

Speaker wants genocide day finalised

■ Kuzeeko Tjitemisa

Speaker of the National Assembly Peter Katjavivi has called on members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs to prioritise and finalise important matters related to the realisation of National Genocide Remembrance Day.

There have been calls by the affected communities for government to declare a remembrance day in honour of the thousands of Namibians who perished in the German-sanctioned genocide at the turn of the 20th century.

“We are currently reviewing proposed dates for an annual commemoration of the genocide

that took place in Namibia during the German colonial period. We encourage the members of the relevant parliamentary standing committee to finalise this important matter as soon as possible,” Katjavivi said in a statement last week.

Katjavivi said this when he joined the rest of the world in commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which honours those who died in the Holocaust during the Second World War.

The Holocaust was the genocide of the European Jews. Between 1941 and 1945, across German-occupied Europe, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews, around two-thirds of Europe’s



Move fast... Speaker of the National Assembly Peter Katjavivi.

Photo: Nampa

Jewish population.

The call for a National Genocide

Remembrance Day late last year came to the fore after Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) leader McHenry Venaani wrote to President Hage Geingob requesting clarity on the finalisation of the promulgation of the day.

Home affairs minister Frans Kapofi late last year told *New Era* his ministry would soon submit to Cabinet the final draft of the promulgation of a genocide remembrance day for a final decision. Then Swanu parliamentarian Usutuaije Maamberua in 2016 tabled a motion for the government to recognise a genocide remembrance day annually. At the time, Maamberua said the purpose of the motion was for parliament to discuss, debate, and

through a standing committee of parliament, consult the affected communities and relevant authorities to determine and bring about the enactment or declaration of the memorial day.

Maamberua proposed that 28 May should be declared National Genocide Remembrance Day, as it was on that day that the official and formal closure to the Ovaherero and Nama genocide episode was reached when all concentration camps in Namibia were ordered to close in 1908.

However, this was countered by Venaani, the Ovaherero Traditional Authority and the Affirmative Repositioning (AR) Movement, which proposed 2 October for the memorial day.

– ktjitemisa@nepc.com.na

LPM rubbishes ‘southern party’ tag



For all... The Landless People’s Movement says it is a party for all Namibians. Photo: File

■ Kuzeeko Tjitemisa

The Landless People’s Movement (LPM) has rejected claims that it is predominantly a party of the south, describing such perception as unfounded, ‘frivolous’ and without factual basis.

“We are a party for all Namibians. Anyone that has been following us for the past four years knows what issues we have advanced. Anyone that has listened to parliamentary debates knows the issues we have advanced,” said LPM operative secretary Edson Isaaks.

Isaaks said the party has managed to win seats on local authorities throughout the country such as in Okakarara, Khorixas, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and in the capital, Windhoek.

“We have demonstrated that we are a party for all Namibians regardless of race, sex, origin,” said the soft-spoken Isaaks whose position is equivalent to that of secretary general.

LPM made history when it won seven out of eight seats on the Hardap Regional Council as well as winning control of most local authorities in the //Kharas region.

Hardap was previously dominated by the ruling Swapo that could only manage to retain Rehoboth Urban East constituency.

Isaaks, who is also a member of parliament, said his party’s success is attributed to the relentless pursuit of justice, equity and truth by the movement.

“We have also worked hard

to groom youthful leaders in the movement that were able to galvanize the electorate,” he said.

“For example, the chairperson of the management committee of the Keetmanshoop municipality Easter Isaak is a youthful leader who has been groomed and now serves the community in a key position in the council,” he explained, adding that the party’s performance is the cumulative effort of four years of diligent work.

He also shot down claims that he was ‘wheelbarrowed’ into the position because of his long-term friendship with party leader leader Bernadus Swartbooi.

“I was never wheelbarrowed into any position. We have campaigned and fought for the poor, landless and destitute Namibians, even when we as a movement didn’t have any finances. We have worked extremely hard to build this organization on a solid foundation of integrity and tenacity,” said Isaaks who is a former teacher.

He said he made a humble contribution to the birth, growth and formation of the party.

“During the initial phase we worked extremely hard to build a strong support base. I was instrumental in organizing community engagements. We furthermore had consultative meetings, called smart talks, where we invited land experts, lawyers and various academics to discuss the burning land question, with a view to influence public policy,” he said.

– ktjitemisa@nepc.com.na

Ongwediva ramps up fire response

■ Nuusita Ashipala

ONGWEDIVA – In its quest to improve fire response at the town, the Ongwediva Town Council is in the process of constructing sleeping quarters and a guard’s room valued at N\$1.5 million.

Spokesperson for the council Jackson Muma said the council seeks to improve the response time from the current 12 minutes to at least five minutes during non-working hours, weekends and public holidays. Although during working days the team is stationed at the fire station and can respond to incidents timeously.

However, there is a delay when they knock off as they have to be picked up from their residences to attend to emergencies.

“The sleeping quarters will enable the team to respond to emergencies from the fire station on a 24h00 basis. It will also help us to respond to emergencies with an improved time,” said Muma.

The project, which commenced in November last year, is envisaged to be completed in March this year.

Muma said the sleeping quarters will also ensure that the council has eight personnel on standby for 24 hours.

Muma said the council deemed the project necessary as the town infrastructure has grown and the new development will ensure that the council protects the town’s development at all times.

At the moment, the council responds to on

average five incidents in a week depending on the season.

Altogether, the council last year responded to 250 fire incidences.

So far this year, only one incident has been recorded.

Muma said fire incidents are more prone during the dry season as more people tend to engage in deliberate arson within the town.

The first phase of the fire station was constructed in the 2015/16 financial year.

The second was completed during the 2016/2017 financial year.

– nashipala@nepc.com.na



Upgraded... The Ongwediva fire station.

Photo: Nuusita Ashipala

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) INVITATION FOR AFFECTED AND INTERESTED PARTIES

This notice serve to inform all Interested and Affected Parties that an application for the Environmental Clearance Certificate will be made to the Environmental Commissioner as per the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and the Government Notice No. 30 of 2012 (EIA Regulations) for the following activities:

PROJECT NAME: EIA PROCESS FOR MINING AND OPERATION OF THE DREAMLAND MARBLE STONES MINE 7 KM SOUTH OF KARIBIB, ERONGO REGION.

Proponent: Dreamland Investment cc

Environmental Consultants: Namland Consultants cc

Public Participation forms an integral part of the EIA process. Therefore, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register. All registered I &APs will receive a Background Information Document (BID) describing the processed activity and the EIA processed to be followed.

To register or to submit your contributions, please contact:

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INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING:
VENUE: Karibib Municipal Hall, Erongo Region
DATE: 20 February 2021
TIME: 10:00 AM
PURPOSE: PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



PUBLIC NOTICE: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES & INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETINGS

In accordance with the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and its regulation, notice is hereby given to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to the Environmental Commissioner for environmental clearance as follows:

Project: Exploration Activities for Dimension Stones on EPL 7728
Affected Farms: Etusis No 75 and Kubas No. 77.
Proponent: Tipton Investment Pty Ltd
Location: Karibib District, Erongo Region
Public Meeting Date: 11th February 2021
Venue: Karibib Community Town Hall
Time: 10H00-12H00
Deadline for submission of comments: 24th February 2021
Register as I&Aps @: redunes18@gmail.com or Call +264 81 147 7889

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC, only 50 people will be allowed to attend. The meeting will be conducted under the guidelines of COVID-19 by observing social distancing, wearing of face masks and sanitising.