

State House says report not correct

By Staff Reporter

State House has shot down allegations which appeared in a local weekly newspaper about President Hifikepunye Pohamba having ordered two Mercedes Benzes worth N\$10 million.

The story, which appeared in Informante on Thursday, alleged that President Pohamba ordered "two state of the art" Mercedes Benzes ahead of his "inauguration."

The report, quoting letters from State House and the Min-

istry of Works and Transport, said President Pohamba was "advised" against the purchase of new cars because the ones he is using was still in "good condition."

A press release issued by Dr. Ndeutala Angolo, Secretary to



Dr. Ndeutala Angolo

the President, said the allegations were incorrect, saying that

President Pohamba does not buy cars. One of the functions

of the Ministry of Works and Transport, was to provide transportation (road and air) to the government, she said.

The current Mercedes Benzes being used by President Pohamba was bought in 1990, and was 19 years old. She said that State House had a competent administrative staff which included security and protocol whose duties were to provide services to State House and the President.

"Such services include among

others provision of transport and security to the President as well as visiting Heads of State," she said. "Having critically looked at the condition of these vehicles, it was decided to replace them."

She said that as a procedure, State House approached the Ministry of Works and Transport for advice on the possible replacement of the vehicles which advise was received confirming State House's findings. The Ministry of Works and Transport invited quotations, but so far it has only received one from M&Z, which met the requirements.

"We want to make it clear that purchasing of vehicles is an administrative matter and the President was neither involved nor was he briefed on the plan to replace the vehicles," said Dr. Angolo in the media release.

"It is regrettable that Informant and its informers choose to tarnish the good name of the President through misinformation for reasons only known to them. We further wish to advise our national reporters that such reporting compromises the safety of our Head of and that of his visiting counterparts and as such will not be taken lightly."

Sources at the Ministry of Works and Transport said that a mole who belongs to the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, has deliberately leaked the documents to Informant and exaggerated the story. The price is not even N\$10 million.

"This person is damaging the image of the government," said one source. "He is busy implementing Jesaya Nyamu's notes. These people are not playing. They are busy destroying the government from within through misinformation, and we just look on. Until when will we tolerate such subversive activities?"

Nyamu wrote those notes in 2004 in which he called on people who had supported Hidipo Hamutenya in his presidential bid to "quit one by one" the "new government of Pohamba" and form a "rival party." He also called on those who remained behind "to weaken the new government of Pohamba from within."

Nyamu was expelled from SWAPO Party because of those subversive notes. Hamutenya also resigned from SWAPO Party in 2007 and ended up being President of RDP, a "rival" party Nyamu had anticipated in his notes.

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