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By Asser Ntinda

The three-day peaceful public picketing by staff members of the Polytechnic of Namibia might have ended on Thursday, but problems and allegations of corruption continue to bedevil Namibia's second highest institution of learning.



Staff members of the Polytechnic of Namibia in a peaceful demonstration in front of the Polytechnic. Photo by Levi Upula.

Staff members, joined by some students, have been petitioning the Polytechnic of Namibia for three days, asking the institution to recognize the Namibia Public Workers Union, NAPWU, as their sole bargaining unit.

But the Council and Management of the Polytechnic have stuck to their guns, alleging that no union had the majority required for it to be recognized as a "sole bargaining unit."

"The Polytechnic will not tolerate any form of victimization or anti-union activity, and will take the necessary action

against any union or employee breaking this rule," said Dr Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the Polytechnic.

Union activists hit back, saying that this was not true as staff members who had tried to promote trade union activism were victimized and shown the door by the Management of the Polytechnic, using un-procedural methods.

They said that once one was marked for promoting trade union activities, one's days at the institution were automatically numbered, and it would not be long before one was

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Blessing from God



Maria Haufiku and Isai Shimbuli were blessed with triplets, two boys and one girl, this week. Triplets are doing well and their names are Mesaha, Maria and Phillepus. The triplets have brought the size of the family to six children. The parents are unemployed and live in Golgota, 7651 Hawaii Street. They need any assistance to help them survive.

Thousands of people in food deficit crisis

By Staff Reporter

At least 106 297 people in the Caprivi Lowland Maize and Cattle zone, as well as the Southern Communal Small Stock zone, the Southern Freehold Small Stock zone and the Omaheke, Otjozondjupa Cattle Ranching zone will face a livelihood protection and will not be able to meet their livelihood protection thresholds to live in a sustainable way.

The livelihood basket is made up of essential items such as education, health and agricultural in-

puts such as seeds, fertilizer and ploughing. Another 42 100 people will face food deficits and will not be able to meet minimum food requirement over the next year. A total of 33 493 very people are found in the Caprivi Lowland Maize and Cattle Livelihood zone.

At least 8, 607 poor people without enough food are in the Southern Freehold Small Stock zone in large parts of the Hardap and Karas regions. These findings are contained in the Southern Africa Development Community, SADC's Regional Vul-

nerability Assessment and Analysis.

A vulnerability assessment started in 2008 with an initial national livelihood based vulnerability assessment and analysis. This was followed by a livelihood baseline assessment and analysis in the newly created rural livelihood zones in the country in regions such as Kunene, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Kavango, Caprivi, and in some parts of Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions.

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