

# DIE WERKER

Namibia se werkers nuusblad

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## MUCH WISER S.A. WORKING CLASS BLAZE THE WAY FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA



Workers in Central Johannesburg marching for the right to strike.

A South African report

SAFTU's general strike on Wednesday was a serious warning to the government and the capitalist class. It was part of a sharp intensification of industrial action by workers in big sectors of the economy. The attacks on the working class are preparing a backlash and an upsurge of the class struggle.

The increasing radicalisation of the working class was shown on Wednesday when the 800,000-strong trade union

federation **embarked on its first national strike** since it was formed, exactly one year ago. The strike hit all sectors of the economy and disrupted public transport severely. Some sectors like manufacturing, where NUMSA is particularly well-organised, were shut down. It was organised in the big cities and brought the main economic centres to a standstill.

### A historic strike

Workers were protesting against some of the biggest attacks against the labour movement in decades. These

include proposed amendments to labour laws, currently before parliament, which seek to severely curtail the right to strike by introducing secret balloting by unions; introducing technical and procedural measures that employers could use to interdict strike action and introducing a minimum wage, which will in effect entrench and legitimise extremely low wages in many sectors of the economy. The unions are fighting to keep companies and the state out of their internal democratic affairs and to

introduce a living wage of 12,500 rand.

According to the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa, almost all the country's automotive plants were shut down. These include companies such as BMW AG, Ford Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp.

Public transport was also severely affected. Bus drivers had been on strike since a few days before Wednesday's strike. This put pressure on other modes of transport such as trains and taxis. Under the impact of the strike, the stress on the train infrastructure caused a major breakdown of the system in Cape Town. This brought massive pressure on the roads. The result was that a city of 4 million people came to a virtual standstill. On top of this, the general strike on Wednesday further hit the public transport because tens-of-thousands of workers used the trains to go to their respective routes for the marches. The result was a major disruption to the economy. The bus drivers' strike is still ongoing and is crippling public transport in all the major cities. The unions, which include NUMSA and Satawu, are demanding a 12 percent wage increase and better terms and conditions.

**Proposed wages are an insult**

In KwaZulu-Natal all of the regions of SAFTU converged on Durban. The Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry reported severe disruptions to business, especially a huge impact the manufacturing sector. Thousands of workers marched from King Dinuzulu Park to the Durban City Hall. Durban hosts some of the country's largest manufacturers. It also has one of the biggest and busiest harbours in the Southern hemisphere. The strike therefore had a big impact on the economy, not just of Durban but the entire country.

In Cape Town, thousands of workers marched from Keizersgracht Street to the Civic Centre and Parliament. The city centre came to a standstill when workers descended on parliament. The mood was very militant. "I have two kids who are going to tertiary level [education] next year. Where am I going to get the money?" said a worker from Khayelitsha.

"R11 is an insult, R15 is an insult, R18 is an insult, R20 is an insult," Brightness Matwa, a spokesperson for the Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DEWATU) said in a speech to workers before the march. "All the proposed wages are an insult." **To back page**

## BILJOENE VAN TRANSNAMIB EIENDOMME VERD- WYN EN VERWAARLOOS. SPOG BATE NOU SKANDVLEK

Deur Ben Serogwe

Volgens my kennis is daar nog baie eiendomme van Transnamib wat in Suid Africa is, in onder andere in Durban, Upington, Bloemfontein, De Aar en Kaapstad.

Verdermeer word die reïnsposoorstawe en ander eiendomme van Transnamib as skroef verkoop aan sekere handelaars sonder dat die items aangeteken word of op 'n openbare vendisie aangebied word, soos vereis deur die Transnamib prosedure. Die handelaars verkoop die skroef aan 'n herwinning aanleg in Elandsfontein in Gauteng.

Vanaf 2001 tot 2013 moet al die Senior Bestuurders as ook die Uitvoerende Beamptes moet rekenskap gee oor wat gebeur het dat die maatskappy op so mate agteruit gegaan het dat vandag as nasionale karweier nie sy mandaat kan nakom nie.

die spoorweg vervoer verkies besighede en individue vandag eerder om hulle vragte per pad te vervoer al is dit baie duurder as per spoor.

Verdermeer is dit vir die land baie duurder om die padnetwerk in stand te hou as gevolg van die skade wat die groot hoeveelhede trokke aan die pad veroorsaak.

Nog 'n oorsaak van die agteruitgang van Transnamib, was die aanstel van onbevoegde persone tot sleutel posisies in die onder neming. Meeste van die aanstellings was polities van aard met die lyn Ministers wat almal SWAPO lede aangestel het met geen ondervinding in die vervoerbedryf. Hier dink ons spesifiek aan Minister Errkki Ngitima wat binne vyf jaar Transnamib in die grond gedryf het met sy nepotisme, rassisme en promosie van SWAPO lede.

Met my posisie as senior sekuriteits en ondersoek beampte het ek my span aangespoor en bemoeë om korrupsie en diefstal te beveg. Ongelukkig het ons nie die nodige ondersteuning van die bestuur en die raad van direkteure gehad en dit wou lyk of ons opinies en voorstelle

Na bladsy 2

## FNB STEALS SWABOU WITH 3,7 BILLION

By Paul Thomas

**This is a factual report on how the South West Africa Building Society, book of business, worth in excess of N\$ 3,5 Billion, was "taken over" by First National Bank Namibia without any compensation to the members i.e Mortgage Bond Holders, Depositors and Savings Account Holders.**

**Background to Building Societies**

**and how they differ from Commercial Banks**

The term "building society" first arose in the 18th century in Great Britain from cooperative savings groups and this very same module was used in other commonwealth countries to address the housing needs of the nations after World War II.

A building society is a financial institution owned by its members as a mutual organization. [to page 2]



First National Bank Limited (FNB) Head Offices in Windhoek



## FNB takes SWABOU

Building societies offer **banking** and related **financial services**, especially savings and **mortgage lending**. The core business of a building society is however to provide home mortgages to members. Borrowers and depositors are society members, setting policy and appointing directors on a one-member, one-vote basis. Building societies often provide other retail banking services, such as current accounts, credit cards and personal loans. Building societies actively compete with banks for most consumer banking services. This often leads to the general public's perception that Banks and Building Societies are one and the same thing. Which is not the case as they are governed by two different Sets of Legislations namely the Building Society's Act of 1986 and the Banking Act. While Banks are Commercial Entities which are run on a profit motive and belongs to private shareholders, Building Societies are owned on a mutual basis by its members. Thus, any action in amalgamating/take-over/buy-out or any other take-over method between a Bank and a Building

Society is not possible as their shareholding and ownership is incompatible. They are two different entities governed by two different set of laws. Historical Build-up to the Theft  
In November 2000 an announcement was made that the City Savings and Investment Bank (CSIB) was in financial difficulties due to the poor management. CSIB a wholly owned and operated Namibian Company which had accumulated losses of N\$33 million. In December of that year, the Bank of Namibia intervened and fired the company's board and chief executive for poor management. The bank was subsequently taken over by Namibian Harvest Investments Limited (Namharvest) and was merged with the South West Africa Building Society (Swabou) to form SWABOU Bank. FNB was a major shareholder of Namharvest. Swabou was geared towards the lower end of the market and more than 75% of its clients were from the previous disadvantaged segment of the population, who were thus the owners of SWABOU. This was in itself a dodgy affair, as the two entities could not be merged as the one was a Com-

mercial bank and the other a Building Society. The due judicial processes as prescribed in the Building Society Act of 1986 and the Banking Act was not followed. Nonetheless, Swabou Bank, which was now suddenly operating as bank, traded profitably and had acquired a new shareholding structure (which did not include the original shareholders, the members.) This in itself was a crime. In 2003 an announcement was made that FNB Holdings had acquired the entire mortgage book of business of Swabou Bank, which at that stage was worth in excess of N\$ 3.5 Billion. This was following a High Court Application brought by Dave Smuts on instruction of P.F. Koep and Company to allow the illegal take-over. Theo Frank, the High Court Judge who heard the case, granted the order for this bogus merger and opened the door to the wholesale theft of SWABOU and the elimination of the rightful owners of the Building Society. In addition the peripheral Companies under the SWABOU Bank Umbrella, like Swabou Insurance were included in the "deal". It is reported that this massive book of business was

bought by the FNB Group for a miserly N\$ 17 Million. The question now arises as to who this money was paid as SWABOU Bank was a continuation of SWABOU Building Society which was never wound up as required by the Building Society Act of 1986. All proceeds therefore belonged to the members of the original SWABOU Building Society which was never distributed to the members. A clear case of theft. In March 2003 this gigantic act of fraud was completed and FNB took over SWABOU Bank (Building Society) which raises the following questions: The FNB master-minded the process, right from the take-over of Citi Savings and Investment Bank by SWABOU Building Society, which led to the creation of SWABOU Bank, without any due process being followed. Was this a well-planned scheme that initially started with take-over of Citi Savings and Investment Bank in 2001 and the formation of the bogus SWABOU Bank. What was the role of the Authorities in the whole saga and who approved the Bogus take-over of Citi Savings and Investment Bank to form a total-

ly new entity namely, SWABOU Bank.

(Note: Shares of NamHarvest in FNB Namibia Holdings Commercial Bank 7.78%. First National Bank Namibia (Nominees) (Pty) Ltd 29,474,261 14,74% shares in Namharvest.

Note further that the **Only society may claim to be successor of or to be connected with building society**

**69.** Any person other than a society or an agent of a society who in any letter, account or other document or by advertisement or in any other medium or manner of announcement to the public states that he is the successor of or carries on business or has the authority to carry on business for, on behalf of or in favour of a building society shall be guilty of an offence.

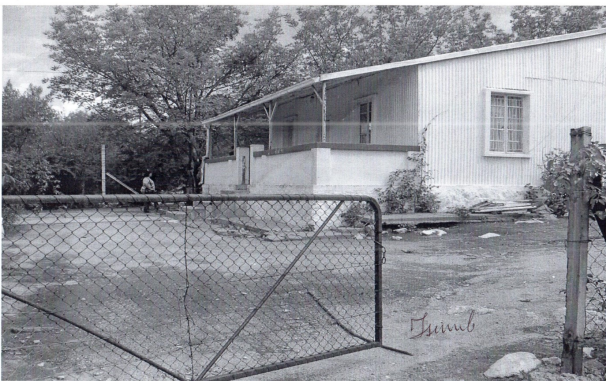
**Binding force of rules**

**15.** (1) The rules of a society shall after registration thereof be binding upon the society and its members and officers and upon all persons claiming under the rules or whose claims are derived from members.

**Amalgamation and transfer of assets and liabilities**

**52A.** (1) If the prior written approval of the Minister has been obtained therefor -

(a) two or more societies may amalgamate to become one society;



**Verwaarloosing van Transnamib eiendomme regoor die land. Hier is ons in Tsumeb. Sien ook foto in die hoek.**

van geen waarde was. Somtyds het ek die indruk gekry dat hulle nie na my wou luister omdat ek 'n Tswana is. Op 'n geleentheid waar ons 'n persoon met die naam Amadhila in hegtenis geneem vir die diefstal van spoorstawe. Met ons aankoms by die Polisie kantoor het 'n sekere Mr. Tobias Nekombo, wat werksaam was by die Personeel kantoor so welas twee ander Transnamib amptenare ons inwewag en ons beveel om die verdagte vry te laat sonder om hom aan te kla. Dit was kwansuis 'n interne aangeleentheid wat deur die Maatskappy hanteer sou word. Die Polisie beampte wat die saak behartig het was geskok deur hierdie optrede van 'n senior bestuurder van Transnamib en het verduidelik dat die saak aanvaar moet word en dat die verdagtes in hegtenis geneem moes word. Hulle het toe die polise kantoor verlaat nadat hulle my met die dood gedreig het. Ek moes daardie onder polise begeleiding na my huis geneem word. Amadhila is uiteindelik skuldig gevind en is afgedank. Indien daar 'n noemenswaardige Uitvoerende beampte nou aangestel word wag daar 'n moeilike tyd om die maatskappy reg te ruk en weer op 'n gesonde basis te plaas. Dit kan slegs gedoen word met die insette van die personeel wat al die jare al by die maatskappy is. Alle vorige Uitvoerende Beamptes soos Mr. Titus Haimbili wat probeer het om die maatskappy reg te ruk, is summier ontslae van geraak op aandrang van die Lyn Minister.

### SHORT TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE INTO ENGLISH

According to my knowledge there are still many properties of Transnamib which are situated in South Africa in Durban, Upington, Bloemfontein, De Aar en Cape Town.

Furthermore, the railway lines and sleepers as well as other properties of Transnamib are sold as scrap to certain scrap merchants without the items being recorded or sold on a public auction as prescribed by the Transnamib procedures. These merchants then sell the scrap to recycling plant in Elandsfontein in Gauteng.

From 2001 up until 2016 all the Senior Managers and Executive Officers must be held accountable for what happened and as to why they allowed the company to regenerate to such and extent that it can currently not fulfill its mandate as the national transporter.

The transport of cargo has always been the core business of Transnamib, with more than 80% of imports from South Africa being carried by rail to Namibia.

Lately, the service has deteriorated to such an extent that less than 10% of current imports are brought into the country by rail. As a result of the unreliability of the rail transport system, most businesses and individuals prefer to transport their goods by road even if it is much more costlier than rail transport. The use of road transport to carry the majority of goods is a burden for the country's roads authority as the maintenance of roads becomes costlier. Another reason for the deterioration of conditions at Transnamib is the appointment of unqualified and inexperienced persons to key positions in the company. Most of the appointments are of a political nature with the line minister insisting and ensuring that only SWAPO sympathizers are appointed to these key positions even though they do not have any experience in the transport industry. Here we think specifically of Minister Erkki Ngitima who within a period of five years ran Transnamib into the ground with his nepotism, racism and the promotion of SWAPO members.

Being in the position of senior security and investigation officer I continuously motivated and encouraged my team to fight corruption and the wholesale theft of Transnamib properties. Unfortunately we did not receive the necessary support from management and the Board and it appeared that our opinions and inputs held no water. Sometimes I got the impression that they refused to listen to me due to the fact that I was a Tswana.

On one occasion we arrested a suspect called Amadhila in connection with the theft of railway sleepers. On our arrival at the police station we were awaited by a certain Mr. Tobias Nekombo who was a senior officer in the Transnamib Human Resources department, together with two other staff members of the department and instructed us to release suspect without filing a case. According to him this was an internal Transnamib Affair and as such would be handled by the Human Resource department. The Police Officer who was taking the statements was totally taken aback by the attitude of a senior manager of the company and insisted that the case be registered and the suspects being taken into custody. I was then threatened with my life and had to be escorted home by the police. Amadhila was eventually found guilty and was dismissed by the company.



Tsumeb



## Editorial

We have seen a lot of different burning issues around the country and in the neighbouring countries tending to surface in mass struggles.

The issues are many:

Fishermen are continuing their struggles since October 2015 to get their jobs back, but in the process the issues are multiplying into democratic issues of freedom of expression, justice and legality; the landless are mobilising around the country (LPM and AR); the youth are rallying against a corrupt judiciary; the homeless are in perpetual and intensifying struggles against an oppressive State and local authorities; corruption and immunity has seen such audacious levels that is openly untouchable.

Corporate business such as the First National Bank is in total control of the State. It ignores the law. It controls and abuses the courts. It robs and abuses the working people and nothing can be done about it. There is no law enforcement. There is no law. There is no way of bringing a semblance of order to an orderless system.

But, all this is directed against the working people.

In bourgeois democracies such concepts as the Rule of Law and Law and Order are the mechanisms through which the State puts itself forward as an independent, neutral arbiter between the capitalists and the working class. Whilst we know by now that the Rule of Law and Law and Order are to protect the interests of the capitalist, they are also an expression of the strength of the working people (albeit in a negative manner).

Whilst the legal relations in capitalist society reflect the enforcement of the social-economic relations in favour of the capitalists, it also reflects the need for orderliness and peace the capitalists need to exploit.

However, in caricatures and facades of democracy like in the semi-colony, Namibia, they are only for lip service to conceal and justify the deadly relations with the imperialist centres, the European Union and America.

It is within this situation that an event of enormous significance took place in South Africa on 25<sup>th</sup> April two weeks ago: the one-day general strike to reject the minimum wage of NS3,500 in which employers could choose to pay it or not, and, the outlawing of the right to strike.

The optional minimum wage which the employer may choose to pay or not was introduced by the ANC Government and supported by the DA official opposition. The absurdity is that it is NOT a minimum wage which can be enforced by law.

So the ANC and the DA found themselves on the same side of class interest. That is, the interests of the capitalist classes.

This was in a sense the completion of a conception that began in August 2012 with the Marikana massacre and formulated by the NUMSA in December 2013 at its Congress. The central principle laid bare and declared by a mass organisation of the working class was that Marikana had etched onto South African history the fact that the interests of the capitalist classes and the working classes were irreconcilable. That meant that the working class must independently conduct its social-economic and political objectives against those of the capitalists.

It identified the ANC (and the DA) as representatives of the interests of the capitalists and NOT of the working people.

This position by NUMSA defined the objective situation in South Africa and is historic as it becomes the ultimate conceptual reference light house for the working people of the whole of Southern Africa and indeed for Africa and the world.

But, the 25 April 2018 has an immediacy for the rest of the working class in the region as the right to strike will be directly under threat if it is outlawed in South Africa. It will create Marikana upon Marikana.

Already in the semi-colony (and we wonder if this is not just a colony) Namibia, the lawlessness and chaos have reached the levels where corporations like FNB may rob the working people in the method of street thuggery without recourse to the courts or the police. They control the courts, they are intertwined with the State.

The fishermen, the miners and general workers are at the mercy of lawlessness in which they cannot resort to written law.

The workers of the region have no choice but to rally behind the working class of South Africa and assimilate the clear message of Marikana.

Hewat Beukes

Political Secretary

## NOTES ON THE HOUSING CRISIS IN NAMIBIA

The housing crisis in Namibia has been seized upon by Affirmative Repositioning (AR). The group started in 2014 calling for seizure of land by the youth as an answer to the failure of the municipalities to provide affordable land to the masses of landless youth. Newspapers reported as follows:

**"21 December 2014  
More than 50 000 landless youth in Namibia are ready to grab land if land is not provided to them by 31 July 2015."**

This was revealed by youth activist Job Amupanda in an interview with Nampa on Friday.

"Presently, there are more than 50 000 landless youth activists prepared to take the land. If the leaders did not solve the land issue by 31 July 2015, I will tell our people all over the country to grab land and set up their houses," said the suspended Swapo-Party Youth League (SPYL) spokesperson. Distancing himself from the land grab currently underway in Swakopmund, Amupanda said 'Affirmative Repositioning' is and has become the only viable option for people to force the authorities to give them land.

President of the Christian Democratic Voice party (CDV), Gotthardt Kandume is spearheading the land seizure in Swakopmund, where about 200 residents are currently marking plots illegally.

**THE Goreangab area on the outskirts of Windhoek was the scene of chaos yesterday when more than 300 people attempted to grab public land.**

At least a hundred police officers, including members of the Windhoek City Police, were deployed to the area to maintain order as desperate residents, some still wearing pajamas, arrived as early as 05h00 with shovels, rakes and axes to grab and clear plots." People await the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 with bated breath. Workers in industry, commerce, and administration and elements of the lower petit bourgeoisie are rushing for this alternative to solve their housing plight. Amupanda and the AR Movement do not give much of an analysis of the housing crisis nor do they map the road for services including water and electricity after the land seizures.

Whatever the plan for a general resolution of the housing crisis, the reason for the apparent intensity and resoluteness of the homeless and landless is that they can neither afford exorbitant rentals nor building their own homes nor buying their own land.

Friedrich Engels wrote in 1887:

*"The so-called housing shortage, which plays such a great role in the press nowadays, does not consist in the fact that the working class generally lives in bad, overcrowded and unhealthy dwellings. This shortage is not something peculiar to the present; it is not*



*even one of the sufferings peculiar to the modern proletariat in contradistinction to all earlier oppressed classes. On the contrary, all oppressed classes in all periods suffered more or less uniformly from it. In order to make an end of this housing shortage there is only one means: to abolish altogether the exploitation and oppression of the working class by the ruling class. — What is meant today by housing shortage is the peculiar intensification of the bad housing conditions of the workers as the result of the sudden rush of population to, the big towns; a colossal increase in rents, a still further aggravation of overcrowding in the individual houses, and, for some, the impossibility of finding a place to live in at all. And this housing shortage gets talked of so much only because it does not limit itself to the working class but has affected the petty bourgeoisie also."*

Nothing can be added analytically to what Engels wrote about 130 years ago except a description of the housing crisis in Namibia – a semi-colonial country – how it reached this level of intensity and its significance in revealing the nature of the State and the full ambit of robbery by the colonial ruling classes, the banks and financial institutions.

Housing in Southern Africa was regulated by the Nationalist Government and its predecessor the United Party Government to protect the Afrikaner working class and petit bourgeoisie against Banks and financial institutions. They promulgated the Usury Acts and the Building Societies Acts, instituted State-owned Building Societies, SAAMBOU (South Africa) and SWABOU (Namibia). Blacks by and large were housed in locations without property rights.

By 1968 the colonial administration had completed the forced removal of black families from the Old Location to Katutura to council housing – matchbox 4-roomed dwellings with outside toilet and washing facilities – where they paid nominal fees and no-one could be evicted. Water and electricity were included in the rent. The rent included a life-insurance and disability policy based on the provisions of the Usury Act.

By 1978 the administration came to the realisation that to

tie a homeowner to his respective capitalist (as Engels pointed out) people needed ownership. They noted that once a person had obtained ownership (through a mortgage bond of course) they would start to beautify the property and plant trees, etcetera. The State established NASBOUKOR ('National Building Corporation') now known as the National Housing Enterprise (NHE).

By 1985 NASBOUKOR was building thousands of houses for workers with middle income.

The South West Africa Building Society (SWABOU) had by now extended loan facilities to black families with higher income.

By 1990 the Comprador State was foisted on the nation by imperialism through UN Resolution 435.

The system of housing provision became an unregulated massive criminal operation at each level. The Municipalities, the NHE and the banks worked in collaboration with legal firms to use municipal liabilities and mortgage holders as hosts for uncontrolled parasitism. They stack the principal debt with fraudulent amounts. The life-insurance and disability insurance disappear with death or disability. They handed would-be defaulters on rates and taxes, water, electricity to legal firms to set them up and extract bogus legal fees from them without end. Fischer, Quarumby & Pfeifer a well-known firm to collect fees from home-owners is known to have extorted 70% and more of the housing loan on fraudulent legal fees.

This firm exists exclusively on billions of dollars scammed from home-owners without a single day of honest work. Then comes the auction of the home. The agents of the banks, the deputy sheriff and an attorney from the firm work together to illegally auction the home and thereafter to sell it on the open market for a number of times higher than the auction price splitting the loot amongst themselves and settling the original auction price.

In 2003 the High Court was used to illegally merge the SWABOU – a State-managed society – with the First National Bank (FNB) (Barclays). A bank and a building society might not merge as is clear from the nature and purport of the two institutions. FNB obtained the housing market with the houses free of charge.

The above situation causes endless harm in families. However, the main source of mass homelessness began in 1987 with the implosion of hostels in Windhoek and the purported end to contract labour countrywide. Contract labourers remained, but they lost accommodation, regular medical check-ups and three (low grade) meals a day. Massive urban influx and squatting followed independence. House prices climbed continuously due in part to corruption which became systemic around land deals, building admin-

istration and service delivery. Cuban offers to assist to develop plots and deliver land at nominal prices in working class areas were quashed by cynical changes in land prices, etcetera. They sought no solution to the problem. Besides the unaffordable prices, land is allocated in terms of the Apartheid townplanning blueprint of cities and towns. The less you earn the more west you go. Corruption led to vast development of flats for rental at high prices. Housing officials are owners of complexes of flats.

The drive for exploitation is feverish and mindless of any consequences. It has now become a part of the business to keep houses unaffordable and the market of homeless massive. What would give the AR movement credibility is to analyse and articulate the true factors and circumstances of the housing crisis. They should also have a re-look at the phrase "Affirmative Repositioning". The very phrase suggests partial and selective remedy. The demand for houses require

first a demand for the effective removal of all institutional obstructions. That would mean a public inquiry into the housing crisis. The young workers must be encouraged to organise and fight for land alongside a clear understanding leading to a clear programme. Its articulations must and can rally the whole working people behind it. Do not allow the opportunist petit bourgeoisie to propagate against you on behalf of the State and the landed ruling classes. The WRP will discuss this is-

sue thoroughly starting by reading Friedrich Engels and studying the Namibian version of the housing crisis. We will put our proposals to this movement. We support the youth unreservedly in their struggle for land and we are ready to work with them. However, the youth should consider why each would want an individual plot rather than social housing which shall be provided and maintained by the State.



In Nelson Mandela Bay, which is the heart of the vehicle manufacturing sector, the entire industry came to a standstill. Addressing the workers, Numsa president Andrew Chirwa said the R20 an hour minimum wage was unacceptable. "People who are propagating that wage are themselves swimming in riches. They don't know what R20 is worth. Our government has decided to legalise poverty by introducing a wage of R20 an hour. The employers want to give power to the Minister of Labour to allow or ban strikes. They want to force all of us to vote before a strike and the ballot will be supervised by the Department of Labour — the same department that is not helping workers. Workers are dying of maltreatment but the Department of Labour is doing nothing to stop it. Those who sit in government offices making laws against workers are our enemies." Referring to president Cyril Ramaphosa he said: "The new dawn is R20 per hour, the new dawn is 15 percent VAT, the new dawn is that the right to strike will be taken away. Those who are confused about December [where ruling ANC elected a new president], there is no

new dawn. This is the same wine in different packaging. "Any collective bargaining without a right to strike is not bargaining. We have no weapon against the bosses. We have no guns against the bosses, we have nothing except the power to withdraw our labour. When you take that power away you are making us vulnerable to the already ruthless bosses who are sitting in boardrooms plotting how to exploit us better and how to keep our wages as low as possible." The biggest movement was in Gauteng province, the economic heart of the country. In Johannesburg, workers gathered at the Newtown precinct and marched to the Premier's office, and the offices of the Department of Labour and the Gauteng Department of Social Development. Unions included the NUMSA, the General Industrial Workers Union of South Africa (GIWUSA), the National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers (NUPSAW), the South African Liberated Public Sector Workers' Union (SALIPSWU), the Information Communication and Technology Union (ICTU) and Simunye Workers Forum.

## Fishermen who lost jobs ushered into struggle for democracy

Fishermen fighting for their jobs are experiencing an absence of democracy at each level. "Die Werker" has requested the AR and LPM youth to support their demands for their right to be aired on NBC radio and TV. We are awaiting their support letters.



yoloken23@gmail.com Cell: 0813471861/ 0812330785

15 May 2018

To: Director of NBC

Mr. Stanley Similo

### HANDING OVER OF PETITION AT NBC, TV, NBC RADIO, OSHIWAMBO (KATIKUPULWAPALE)

We the United Fisherman Walvis Bay and Luderitz would like to express dissatisfaction with your institute.

We are the Fisherman revoke from duties since 26 October 2015. We refer to section 42 sub, section 1 of Labour act 11 of 2007. We want to explain the historical background of our struggle from the beginning, Namibia community want to know what is the cause of the strike as well as Omayele Koshiwana.

Several time we approached the NBC office at Oshakati, in order for them to give us time to come at the studio for free but it was rejected by Helena Shiimbi, again second time we approach Suama Negumbo to buy time so that we can come in the studio, but it was totally rejected without reason.

### On chapter 3, fundamental human right and freedom. Article 21 fundamental freedom

1. All person shall have the right to:

(a) Freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of press and other media.

The NBC must respect the constitution of the republic of Namibia, the constitution is the supreme court of the Republic of Namibia.

**It means nobody is above the law even the high ranking officer in the GRN or the President himself.**

As far as we known NBC is for the nation not for individual person, NBC is for publish and entertainment, for the whole Namibian people, as per chapter 3, article 21.

### WE DEMAND THE FOLLOWING:

- We want to be respected like other Namibian
- We want our voice to be heard in the NBC with immediate effect.
- We want Mr. Similo to explain why we are not allowed to express our voice in NBC radio.
- We want answer within seven days before we are not taking the second step.

Yours faithfully on behalf of United Fisherman

Chairman

Mathew Lungameni

## WRP DEMAND PAYMENT SUSPENSION DUE TO THEFT

On Thursday, 26th April, two weeks ago, the WRP demanded that the ECN suspends payment of its parliamentary funds due to theft by Peter Katjavivi and Calle Schlettwein, the Speaker and Minister of Finance respectively.

Addressing the meeting on party finances called by the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), a WRP delegation comprised of Hewat Beukes, the authorised representative, Ben Serogwe, the Windhoek Branch Chairman and Jan Frans Inarib informed the Commission and the parties of the fraud and the theft committed by Schlettwein and Katjavivi to embezzle N\$9,6 million under the pretext of payments to the WRP. They had used proxies to open a fraudulent bank account in the name of the WRP at the FNB. The FNB board besides the white executive directors consists of SWAPO non-executive directors. The bank was part of the fraud. Schlettwein released funds from the Treasury to be paid into the fraudulent account.

Katjavivi used the bulk of the funds to buy tractors, a 4x4 vehicle and livestock for his farm.

After a lengthy discussion and in particular presentations of Attorney Maharukua of the DPM who expressed deep concern at the implications for all parties and democracy, the ECN agreed that the WRP could request under S 158 (8) of the Electoral Act of 2014 for the suspension of its funds on good reason.

The WRP delegation pointed out that theft was always good reason.

They also emphasised the fact that the courts were unapproachable. The judges are directly under the command of the SWAPO and Katjavivi. But, the Electoral Act provides that they may approach the Commission itself.

It came to light that for the purposes of the theft the parliamentary funds were removed from the ECN to the MoF.

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