

# Namibia Today

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## Sparks fly at NBC

DG comes out punching

Four general managers want court interdict to halt the process

By Asser Ntinda

The Director General of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, Albertus Aochamub, has come out in full support of the recently appointment of the NBC's Chief Financial Officer, Daun Jantje, saying that the public broadcaster's financial governance and management needed urgent attention if his team were to “stop the rot.”

Reacting to an Open Letter addressed to President Hifikepunye Pohamba, which appeared in Namibia Today last week, Aochamub said he got “permission” from the Board to provide a 12-month contract to “a suitable candidate” while they were “developing future plans.”

That “suitable candidate” turned out to be Jantje, and her CV was given to Aochamub by the Chairman of the NBC Board of Directors, Sven Thiemer. Jantje now earns over N\$700,000 per year from a cash strapped public broad-

### Stop Press

The NBC Director General, Albertus Aochamub, was given until yesterday, Thursday, by a law firm representing four NBC general managers to give the date on which the restructuring was approved and a copy of the resolution to that effect, as well as the dates, times and the period during which consultation and negotiation, if any as required in the Labour Act, took place. Sisa Namandje & Co Incorporated said that those particulars were requested for purposes of properly advising his clients.

“In the meantime, we hereby request you to provide us with an undertaking that until this matter is amicably resolved, the intended recruitment into the new positions will be stayed. Should we not receive the undertaking as requested on or before 10 March 2011, our instructions are to take such legal steps as may be necessary on an urgent basis,” said Lawyer Namandje in letter to Aochamub, dated March 8, 2011.

“Our instructions are that the restructuring and the declaration of our clients' positions as redundant was done contrary to the provisions and requirements of the Labour Act, in that you failed to undertake and carry out meaningful and fair negotiations between the company and our affected clients.”

caster, while other general managers earn N\$350 000 per year.

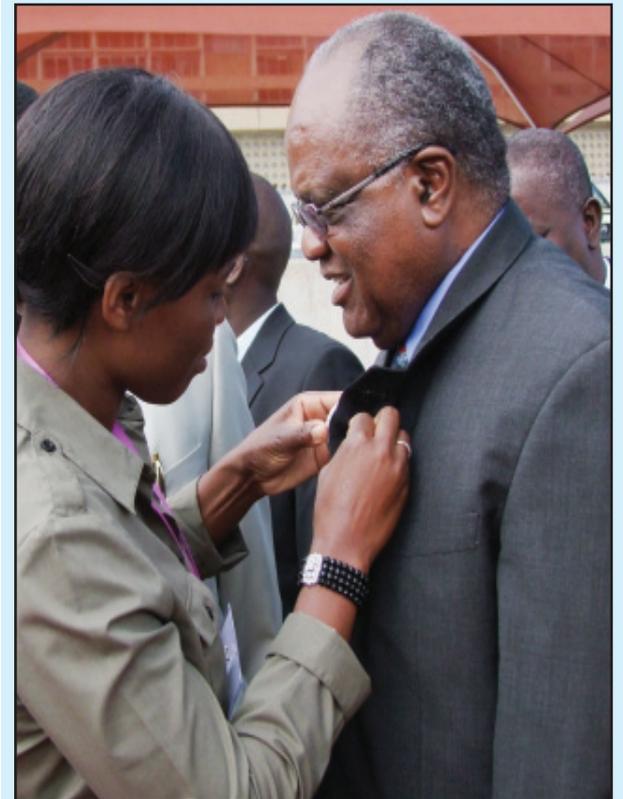
Jantje's appointment has risen eyebrows within and out-

side the NBC, and the matter may end up the High Court if the process is not resolved amicably. Aochamub said things were done procedurally, adding that he too gathered some CVs and but only “recommended” Daun to the Board “as the best candidate” for the job, with over 20 years post-qualification experience as a chartered accountant.

“The candidate is a Namibian woman with international experience of note and at a price tag of less than N\$1 million, we still believe that it is a steal,” said Aochamub in a letter, which is published verbatim on page 4 in this edition. “Her remuneration is further in line with the provisions of the State-owned Enterprises Governance Act.”

He said the current General Manager, Finance and Administration, Alpheus Gawaseb, was leaving on “voluntary early

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President Hifikepunye Pohamba arriving to launch the campaign. Photo by Levi Upula.

## ‘Let's save babies from being born HIV positive,’ says President

By Levi Upula

Namibia on Thursday launched its First Lady's national awareness creation campaign aimed at preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/Aids in the country, as part of the country's Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, PMTCT

This is part of its coordinated strategy aimed at achieving three key Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, which the World Health Organization, WHO, wants UN member states to achieve by 2015.

These three key MDGs are to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. HIV can be passed from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding.

The national campaign will cover a period of ten months and will seek to encourage male partners to get involved in antenatal care, and get access to PMTCT to reduce stigma, improve partner HIV testing, and increased uptake of anti-retroviral therapy and improve infant feeding.

The campaign was launched by President Hifikepunye Pohamba, and was attended by Prime Minister Nahas Angula,

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## ‘Change your mindsets, we are human beings’- San

By Asser Ntinda

Students from various marginalized San, Ovatu and Ovattjimba communities in various parts of the country have appealed to their Namibian colleagues to uphold the “One Namibia, One Nation” slogan and stop calling them derogative names for the sake of nation-building and one national identity.

Some of the students have excelled in their secondary education and are now studying at the University of Namibia, UNAM, International Univer-

sity of Namibia, IUM and other colleges in Windhoek, majoring in fields such as journalism, accounting, human resources, business administration and education.

Their studies are being paid for by the government through the Division San Development Programme under the Office of their Prime Minister, which has launched various development programmes to uplift the lives of those marginalized communities.

While some have excelled and reached university levels, others have failed and dropped

out at primary and secondary levels, and returned to their communities, back to where they came from, to pursue their ordinary lives they have lived for years.

The dropout trend has sent worrying signals to the Prime Minister's Office. On Wednesday this week, Deputy Prime Minister, Marko Hausiku, organized an interaction forum with such students to find out what their problems were and why some were doing well, while others were failing and drop-

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