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Where we came from

By Dr Sam Nujoma

Every Nation has a proud history. As Namibian youth, you should appreciate and develop keen interest in the history of our country. By so doing, you will be able to learn the painful journey that we have traveled as a nation over centuries until we have founded the free and independent Namibia.

This land of our forebearers; is the land of the brave. Namibians fought gallantry with vigour and determination to free ourselves from the bondage of colonial oppression and apartheid colonialism. The yoke of colonial oppression and subjugation verified our heroes and heroines and trampled upon our human dignity. The colonialists denied us our fundamental human rights to self determination and independence. It was for this reason that our forefathers and mothers rose to arms to resist and break the chains of colonialism, oppression and slavery.

The first stages of anti-colonial resistance was led by our national heroes and heroines who inspired thousands of Namibians to follow in their footsteps to overthrow the unjust colonial system of apartheid and restore the honour of our motherland, when we hoisted our flag of freedom on the 21st March 1990 and declared to the world that Namibia is free for ever.

I have therefore the honour to mention some of our heroes and



heroines namely, Captain Hendrik Witbooi, Jacob Marenga, Chief Kahimemwa Nguvauva, Chief Samwel Maharero, Chief Nehale Lja Mpingana, Chief Mandume ja Ndemufayo, Abraham

Morris, Simon Kooper, Chief Iipumbu ja Tshilongo and others. They fought the war of resistance against German colonialism and South African apartheid colonial occupation. They stood firm for the protection and defence of our motherland from European colonial invaders. Their mandate was taken over by Chief Hosea Kutako, Chief Samuel Witbooi and Reverend Theofelus Hamutumbangela who used the weapon of petitioning the United Nations (UN) to place the then Southwest Africa under the UN Trusteeship System with the clear purpose of assisting the Namibian people towards self-

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Founding President Sam Nujoma, above and below, with one of the members of the SWAPO Party Pioneer Movement at last weekend's lecture to the youth and pioneers. Photo by Asser Ntinda.

Govt upps sheep export ratio

Government has upped the export of sheep live stock by between 15 and 30 per cent of the transaction value of exported sheep, which will replace the existing quantitative restriction of one in six slaughter/export ratio.

A media release issued by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology on Thursday said that the government had also decided that the levy should initially be set at 15 per cent, depending on the trend of exports of live animals and the impact thereof, the rate either be lowered, maintained or adjusted upward.

"It is authorized that the levies collected be pooled in a special fund under the custody of the Meat Board, and that the fund resources be solely used for the development and promotion of the sheep industry," read the statement which was issued by Permanent Secretary, Beuta Ua Ndjarakana, of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

"It also authorized that the projects to be financed with the funds referred to above will be screened by the existing inter-institutional Export Levy Implementation and Monitoring Committee."

The Meat Board, under the supervision of the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, has been directed to implement the new levy scheme and ensure that appropriate tight control mechanisms are put in place and maintained to control exports of live sheep and to ensure compliance with the levy system.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, which deals with livestock matters, should in-

vestigate possible incentives for value addition in the meat industry as well as to address the price differences and submit viable incentive options for consideration by Cabinet.

This will be done in consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Trade and Industry. The three ministries, headed by the Ministry of Agriculture, have also been directed to conduct a comprehensive study on value addition in the whole value chain in the meat industry.

They have also been directed to investigate ways to ensure that the most vulnerable small scale producers of fat-tailed sheep are not unduly affected by the introduction of the duties and the measures decided upon.

The restrictive measures on the export of live sheep were introduced with the aim of promoting local slaughtering and processing of sheep. As a result, Cabinet granted approval for the replacement of the existing quantitative restriction of 6.1 local slaughter/export ratio with a flexible levy of between 15 to 30 per cent of the price paid to the producer of the sheep being exported.

The SWAPO Party Manifestos of 2004 and 2009 and the NDPIII place great emphasis on the importance of value addition to local materials for the development of local industries, job creation and poverty reduction in the country.

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