Public broadcaster faces its worst financial mess. Salary bill tops N$8 million, up from N$5 million eight months ago

“I am as clean as a baby born yesterday” - DG

By Asser Ntinda

The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, has hit its worst financial crisis in years and, unless government pumps in millions of dollars, the NBC may just not be able to pay the salaries of its employees in about nine months.

Things have gotten so worse that some of the employees in the Corporation’s Finance Department are so scared by the current spending without looking at what is in the budget.

When the current Acting Director General, Matthew //Gowaseb, took over the NBC in the middle of last year, the NBC had 366 permanent employees whose salary bill stood at N$5 million annually.

Such overhead cost was the lowest in the history of NBC and was brought about by previous painful retrenchment and restructuring exercises, whose main aim was to cut cost. Such measures partially succeeded, until //Gowaseb got the job on acting at what is in the budget.

In that short period, NBC warned NBC Management and was awarded a contract to do a forensic report on NBC's hidden truths.

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“The facts you have are laughable,” he said during a short telephonic interview. “I am as clean as a baby born yesterday. Go ahead and write what you want to write. I know who is feeding you with such false facts. Everything has been done with the approval of the Board. You are trying to destroy me. Tomorrow it will be your turn. Go ahead.

Namibia Today is in possession of most of the documents substantiating and pointing to such irregular and unprocedural practices. Late last year, a local company was awarded a contract to do a one day presentation on how to draw up a “strategic plan.”

According sources at the NBC, the presentation was a landslide win. The Party has appealed to all its members in that Constituency who have not yet registered to do so and give SWAPO Party a landslide win. SWAPO Party held its first rally in Okahandja last weekend, which heralded in the start of...

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SOLIDARITY★FREEDOM★JUSTICE

Vol:11 NO 1  FRIDAY 22 - 28 Thursday January 2010  N$ 2,00

NBC’s hidden truths

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