

Brothers remanded for human trafficking, child labour



Accused... The two accused brothers Vaatakana and Tjpirandi Tjindunda are accused of human trafficking and child labour.

Photo: John Muyamba

■ John Muyamba

RUNDU - Two brothers, who were arrested on Tuesday at Nepara village on charges of trafficking in persons and contravention of the Labour Act, were denied bail due to the seriousness of the case

against them.

The accused, Vaatakana Tjindunda (45) and Tjpirandi Tjindunda (63) appeared in the Kahenge Magistrate's Court yesterday for allegedly employing two children under the age of 15

as cattle herders.

The court felt it is in the best interest of justice not to grant them bail.

Their case was postponed to 13 June 2022, pending investigations and plea. The court explained to

them their rights to formal bail application if they wish to be released.

According to the police, the two children boarded the accused's vehicle from Kunene region hoping to be dropped off somewhere in Omusati, but the accused allegedly instead took them to Kavango West in an isolated environment where they were forced to herd cattle.

"They were brought to Nepara village [in Kavango West's Mpungu constituency] without their consent where they were tasked to look after their livestock without shelter where they can sleep. The children were taken by the police and placed at a home of safety in Kavango East region at the moment," said Inspector Raimbert Muronga of the Kavango West police on Tuesday.

Both the accused are from

Opuwo in the Kunene region and they have been farming with livestock in Kavango West for the past few years.

One of the accused is a teacher while the brother is a pensioner in charge of the children taking care of the livestock.

"As the police, we are warning all residents in Kavango West region to cease the practice of employing children under the age as prescribed by the Labour Law and we call on residents to report such incidents without delays," Muronga said.

"Kavango West region is known for its fertile land and vast grazing for livestock and therefore expect more incidents of this nature to be in existence. We call on citizens to report to the nearest police, hospital or traditional leaders for police attention."

//Kharas council hearing set for June

■ Maria Amakali

The chief magistrate, an Electoral Commission of Namibia's regional coordinator and the minister of urban and rural development are in for a long wait after the High Court scheduled to hear their matter in June.

Judge Harald Geier indicated the court would be available on 8 June to hear why chief magistrate Philanda Christiaan, ECN's Augustinus Ucham and rural development minister Erastus Utoni want the court to review, set aside and correct the election of the //Kharas Regional Council's management committee when Joseph Isaacks, chairperson of the //Kharas Regional Council, says the application is based on hearsay.

Geier ordered the parties to file their heads of argument on or before 23 May.

Christiaan, Ucham and Utoni approached the court seeking for an order setting aside the



In limbo... The //Kharas regional councillors with governor Aletha Frederick. Photo: Contributed

elections of the management committee and National Council members of the //Kharas Regional Council held on 2 December 2020, and have the processes start afresh.

According to court papers, Christiaan, claims she discovered on 9 April 2021 that there had been irregularities with the election of the region's

leadership.

It is her argument that in terms of the law, management committee members should be elected before the management committee can discuss other businesses.

According to her, magistrate Unchen Konjore, who presided over the elections, should have indicated that no other

business could take place in the absence of a fully constituted management committee.

In addition, the said meeting at which Gerrit Witbooi and Anseline Beukes were elected as members of the management committee was not attended by the three Swapo councillors. Christiaan further explained the "Regional Councils' Act

prohibits a management committee member from also serving in the National Council".

In light of this, the elections of the National Council members amount to a nullity, said Christiaan.

Witbooi and Beukes were subsequently removed as members of the National Council and the two positions for representatives from //Kharas in the NC are now vacant. Isaacks, alongside the Landless People's Movement and council members Witbooi and Goeieman are opposing the application.

According to Isaacks, Christiaan has no personal knowledge of what transpired during the elections.

He argued Christiaan should have directed the review application, firstly as the chairperson of the //Kharas Regional Council, for any remedy sought and she is not the right person to lodge the application.

Thus, the application should be dismissed with cost, said Isaacks.

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Right place at the right time



Harvest time... Tobias Hainyeko constituency councillor Christopher Likuwa harvesting wild spinach at Stinkwater in the Windhoek Rural constituency yesterday. The spinach grew there as a result of the good rainfall received in the area in recent weeks. Khomas regional councillors were conducting a familiarisation tour to regional council developmental projects across various constituencies of the region.

Photo: Loide Jason

NOTICE

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)
CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A FUEL
DEPOT AND TRUCK PORT FACILITY IN THE
ZAMBEZI REGION**

INVITATION TO A PUBLIC MEETING

Tortoise Environmental Consultants (TEC) hereby notifies all interested and affected parties (I&APs) that an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate will be submitted to the Environmental Commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007) and EIA Regulations (GN 30 of 2012) as follows:

Project Name: Construction and Operation of a Fuel Depot and Truck port Facility
Proponent: Erongo Petroleum CC
Project Location: Wenela Border Post, Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region

Public Meeting Date: Friday, 18 February 2022
Venue: K & N Restaurant and Conference Centre
Time: 11H00
Deadline for submission of comments: 01 March 2022

To register, please submit your details to TEC at:
 Tel: 081 3329816
 Email: shipanih@gmail.com

Tortoise
Environmental
Consultants (TEC)



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
CONSULTING SERVICES**

Gender transformative training and capacity development to support Small-Scale Fisheries Organisations (SSF); to develop the small-scale fisheries value chain; and to improve post-harvest losses in the Small-Scale Fisheries sector.

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit this link to access the Scope of Work: <https://bit.ly/34JjaFA>
 Send your application to FAO-NA@fao.org

Closure Date: Friday, 04 March 2022 at 12pm