

APP-007090

**DECOMMISSIONING OF A BULK FUEL STORAGE
FACILITY, WINDHOEK
DECOMMISSIONING PLAN**



Assessed by:



Assessed for:



January 2026

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NEWS IN SHORT

GIFF's pension-backed home loan scheme kicks off

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIFF)-backed Home Loan Scheme (PBHLS) will become effective today. According to GIFF spokesperson Edwin Tjiramba, the scheme will allow active members to use a portion of their pension savings as collateral to purchase even, buy or improve existing homes, purchase new homes, or construct homes in both urban and rural areas. Tjiramba stressed that the facility will not be granted for the purpose of consolidating non-home loan debt. However, the scheme will allow members to transfer existing home loans financed by other financial institutions.

The PBHLS is currently available only to active members and members on disability. Active members may access up to 33.33% of their GIFF pension savings as pension credit, at interest rates set at the prevailing repo rate plus 2.5%. With the current repo rate at 6.5%, this brings the interest rate on the loans to 9%. The scheme will be administered by First Capital Treasury Solutions (FCTS) and Kuleni Financial Services (Pty) Ltd. Tjiramba urged members not to visit GIFF offices to apply for the loans.

- AUGETTO TIRAIG



GIFF spokesperson Edwin Tjiramba. PHOTO: GIFF

German travellers are advised to avoid walking in remote areas.

FRANCOISE STEYNBERG
WINDHOEK

Germany has issued an urgent travel warning against Namibia and several other countries, cautioning German tourists to be vigilant due to safety concerns and rising crime. Germany, Namibia's largest tourism source market, in 2026 follows closely in the footsteps of Canada, the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK), which issued similar warnings towards the end of last year.

The Namibian tourism sector has expressed concern about mounting challenges facing an industry that has only recently regained its footing following the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the chief executive officer of the Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN), Gitta Paetzold.

"It appears that numerous challenges lie ahead for Namibia's tourism industry: expensive airfares, rising prices, complaints about service delivery and infrastructure in national parks, and now the revision of travel warnings – the last routine step countries take once incidents involving tourists occur," Paetzold said last week Thursday. "But this affects the perception of a travel destination," she added.

These warnings have become an important consideration for travellers, particularly as security risks

• NAMIBIA URGED TO TAKE SITUATION SERIOUSLY

Germany warns tourists of rising crime in Namibia



WARNING: Germany's warning follows concerns over Namibia's security risks and rising crime. PHOTO: FILE

continue to rise in various countries. The situation is fluid, and travellers are encouraged to stay informed and take the necessary precautions while in the affected destinations.

According to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's (MEFT) 2024 tourism statistics report, 111 164 German tourists visited Namibia, making Germany the largest overseas source market, spokesperson Vilho Hangula confirmed. Paetzold said HAN statistics show that the German-speaking market (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) accounts for between 36% and 40% of bed occupancy.

Windhoek a hotspot

Germany's warning follows concerns over Namibia's security risks and rising crime. German authorities believe Namibia's political situation is currently stable, but note an

increase in crimes targeting tourists' belongings, particularly in the capital.

"In recent months there has been an increase in robberies, including violent attacks on travellers, often targeting tourists staying in remote areas and campsites. Windhoek has become a crime hotspot, with incidents peaking on Sundays and public holidays when fewer people are outside and moving around," German authorities warn.

Travellers have reported being followed from airports to accommodation establishments, where they are distracted and robbed.

"In addition, Namibia's more remote regions, such as isolated northern areas and rural tourist attractions, have seen an increase in violent crime and theft. There are also reports of fraud, with scammers targeting unsuspect-

ing visitors through fraudulent schemes, particularly at popular tourist destinations."

Security measures

German travellers are advised to avoid walking in remote areas and leaving valuables unattended. Security measures should be a top priority, especially when travelling in isolated regions.

Canada has likewise warned against robberies, burglaries and carjackings, with most incidents involving visitors reported in and around Windhoek. The warning also points to an increase in financial fraud targeting tourists, including credit card cloning at some hotels and lodges, as well as theft and distraction tactics at ATMs.

Paetzold cautioned that the travel warnings should be taken seriously by Namibia.

"Ideally, institutions such as the authorities – MEFT and the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) – should take a stance, because combating crime is a national responsibility, as are visa regulations and bilateral relations with other countries."

She said the private sector is working hard to market Namibia as a unique, safe and attractive destination.

"Hopefully MEFT will soon step in through the planned national spatial tourism development master plan to emphasise the need for an 'all-of-government' approach to create the right conditions and allow tourism potential to flourish," she said.

francoise@nmh.com.na

Dausab returns to Unam as executive dean

STAFF REPORTER
WINDHOEK

Former justice minister Yvonne Dausab has returned to the University of Namibia (Unam) as executive dean for the

faculty of law and economics, and management sciences.

Dausab previously served as deputy dean of the university's law faculty before leaving in 2015 to become chairperson of the Law

Reform and Development Commission (LRDC). In March 2020, she was appointed minister of justice, replacing the incarcerated Sacky Shanghala. A trained lawyer, Dausab exited cabinet in March 2025 after not making the Swapo list of parliamentarians the previous year.

BACK: Yvonne Dausab. PHOTO: FILE



STAND-OFF OVER DELAYED SWEARING-IN OF GOBABIS COUNCILLORS

ELIZABETH KHEIBES
WINDHOEK

A stand-off has emerged over the swearing-in of councillors from the A Right to Shelter Foundation of Namibia (A-RTS-N) in Gobabis, with the association accusing the Ministry of Urban and Regional Development and the local authority of deliberately delaying the process and denying it representation on the town council.

A-RTS-N secretary Wynand Lukas said the association complied with all legal and administrative requirements following the 26 November 2025 local authority elections, in which it secured three seats. To date, only one councillor has been sworn in, while two remain excluded as the council prepares to commence induction on 18 January 2026.

Lukas said the association initially requested a postponement of the swearing-in in December to resolve internal organisational matters, but stressed that this did not waive its constitutional or statutory rights.

"Despite all issues being resolved and our councillors ready to assume office, there appears to be a coordinated effort to prevent the swearing-in," he said, describing the situation as "bullying" against the association.



LOGGERHEADS: A-RTS-N secretary Wynand Lukas. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Minister's role disputed

The Gobabis Municipality, through chief executive officer Sophia Eises, informed A-RTS-N that the matter had been referred to Minister James Sankwasa for "further review and appropriate action," citing ministerial authority over councillor swearing-ins.

The association strongly rejected this. In a formal response copied to the ECN and Gobabis magistrate, A-RTS-N said the Local Authorities Act, 23 of 1992, does not give the minister discretion to delay the swearing-in of duly elected councillors once results are final.

The association cites Section 9 of the Act, which provides that councillors hold office from the date of election, subject to taking the oath. It argues any delay infringes on voters' constitutional rights under Article 17, which guarantees participation in governance.

"This denial prevents us from participating in council business and undermines the democratic choices of residents," Lukas said.

Withdrawal of sworn-in councillor
The situation is further complicated by the suspension and withdrawal of councillor Dina Fillemo, already sworn in. A-RTS-N suspended her from duty on 7 January pending disciplinary proceedings and formally withdrew her as its representative under Section 13(1)(g), intending to nominate another member.

The ECN has cautioned that candidate lists are final once polling occurs. In a letter dated 12 December 2025, Acting Chief Electoral Officer Advocate Heidi Jacobs noted amendments are only permitted before election day, and the ECN's mandate ends with result announcements.

Despite this, A-RTS-N maintains that swearing-in falls under the municipality and magistrate, not the minister. Lukas said the councillors will present themselves when council business resumes and await the oath.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING ASSESSMENT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PLAN FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING OF A
BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AND THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A BULK STORAGE
FACILITY FOR LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM
GAS, NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL AREA,
WINDHOEK

Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Vivo Energy Namibia (Pty) Ltd to undertake an environmental assessment for the decommissioning of a bulk fuel storage facility and the construction of a bulk storage facility for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), on erf 7997, Northern Industrial area, Windhoek. The Proponent intends to remove all infrastructure on erf 7997 associated with the bulk fuel storage facility and construct a new facility for the bulk handling and storage of LPG. The assessment is required to address the decommissioning and construction activities planned on the site in order to improve operational and safety standards.

Additional and location information pertaining to the erven and proposed operations can be obtained at:
<http://www.thenamib.com/projects/projects.html>

The environmental assessment will be conducted according to the Environmental Management Act of 2007 and its regulations as published in 2012.

Interested and affected parties are invited to register with the environmental consultant to be provided with the opportunity to share comments, issues or concerns related to the project, for consideration in the EA. Requests for additional information and comments and concerns should be submitted to Geo Pollution Technologies by 26 January 2026.

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WEER

BINNELAND: Gedeeltelik bewolk en warm tot baie warm, maar baie warm in die Suid. Wydverspreide donderbuie en reën is waarskynlik oor die binneland, behalwe vir die verre Suidweste. Windrige weer word oor die westelike en suidelike dele verwag.
KUS: Gedeeltelik bewolk en matig tot warm met ligte reën waarskynlik op plekke.
GETYE BY WALVISBAAI: H: 10H1 L: 17:01 H: 23:35

VOORUITSIGTE

WINDHOEK	18°	29°
RUNDU	20°	31°
OSHAKATI	20°	30°
GOBABIS	20°	31°
MARIENTAL	20°	38°
KEETMANSHOOP	32°	38°
WALVISBAAI	18°	23°
LUANDA	23°	28°
JOHANNESBURG	15°	26°
KAAPSTAD	15°	24°

Hommeltuie wemel

VAN BL. 1

Cilliers het gesê sy is besig om verklarings voor te berei om dit vandeesweek by die Namibiese polisie aan te meld.

Stokkiesdraai was een van die plase in die Suid wat die ergste onder die droogte deurgeeloo het en Cilliers kon ook nie haar perde in die buiteland verkoop toe entstowwe teen perdesiekte nie beskikbaar was nie. Boonop voersy ’n verbete stryd teen kanker.

In Julie en Augustus verlede jaar was boere van Helmeringhausen geteister deur hommeluie wat snags oor hul plase sonder hul toestemming vlieg.

Elize Cilliers

PLAASEIENAAR

"My dogter Lindie wat ook boer, moet nou snags buite spandeer om te waak oor ons wild en perde, want jy weet nie waarom hulle daar vlieg en of hulle wild wil stroop of perde wil steel nie."

Republikein het destyds oor die voorvalle berig en vir NCAA gevra of permissies vir die vlieg van hommeluie oor die omgewing gedoen is. Ashipala het toe gesê slegs as die name van die aansoekers verskaf word, kan dit op die databasis gesoek word. Republikein het ’n naam van ’n vroulike Namibiese mynboukonsultant wat na bewering aansoek vir ’n hommeluigepermis gedoen het, asook



Hommelbuie vlieg steeds volgens Suid-boere sonder hul toestemming oor hul plase.

FOTO TER ILLUSTRASIE FACEBOOK/DRONE NAMIBIA AERIAL & PHOTO

’n mynbou-eksplorasiemaatskappy, aan die NCAA verskaf om in die databasis in te voer, maar het na herhaalde navrae geen terugvoer ontvang nie. Ashipala het bevestig individue of entiteite wat hommeluie binne die Namibiese lugruim bedryf, moet operasionele goedkeuring van NCAA verkry in ooreenstemming met nasionale lugvaartregulasies. Dit sluit spesifieke gebruiksvoorwaardes, goedgekeurde operasionele gebiede en veiligheidsvereistes in. Daar is verskeie maatskappye wat toestemming van NCAA het om grootskaalse lug- en hommeluigopnames in Namibië te doen.

"Ongehoorlik is daar tans geen toegewyde stelsel in plek om ongemagtigde hommeluie wat in die Namibiese lugruim bedryf word, op te spoor, na te spoor en te identifiseer nie," het hy gesê.

Adelheid von Wielligh van die



Elize Cilliers met haar geliefde perde. FOTO FACEBOOK/ELIZE CILLIERS

Gemeenskapspolisiering Misdaadvoorkomingsforum het bevestig dat hommeluie weer erg bedryf is by die Swartstrand. "Die hommeluie hou net nie op nie en daar is geen terugvoer oor die inbreuk op privaatheid oor ons plase nie."

Die voorsitter van die Konkpie

Farmers Watch (KFW) en boer in die Helmeringhausen-omgewing, Malcolm Campbell, het Vrydag gesê die hommeluie vlieg nog steeds in hul omgewing.

'GEBIED VERGROOT DRASTIES'

"Dit het nou bietjie minder geraak

by ons, maar hulle kom nog voor. Die area van voorkoms het nou net drasties vergroot en word hulle meer gereeld op die Swartstrand na Gibeonse kant toe opgemerk, soos byvoorbeeld by Elize-hulle.

"Verder kom dit ook nou meer gereeld voor tot so ver as Rosh Pinah en Goageb, asook in die dieper Namib tot duskant die parkgrens."

Campbell sê die voorkoms van hommeluie by snags van omstreeks 21:30 tot 05:00.

"Dis groot hommeluie met lang battery-ure en word verskerf van af beheer, ver buite as die normale hommeluie se 7 km-radius se reikafstand."

Hy vermoed iemand groter as normale individue sit hieragter. "Die soort hommeluie is nie wat elke Jan Rap en sy maat kan bekostig en vlieg nie.

"Dit is moeilik om te glo dat die regering glad nie bewus is hiervan nie. Iemand wat al so lank onverstoor voortgaan met die hommeluie se vlieg oor so groot gebied en nie deur wetsoppassers al vasgetrap is nie, laat mens wonder. Ons regering weet al lankal van die hommeluie via mediaberigte."

Campbell voeg by "ons privaatheid is beslis nie meer ons privaatheid nie, lankal nie meer nie" en vra: "Is dit dalk die nuwe toekoms hoe landbou in Namibië deur wie en wat dopgehou gaan word?"

MELD AAN BY NCAA

Om die NCAA te help om patrone te identifiseer en vir die nodige opvolg, aksie en ondersoek te doen, word versoek dat enige verslae soveel as moontlik van die volgende inligting insluit:

- Datum en tyd van die voorval;
- Presiese ligging;
- Tipe of voorkoms van die hommeluie (grootte, kleur, klank, hoogte);
- Moontlike ligging van die operateur of enige individue wat die hommeluie beheer.

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Bedrogsaak

VAN BL. 1

Die hof het verder aangehoor dat die polisie later vasgestel het dat N\$80 000 van die beweerde bedrog in die bankrekening van Nakanduungile se driejarige kind betaal is. Gabriel het gesê die kind se ma het gewier om dit by die polisie aan te meld om die bron van die geld te verduldelik. Sy het aangedui dat sy dit slegs in die teenwoordigheid van haar prokureur, Petrus Smart Elago, wat ook vir Nakanduungile verteenwoordig, sou doen.

SKAKEL TUSSEN BEWEERDE BEDROG EN AANVAL

Volgens Gabriel het die beweerde bedrog ontstaan by Claudia, wat na bewering N\$200 000 in Nakanduungile se mediese praktyk belê het. Sy het glo haar mediese dokumente aan Mateus voorgelê, wat dit in ’n siekte-eis verander het voordat sy dit by Sanlam ingedien het.

Dit was tydens die verspreiding van die geld, het Gabriel getuig, dat die polisie vasgestel het dat die geld wat in Nakanduungile se rekening betaal is, alkomstig was van die beweerde bedrog. Die ondersoek-beampte het verder getuig dat Nakanduungile nou kontak met Mateus gehandhaaf het, met die twee wat na bewering na mekaar as ’n "brigade" verwys het.

Terwyl Gabriel ’n verklaring van Nakanduungile geneem het, het die doekter na bewering drie oproepe van Mateus ontvang, wat daarvan besluitig word dat hy die aanval op Shiwea vanuit polisie-aanhoudingselle beplan het.

Mateus het Nakanduungile na bewering gewaarsku om nie inligting oor die voertuig wat tydens die aanval gebruik is,



Dr. Fillemo (Fily) Nakanduungile by die Ondangwa-landdroshof. FOTO TUYEMO HAIJULA

bekend te maak nie. Gabriel het aan die hof gesê die oproepe is ontfang terwyl Nakanduungile in die teenwoordigheid van polisiebeamptes was.

PROKUREUR WAARSKU GLO

Die hof het ook gehoor dat kort ná die oproepe van Mateus, ’n prokureur gebaseer in die Noorde na bewering vir Nakanduungile gekontak het en hom aangeraai het om nie met ondersoekbeamptes saam te werk nie. "Die prokureur het die aansoek gebel en vir hom gesê: 'Moenie vir daardie dom Gabriel enigiets vertel nie. As daar enigiets is wat hulle wil hê, laat hulle jou arresteer sodat ons alles in die hof kan bespreek,'" het Gabriel getuig. Hy het getuig dat Johannes Nghilifavali (37), die vierde beskuldigde in die saak, in Windhoek in hegtenis geneem

is terwyl hy na bewering onder sy meisie se bed weggekruip het. Toe die meisie se huis daarna deursoek is, is ’n polisieposier glo ontdek wat die beskuldigde se verklaring, vals geld, gebruikte patrone en twee skerp koeëls bevat het.

SLAGOFFER SE TOESTAND

In ’n emosionele oomblik in die hof het Gabriel in tranes uitgebars terwyl hy Shiwea se verslegte toestand beskryf het en gesê het haar longe, lewer en niere is besig om te verswak. Aanklaers wat in die hof teenwoordig was, was ook emosioneel toe die toestand van hul kollega beskryf is.

Die borgtoegaansoek sal Woensdag voor landdros Lutaka Billy Mutwa voorduur, wanneer Elago na verwagting vir Gabriel onder kruisondervraging sal neem. Die staat word deur die adjunk-aanklaer-generaal van Oshakati Tangeni Ifitula verteenwoordig en deur die Ondangwa-beheeraanklaer Yeukal Kangira bygestaan.

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NEWS IN SHORT

Lightning kills one, hospitalises another

Two separate lightning strike incidents were reported on Friday at Kanyikama village in the Kavango West region. According to regional commander, police Commissioner Julia Sakuwa-Neo, the first incident occurred at about 15:00 when Immanuel Muyongo (21) was struck by lightning while herding cattle with his cousin, killing him instantly. The second incident happened around 16:00 in a different area of the same village, where a 26-year-old woman was struck by lightning while weeding in a maize field. She sustained severe burns and was admitted to Nankudu Hospital in a stable condition. - PHILLIPUS JOSEF

Walvis Bay coastal waters a dolphin hotspot

The coastal waters off Walvis Bay once again proved to be a hotspot for marine mammals in 2025. According to the Marine Eco Foundation Namibia, a total of around 3 720 dolphin sightings were recorded over the course of the year – a figure that highlights both the diversity of species and the effectiveness of ongoing research and conservation efforts. The largest share, with 2 157 sightings, were the rare Heaviside's dolphins. In addition, there were 1 130 sightings of bottlenose dolphins and 433 sightings of black dolphins. The numbers are based on systematic surveys as well as reports from researchers, volunteers and members of the public who shared their observations on the water. - CLAUDIA REITER



PHOTO: MARINE ECO FOUNDATION NAMIBIA

Overstay amnesty extended to 20 January

The home affairs and immigration ministry has extended its amnesty offer until 20 January for foreigners who have overstayed their permitted time in Namibia. The offer was initially valid from 15 December to 16 January. The ministry is urging overstayers to voluntarily approach the nearest immigration office or border post to avoid prosecution, arrest and fines. No further extension of the amnesty will be granted, executive director Nghidina Daniel said. Visitors are responsible for their own travel costs and must have valid travel or identity documents. - AUGUSTO GRAIG

• MONIKA SHEYA'S LONG ROAD THROUGH EXILE

From the frontline to detention

She crossed into exile aged 21 believing in the ideals of liberation.

ELIZABETH KHEIBES
WINDHOEK

Monika Ndina Sheya was 21 when she crossed into exile in 1974, slipping through a hole dug beneath the border fence at Ondjiva and into Angola with a small group of nurses, students and young men.

Like many of her generation, she believed she was answering a call to liberation. What followed, she says, was a descent from discipline and sacrifice into starvation, fear and silence – ending on a river island in Zambia where people were shot, starved and erased.

Her journey through exile took her across multiple camps – Karabo, Shatotwa, Senanga and finally Mboroma – tracing not only the brutality she says she witnessed, but also her own role as a nurse, trainer and frontline combatant before becoming a detainee.

Crossing into exile

After arriving in Angola, Sheya recalls being housed briefly in a school hall before groups were moved eastwards, first towards Zaire and then Zambia. Thousands travelled on foot for days, including pregnant women and children.

"We were thirsty. We were tired," she recalls. "We sold our clothes for boiled maize so we could eat."

From the Angola-Zaire border, the group crossed desert terrain. At the Zaire-Zambia border, the railway line ended. From there, they walked about 100 kilometres through bush and open land before crossing rivers by canoe.

"You could hear the hippos breathing at night," she says.

Once inside Zambia, they were taken to Karabo, a Swapo camp. There, recruits were ordered to surrender all their money, supposedly



EXILED: Monika Sheya. PHOTO: CORRI REUBEN

to be exchanged into local currency. Soon after, they were moved again – this time to Shatotwa.

Training in hardship

Shatotwa, she says, was a remote forest camp with little infrastructure.

"There was nothing," she recalls. "Just a forest, one green tent for the leaders and bags of maize meal."

Military training began almost immediately. Recruits marched long distances, dismantled and re-assembled weapons, and endured strict discipline. Food was scarce.

"We were fed maize meal in water. No salt. No sugar," she says.

Despite the conditions, Sheya advanced quickly. After three months, she became a trainer, instructing new arrivals in weapons maintenance. She also worked in the camp clinic, dispensing medication supplied from abroad.

She was later selected for specialised training in Kongwa, Tanzania, where conditions improved.

"It was hard work, but we were well fed," she says.

At the frontline

After about a year, Sheya was sent back to Zambia. One day, she was

abruptly ordered to pack her military and first-aid bags.

"I didn't ask where I was going," she says. "You don't ask questions."

She and another woman were transported by armoured truck to a frontline position near the river at Katima Mulilo. Living in a small camouflage tent without fires or light, they survived on rations.

"I was one of the first two women at the Katima Mulilo frontline," she says.

She remained there for nearly nine months and took part in three engagements against South African forces, tending to wounded soldiers under fire. One young man, she recalls, shot himself. She handled his body until it was removed.

At night, danger came from all sides.

"You could hear breathing outside your ribs while you slept," she says.

Withdrawal and disarmament

When Swapo's founding president visited the frontline by helicopter, Sheya asked why women had to be deployed there.

"If I die here, there are children who will never be born," she says.

She says the question went unanswered.

Soon after, ammunition ran out. Fighters survived by hiding and retreating through the bush. The unit was eventually withdrawn to Senanga, an island base plagued by mosquitoes and malaria. Medication was scarce.

Later, they were transferred to a central base near Shatotwa and disarmed.

"All the guns were taken away," she says. "We became nobody."

Detention at Mboroma

While fetching medication one day, Sheya narrowly escaped a South African bombing. That night, the camp was evacuated. She was told they were going to Lusaka.

They were not.

The journey ended at Mboroma, an isolated island camp guarded by

Zambian soldiers.

"I later learned it had been used as a detention camp," she says. "A concentration camp."

By the time she arrived, she estimates nearly 1 850 people were detained there.

Killings and starvation

On 5 August 1976, gunfire erupted. She remembers hiding near the latrine and watching as men were executed.

"All of them were shot in the head," she says.

At least 15 people were seriously injured. She was ordered to help collect the wounded. Later, she says, a Zambian commander told detainees the killings had been ordered.

Starvation was already widespread.

"We were deliberately starved," she says. "People dropped dead in the queue."

Smuggling the truth

While transporting bodies under guard, a young soldier gave her two postage stamps. She used them to smuggle a letter to the outside world, hiding it in her sanitary pads.

"I know it reached the BBC," she says.

When camp authorities demanded to know who had leaked the information, Sheya admitted responsibility.

"I was beaten almost to death," she says.

Eventually, detainees were given a choice: return to Swapo structures or leave as refugees under the United Nations. About 200, including Sheya, chose refugee status.

A call for truth

Nearly 50 years on, Sheya says she is not seeking revenge, only truth and recognition.

"What happened to the bodies I carried?" she asks.

"We were comrades," she says. "We were not spies. And we deserve the truth."

PARENTS ALARMED BY CONDITIONS AT KHORIXAS SCHOOL HOSTEL

AURELIA AFRIKANER
WINDHOEK

Parents of children enrolled at a Khorixas hostel have voiced deep disappointment and concern over deteriorating conditions at the Cornelius Goresb High School hostel. The parents told Namibian Sun the situation has remained unresolved for more than a year despite repeated complaints. According to claims from sources, the second hostel block designated for female learners is allegedly occupied by teachers and hostel workers as well as individuals who are not employed by the education ministry. According to a source who requested anonymity, some of these occupants are alleged to live in the hostel free of charge, further limiting space intended for learners. Parents expressed frustration that they

are often told the hostel is full, while accommodation designated for girls is being used for other purposes. The hostel block housing the girls is also in poor condition, the source said. Safety concerns were also raised, with parents alarmed that a male teacher living near the girls' block is alleged to bring friends onto the hostel premises. "They always tell us the hostel is full, but it will obviously be full if workers occupy the space meant for the girls. This is not safe for our children," said a parent who requested anonymity. Further concerns were raised after a voice note reportedly circulated in a

local Khorixas group, noting the urgent need for repairs and describing the hostel as untidy, with broken windows and worn-out floors.

A mother who recently dropped off her daughter said there is a serious shortage of mattresses, while lockers are in such poor condition that should be replaced.

Ministry acknowledges problem

Responding to the concerns, the director of education in the Kunene region, Sofia Fredericks, told Namibian Sun her office is aware of the situation. "Cornelius Goresb hostel is not the only dilapidated hostel in the region," she said.

"There are several hostels in this condition, but we do have plans to renovate."

Fredericks added that three hostels in Outjo have already been renovated and that a broader renovation and development plan is in place, though limited resources mean the work cannot be done all at once.

Despite these assurances, parents say the conditions remain unacceptable and that the safety

and dignity of learners should be prioritised

without further delay. aurelia@nmh-hub.com.na

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WEER

BINNELAND: Mooiweer en baie warm in die Suid en Weste. Elders gedeeltelik bewolk en warm tot baie warm met enkele tot geïsoleerde donderbuie in die Noordooste.

KUS: Gedeeltelik bewolk en matig tot warm, maar mooiweer en windrig in die Suid.

GETYE BY WALVISBAAI: H: 03:47 L: 09:50 H: 16:02

VOORUITSIGTE

WINDHOEK	17°	33°
RUNDU	19°	34°
OSHKATI	19°	34°
GOBABI	19°	34°
MARIENTAL	20°	36°
KEETMANSHOOP	19°	36°
WALVISBAAI	16°	25°
LUANDA	23°	29°
JOHANNESBURG	15°	27°
KAAPSTAD	13°	23°

Graad 11's

NSFAF-REÛLS BLY BASIS VIR 2026

Die ministerie het verduidelik dat vir 2026 befondsingsgeskiktheid steeds bepaal sal word deur die bestaande NSFAF-verreistes te gebruik, ten spyte van die bekendstelling van nuwe minimumstandaarde vir hoër onderwys.

"Vir die akademiese jaar 2026 sal die vereistes van die Finansiële Hulpfondse vir Namibiese Studente die basis bly vir die bepaling van befondsingsgeskiktheid."

"Dit het beklamtoed dat toelating tot 'n tersiere instelling nie outomaties befondsing waarborg nie.

"Toelating tot 'n tersiere instelling waarborg nie outomaties befondsing nie, maar befondsingsbesluite sal gelei word deur die bestaande deursigtige vereistes," het amptenare gesê.

Die ministerie het ook aangekondig dat die huishoudelike inkomstetempel vir nie-onderrigdoelendes tot N\$300 000 verhoog is, wat toegang tot lewenskosteesteen uitbrei.

GEMARGINALISEERDE GEMEENSKAPPE

Amptenare het die regering se verbintenis tot inklusiwiteit herbevestig, veral vir historiese gemarginaliseerde gemeenskappe.

"Die ministerie bly bewus van die historiese uitdagings en opvoedkundige hindernisse waarmee historiese gemarginaliseerde gemeenskappe, insluitend die Ovattue, Ovahimba en die San, te kampe het," is by die mediakonferensie gesê.

Geteikende administratiewe ondersteuningsmaatreëls sal steeds toeges word om hierdie groepe in staat te stel om op 'n billike basis toegang tot tersiere onderwys te verkry.

NAGRAADSE STUDIES

In reaksie op kommer van studente-leiers oor honneursgrade en Vlak

8-kwalifikasies, het die ministerie bevestig dat Vlak 8-studies wat deel vorm van 'n primêre voorgraadse kwalifikasie, befonds sal word.

"Ons wil jou verseker dat dit op hierdie stadium nie as 'n nagraadse kwalifikasie beskou word nie. Daarom sê ons voltoeërs jou primêre graad," het amptenare gesê.

Nuwe nagraadse studies sal egter nie in 2026 befonds word nie.

"Wanneer jy vir meesters- en PhD-grade gaan, sê ons dat ons daaraan werk, maar nie nou in die nabye toekoms nie," terwyl die ministerie bevestig het dat bestaande nagraadse NSFAF-kontrakte sal voortduur.

NSFAF se uitvoerende hoof vir finansies, Vetumbuavi Urinavi, wat instaan vir waarnemende uitvoerende hoof, Kennedy Kandume, het bevestig dat vlak 8-kwalifikasies as voorgraadse vir befondsingsdoelendes behandel word.

"Dit word as deel van die voorgraadse kursus beskou. Dit is dus ook deel van die befondsing," het Urinavi gesê.

"Ons is in 'n oorgangsfase en vir

die 2026 akademiese jaar sal ons die bestaande befondsingsvereiste toepas, terwyl ons die implementeringspad na 2026 ondersoek."

UNAM VERWERP GRAAD 11

Die Universiteit van Namibië (Unam) se woordvoerder, Simon Namesho, het gesê die instelling moedig leerlinge aan om hoërskoolonderrig te voltooi, maar erken alternatiewe roetes.

"Ons sterkste punt is om te sê dat ons graad 11-leerlinge aanmoedig om na graad 12 te vorder," het hy gesê, terwyl hy aangedui het dat gereedheids- en oorbrenningsprogramme bestaan.

Unam-direkteur Maggy Beukes-Amis het 'n beroep op stelselwys samewerking gedoen: "Ons moet saamwerk om gehaltestandaarde vir hierdie nasie te handhaaf. Ons wil hê ons kinders moet wêreldwyd meeding," het sy gesê.

Tsumis-Garises het argumente verwerp dat gewone kwalifikasies akademiese gehalte ondermyn en teenstrydigheid in streke in Suider-

Afrika uitgewys.

"IGCSE-kandidate van Botswana kom in Unam in. Leerlinge op gewone vlak van Zimbabwe en Zambië word toegelaat, maar ons laat nie Namibiese leerlinge op gewone vlak toe nie," het sy gesê. "Hou asseblief op om oor graad 11 en graad 12 te praat. Dan ken jy nie jou stelsel nie en maak voorsiening vir ons kinders," het sy bygevoeg.

Steenkamp het die betrokkenheid verwelkom en gesê die inligtingsessie was daarop gemik om duidelikhed te gee en openbare vertroue te herstel. "Dit is regtig belangrik dat ons nie op tersiere vlak oor graad 11 of graad 12 praat nie. Ons verwyf na die sertifisering. Hierdie vergadering is in goeder trou gehou. Dit is om te onderrig, in lig van duidelikhed te skep, begrip en konsensus te bou," het sy bygevoeg.

Die ministerie het die media versoek om te help met die verspreiding van akkurate inligting soos NSFAF-registrasies later vandaans maak open.

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RIVIERSTRAAT IN OLYMPIA



Nee, daar was nie gister 'n donderbui in die Olympia-woonbuurt in die hoofstad nie, maar die water het soos 'n rivier gestroom nadat 'n waterpyp gister omstreeks 07:00 gebars het. FOTO'S TONY EDMUNDS



Flugtelinge

die VN en leiers van die vergadering bygewoon om die bewerings te bespreek en 'n pad na oplossing te ondersoek.

Die groep het volgehou die finansiële steun wat na bewering tydens die geskiedkundige repatriasie belowe is, of wabestuur of nooit gelewer is nie.

Hulle beweer verder herhaaldelik verduidelikings van Swapo en die VN is onvoldoende sonder toegang tot amptelike rekords wat toon hoe die fondse hanteer is.

Sommige van die voormalige vlugtelinge het gister steeds buite Swapo se hoofkantoor gekamp, ten spyte daarvan dat hulle meegedeel is dat die saak gesluit is en dat geen fondse beskikbaar was nie.

'GEEN BEWYS'

Swapo se sekretaris-generaal, Sophia Shaningwa, het gesê 'n deeglike hersiening van die party se rekords, insluitend dié van die ampstermyn van haar voorgangers, het geen bewyse gevind dat fondse wat vir die terugkerendes bedoel is, deur die party ontvang, teruggehou of misbruik is nie.

"Ons party hou omvattende lêers van alle inkomste en uitgawes," het Shaningwa gesê. "Nadat ons hierdie rekords hersien het, het ons geen interne bewyse gevind wat die bewerings wat deur die betogers geopper is, ondersteun nie."

Sy het gesê die VN is na die vergadering genooi om deursigtigheid en billikheid te verseker,

veral met betrekking tot die bewerings dat Swapo skenkerfondse tydens die repatriasieproses wanbestuur het.

Shaningwa het gesê die betrokkenheid was bedoel om geskiedkundige konteks, deursigtigheid en afsluiting te bied en het die party se verbintenis tot diene wat tot Namibië se bevryding bygedra het, herhaal.

"Swapo bly daartoe verbind om die waardigheid van veterane van die bevrydingstryd te eerbiedig en geskiedkundige sake aan te spreek op 'n manier wat die waardigheid van diene wat vir ons onafhanklikheid geveg het, handhaaf."

In 2017 het die voormalige minister van inligting, Tjekero Tweya, gesê Namibië het nie met onafhanklikwording geld van die VN ontvang vir die herintegrasie van Namibiese vlugtelinge en dié in ballingskap nie.

"Die posisie van die VN is duidelik: Daar is geen fondse om te eis nie. Daar is geen voordele of geld wat aan Namibiese terugkerendes betaal moes gewees het in die konteks van die implementering van Resolusie 435 nie," het Tweya destyds gesê.

Hy het bygevoeg dat die VN se Hoëkommissariaat vir Vlughtelinge (UNHCR) tot die gevolgtrekking gekom het dat geen fondse wat vir die Namibiese 1989-repatriasie opsy gesit is, deur die agentskap misbruik of

behou is nie.

UNHCR

Namens die VN het die UNHCR se verteenwoordiger vir Suider-Afrika, Kavita Belani, herbevestig dat alle bystand wat tydens die 1989-repatriasie verskaf is, vrywillig was, volledig verantwoordbaar was en amptelik gesluit was. Sy het gesê dat enige onbestede skenkerfondse in ooreenstemming met standaard-finansiële prosedures na die VN-hoofkantoor terugbesorg is.

"Die VN se rol was beperk tot die fasilitering van die veilige terugkeer van vlugtelinge en die verskaffing van basiese ondersteuning vir herintegrasie," het Belani gesê en bygevoeg: "Verantwoordelikhed vir langtermyn-rehabilitasie en hervestiging berus by die Namibiese regering."

Sy het verder beklamtoed dat die VN die afgelope paar jaar konsekwent dokumentasie gedeel, op kommer gereageer en met regeringsowerhede gekoördineer het om enige uitstaande vrae op te klaar.

Die VN het gesê dat hulle by verskeie geleenthede met verteenwoordigers van die voormalige vlugtelinge vanaf 2017 en tot Februarie 2025 gesels het.

Tydens 'n vergadering in Maart 2021 het die groep na bewering

konsensus met die VN bereik dat die organisasie se mandaat vervul is en dat verdere betrokkenheid by nasionale owerhede nagestreef moet word.

Ten spyte hiervan, dring die Voormalige Vlughtelinge Repatriasievereniging van Namibië daarop aan dat die VN na bewering nie rekenskap gegee het van N\$21,7 miljoen wat hulle sê bedoel was vir die herintegrasie van Namibiese terugkerendes nie.

Aina Angula het Saterdag namens die betogers gesê die groep is nie oortuig nie en soek steeds duidelikhed oor die beweerde ondersteuning wat ten tyde van hul terugkeer belowe is.

Sy het beweer dat hoewel korrespondensie, verslae en rekords tussen die VN, Swapo, die Raad van Kerke van Namibië en ander owerhede bestaan, die vlugtelinge nog nooit 'n finale, amptelike bevestiging ontvang het wat die probleem oplos nie.

Angula het gesê hulle eis al vir ten minste drie tot vier jaar antwoord, met protesoptogte wat sedert middel-2022 toegeneem het.

Sy het gesê betogers het voorheen "geen geld, geen stem"-protesoptogte gehou en dat talle 36 jaar nadat hulle na Namibië terugkeer het, steeds op antwoord wag.

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