, as well as General Manager News & Current Affairs. All these General Managers can apply for the new positions together with all other applicants.

“There are enough jobs for everybody here,” the NBC’s Director General, Albertus Aochamub commented. “But not everybody will form part of EXCO. We will sit down on a one-on-one basis with those that are not successful in their applications for the new positions because it is also true that there are people with skills that are of great value to the corporation. If we believe that those persons have skills that we need, we will offer them something else but if they choose to leave we cannot also hold them back.”

Until the recruitment process is completed, the affairs of the corporation will continue as usual with reporting to be done in accordance with the old structure. “When we started the process of moving the corporation forward, we knew we would have to make tough decisions in the interest of Namibia,” Aochamub noted. “And whereas we will not always agree on all aspects of how things should be done, the interests of the organisation must always prevail above all other considerations. We expect media reports on leaks from NBC, name-calling, being ridiculed and vilified, but nobody said that building a credible organization would be a walk in the park. The Honeymoon is over and hard-work begins.”