

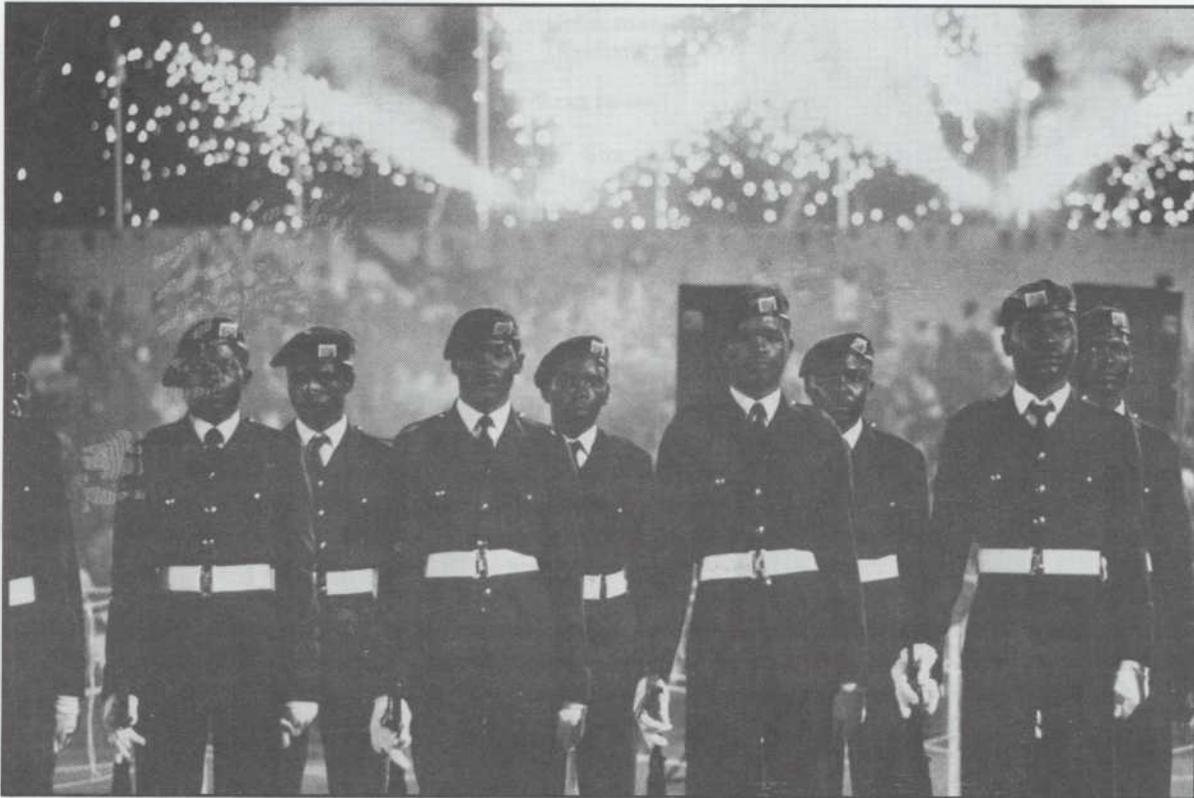


# Namibia

Newsletter

Spring, 1990

Volume 13, No. 1



The new Namibian army honor guard stand at attention while fireworks celebrate Namibia's independence on March 21, 1990.

Photo by John Liebenberg

## NAMIBIA'S FREEDOM SHINES LIKE A TORCH IN THE NIGHT!

Freedom came to Namibia at midnight, 21 March 1990 – *like a torch in the night* – just as Lutheran Deputy Bishop Zephania Kameeta had imaged it in his paraphrase of Psalm 126:

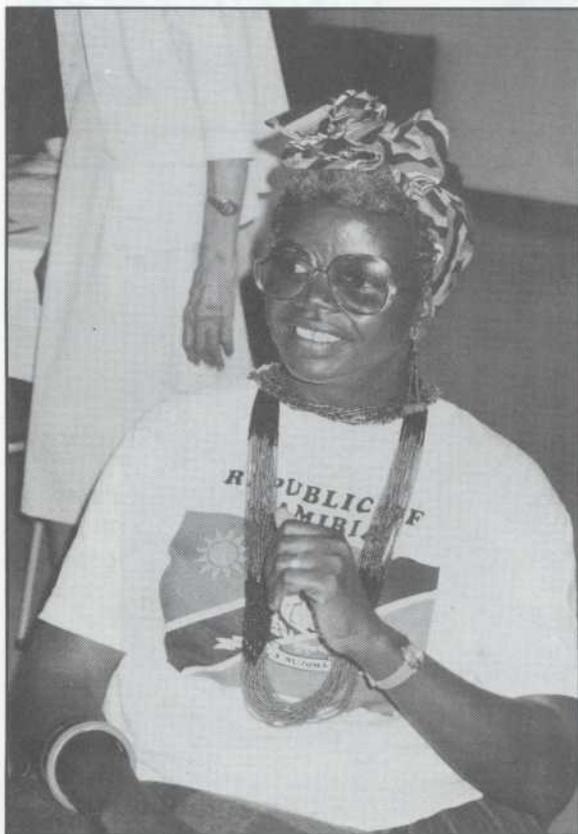
*When the day comes on which our victory  
will shine like a torch in the night,  
it will be like a dream.  
We will laugh and sing for joy.*

All over the country, Namibians gathered in the night at regional independence ceremonies to lower the South African flag at midnight and to raise the beautiful new flag of the Republic of Namibia. It was an electric moment in the Windhoek Stadium as thousands of Namibians who had gathered in their capitol city shouted "down, down, down" as the South African flag was lowered at 17 minutes past midnight.

As the Namibian flag was raised cheers rose, tears flowed and women's voices trilled with the traditional and distinctive sound of celebration. An athlete carrying a flaming torch entered the stadium and ran to light a huge freedom flame. A spectacular fireworks display lit up the night sky, completing a grand evening of speeches and traditional music and dancing, witnessed by heads of state and dignitaries representing most of the world's countries.

The most honored international guests clearly were Nelson and Winnie Mandela. . . present not only to celebrate, but also to see "how it is done" – a sort of dress rehearsal for South Africa.

Following are stories, pictures of independence, information about Namibia's new constitution and perspectives on the road ahead to building a new nation.

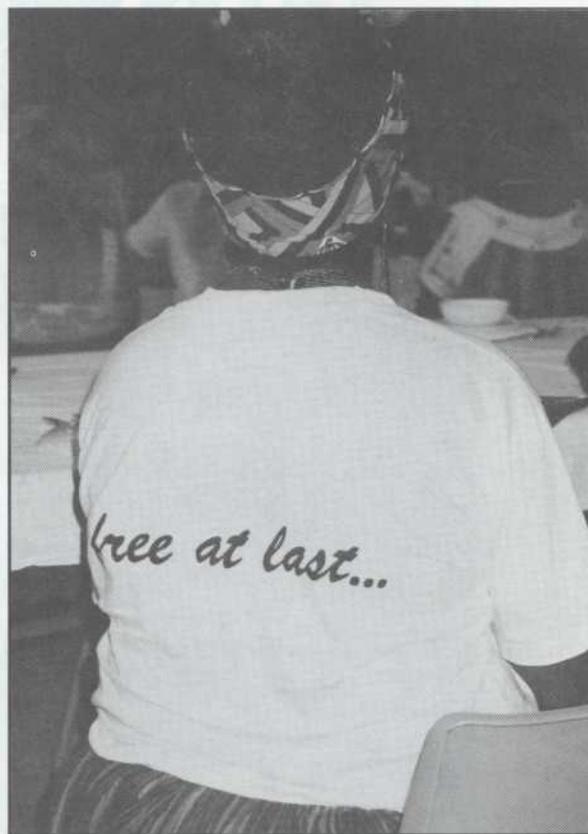


**Selma  
Gwanandjokwe  
Shejavali**

**Free at Last!**

*Selma and Abisai Shejavali, with their daughters Taimi and Kandi, studied at Wartburg Theological Seminary from 1971 to 1978. National Namibia Concerns began because of their presence among us.*

*Staff Photo*



## FREE AT LAST! FREE AT LAST! THANK GOD ALMIGHTY, FREE AT LAST!

The words of Martin Luther King, Jr. rang out in speeches, conversation and in print on T-shirts as independence was celebrated throughout Namibia. It was my great privilege to be present in Namibia to share independence days, representing all of you, the NNC network. I bring you greetings from your *free* Namibian sisters and brothers.

It was quite remarkable to be in a place where so many people understood freedom as God's action and gift, and where rain on the outdoor celebrations was greeted as a sign of God's blessing! In between showers on the eve of Independence, a bright rainbow appeared over Katutura, the black township of the capitol city Windhoek.

The coming of freedom was filled with unspeakable joy, tempered with the sobering reality of the monumental task of nation building to come. We have filled this newsletter with photos, quotes and articles hoping to convey both realities to you. Please, drink in the joy of seeing free Namibian faces and hearing free voices, with pride in their new country and thanksgiving for all who have been a part of their struggle. And then also, please hear that the struggle is not over.

I hope that the voluminous promises of continued advocacy and development aid which were spoken in Windhoek during independence week by representatives of churches and governments become a reality. Search your hearts for how you will remain in solidarity and action.

Susan Burchfield

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National Namibia Concerns is an education/advocacy network working with the Namibian churches for a just independence for the people of Namibia.

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NNC Board President:	Barbara Fullerton, Columbus, OH

# Inside Namibia

## INDEPENDENCE AT LAST

by Shivute Usku Shivute

The 21st of March, 1990, is a remarkable day in the history of the Republic of Namibia. It marks the highest turning point from colonialism to independence. We, the Namibian nation, have been under oppression for more than a century. First under German colonialism (1884-1915) and later under South African apartheid colonial rule (1915-March 21, 1990). We celebrated our independence in a spirit of reconciliation as advocated by our President Sam Nujoma, but with mixed feelings of joyous exhilaration and painful retrospective.

On Independence Day we shouted freedom at the top of our voices, but stopping intermittently to prick up our ears to listen whether our shouts were counter-shouted back by some unknown voices, voices of those who want to sabotage our hard won independence in support of a hidden agenda somewhere. We remembered the Kassinga Massacre, to mention one of many retrospective views. April 1st, 1989, in particular is ill-registered in our minds and it is too recent to be forgotten.



Notwithstanding the above-mentioned feelings, the day was a busy one in which hundreds of dignitaries from all over the world had come to celebrate with us and be the witnesses of the birth of a new nation. I wish all our supporters in our struggle for independence had been present to see that their support was not in vain.

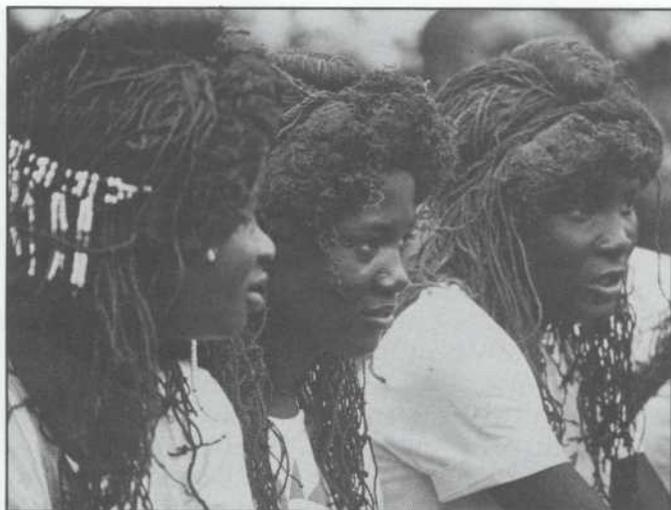
For me in particular, it was my first experience to witness and enjoy to the full **the highest national pride and unity of my beloved nation**. As a teacher, I knew and taught the idea of national pride and unity but I never experienced it practically. The 21st of March ushered me from abstract to concrete experience of the term. It was for the first time in my life to notice with appreciation the richness, dignity and value of our multi-cultural society. The spontaneous twist of the dancers' physiques, the instinctive artistic painting on the wall of the Katutura Community Centre, the voluminous voices of solo singers and choirs in click, bantu and caucasoid languages mingled and were relics which intensified the enjoyment of the celebration.

On the 22nd of March, Christians gathered together at the Windhoek Stadium for the ecumenical worship service. They wanted to thank God for answering their prayers. Representatives from different Christian churches all over the world, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Rev. Jesse Jackson, expressed their thankfulness to God for accomplishing the long awaited independence and making it a reality. A multi-racial choir organized under the auspices of the Council of Churches in Namibia evidenced a good start in cooperation and unity of the Namibians. The entire independence celebration was peaceful and ended in even a better spirit of cooperation between different parties than was expected. I hope our nation can continue in such a good spirit.

*(continued on page 4)*

*An "independent" Shivute family at home in Dobra, Namibia! Usku and Frieda Shivute studied in the U.S. at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and the University of Minnesota. Their son Tala (now taller than Frieda) and daughter Tega (in front in the photo) have been joined by brother Tuli since their return to Namibia. Usku teaches at Dobra Secondary School and is currently working on a new history book for Namibia. Frieda works with the RRR Committee (Repatriation, Resettlement and Reconstruction).*

*Staff Photo*



Three young Namibian women watch the cultural presentations of dance, song and gymnastics at the Independence Celebrations at Windhoek Stadium. Photo by John Liebenberg

(continued from page 3)

Namibia's President Sam Nujoma has proven himself a national leader through his courage and statesmanship throughout the years of the struggle for independence. He unified all ethnic groups that had been fragmented by the apartheid system. His call for unity for almost three decades cut through geographic and linguistic boundaries. Thus we have confidence in his leadership.

Independence Celebrations are only the start of a long struggle of reconciliation and nation building. We should not be naive to take it for granted that Namibia is free. There are prowling wolves still lurking in the "darkness" that want to confuse and eventually destroy our hard won independence for which Namibians have paid a high price. We always have to be on the alert to protect this precious independence.

The most important aspect which lies ahead of us is hard work forgetting individual interests and aiming at unity and the national interest as our priorities, because we still have a long way to go. Only if we can do this will a genuine nationhood and development eventually be achieved.

We are requesting our international friends and supporters not to forget us in the long way of nation building and development.

## SEEDS: POEMS BY BEN ULENGA

Edited by Annemarie Heywood and illustrated by John Liebenberg.

Ben Ulenga's contributions to the liberation struggle are well known: a SWAPO fighter, a Robben Island prisoner, a leader of the emerging trade unions, and now a member of the National Assembly. Ulenga is also a poet.

A central theme of this short collection is the almost unendurable suffering of the victims of the colonial occupation. Some are well known, such as "tall Anton" who "lies straddling freedom road," but others are too often forgotten. For instance, Alvin Windstaan, murdered in 1983, "her body lies/ on the trampled road/ five miles far/ from Keetman's hope/ sand in her teeth." There are also the children of the "homelands" who "under fatherless moons/ . . . burn September fires high into the skies/ for our fathers to see." (From a review by Phil Boyd in *Action on Namibia*.)

Ulenga's second theme is hope, a stubborn optimism rooted in the long history of resistance by the people of Namibia. While in Windhoek's Central Prison, in 1977, he wrote "somewhere far off/ I know/ the birds can race the night/ they vault over horizons/ beyond."

Published by the Mtbagus Collective, we hope to have this book available through our NNC office in Dubuque.



Selma Shejavali, Frieda and Usko Shivute enjoying the rich diversity of cultural presentations on March 21, 1990 that Usko speaks of in his article (pages 3 and 4). Staff Photo

# Monitoring the Road to Freedom

Special  
Report #5

## CONSTITUTION, INDEPENDENCE AND CHALLENGES

*"This solemn hour is the moment which our people have been waiting for, for more than a century. This is the day for which tens of thousands of Namibian patriots laid down their lives, shed their precious blood, suffered imprisonment and a difficult life in exile. Today, our hearts are filled with great joy and jubilation because our deepest and longest yearning has been realized. . . . We are gathered here today, not to pass yet another resolution, but to celebrate the dawn of a new era in this land and to proclaim to the world that a new star has risen on the African continent. Africa's last colony is, from this hour, liberated."*

With these words, Shafiishuna Sam Nujoma began his inaugural speech at Namibia's Independence Celebration on March 21, 1990 after accepting the oath of office as President of the Republic of Namibia from UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar. Nujoma had been unanimously elected as Namibia's first president by the Constituent Assembly on February 16.

Independence Day celebrations were held around the country featuring the lowering of the South African flag and the raising of the new Namibian flag at midnight on March 21st, accompanied by the pealing of church bells, proud shouts of joy, tears of gladness, fireworks and the singing of the African

national anthem. Thousands of international guests (representing nations, churches, liberation movements and anti-apartheid groups around the world) joined with Namibians in the capitol city Windhoek to mark this historic occasion.

Before the lowering of the South African flag in Windhoek marking the end of that country's illegal rule of Namibia, S.A. State President F.W. de Klerk said he stood there as an advocate of peace. "The season of violence has passed for Namibia and the whole of southern Africa," he said.

Later on the morning of March 21, the Constituent Assembly met and was converted and sworn in as Namibia's first Parliament. As the Independence Celebration continued in the afternoon at the Windhoek Stadium, the new cabinet ministers were sworn in and Nujoma gave his first policy speech as President.

Among the difficulties facing the new nation, Nujoma listed the budgetary deficit of R500 million left by South Africa which places a great strain on job creation and imports, especially food.

"As a result, we encourage people to remain on the land and to conduct subsistence farming," Nujoma urged. "We know that with foreign investment and technical assistance, the north would be able to feed the entire country."

*President Sam Nujoma gives his inaugural speech at the Independence Celebration while the honor guard and South Africa President F.W. de Klerk watch.*

*Photo by John Liebenberg*

*Choirs sang songs of praise to Nujoma:*

*Shafiishuna Nujoma  
What a hero you are;  
You are brighter than the morning star.  
You are stronger, a giant;  
For many years you fought  
for an independent Namibia.*

*You were sent by Kutako  
to the United Nations  
to petition for liberation.  
You are stronger, giant;  
We wish you all the best—  
Our loving hero Sam Nujoma.*



Nujoma cited the great need for companies within Namibia to process the country's diamonds, karkul and fish resources, putting an end to the export of Namibia's raw wealth.

"We call on companies investing in Namibia to respect workers' rights, to be good citizens and to invest more in the development of the country. We cannot generate all the capital for development—we need private investment from abroad to create jobs for our people," Nujoma said.

## Namibia's Constitution

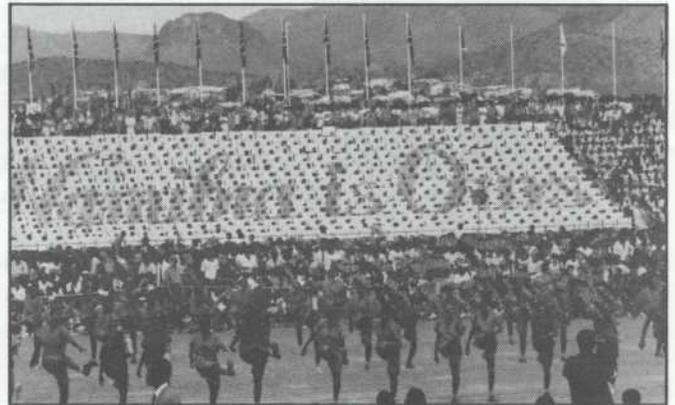
What is the shape of this new country whose independence was celebrated March 21? The Constituent Assembly elected in November of last year unanimously adopted a constitution for the Republic of Namibia on February 9, 1990, after eighty days of deliberation.

The new independent state will be secular, democratic and unitary. It will have a separate executive, legislature and judiciary with checks and balances, and will guarantee a multi-party system. Its territory is defined as including that of Walvis Bay and all the islands off the mainland. Namibia's official language will be English, but other languages will also be allowed in schools and for official purposes, especially in regions where a language is spoken by a "substantial component of the population."

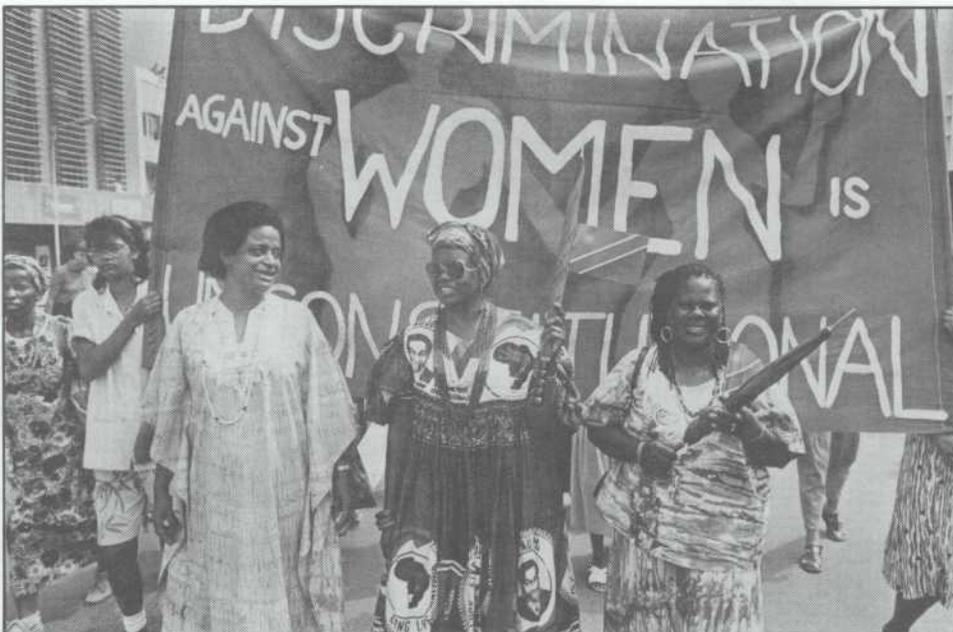
Namibia's constitution has been described in the international press as the most liberal in Africa. Its preamble is an eloquent statement and vision of democratic freedom for the people. Its Bill of Fundamental Rights includes the basic rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. No persons may be discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic origin, religion, creed, or social or economic status.

The rights of Namibia's citizens are protected by an independent judiciary. The death penalty, cruel and inhuman treatment and torture are outlawed under any circumstances. The bill of rights is entrenched: it may not be amended in such a way as to diminish the rights it proclaims.

The last major change in the text was to eliminate the provision for preventative detention in peacetime. The inclusion of this provision by the Standing Committee had provoked widespread opposition.



Above: "Namibia is Ours" was one of 25 card stunts performed in the Windhoek Stadium on Independence Day to the cheers and delight of all present. Children from Nyango Refugee Camp give a gymnastics display on the field. Staff Photo



Left: Namibian women march in the Independence Day Parade in front of a banner that proclaims: "Discrimination against women is unconstitutional." Namibia's constitution guarantees new rights for Namibian women. Photo by John Liebenberg

The colors of the Namibian national flag are arranged diagonally across the flag. The top left hand corner is blue, the center red and bottom right hand corner is green. The colors are separated by thinner bands of white. In the blue area is a golden sun representing life and energy.

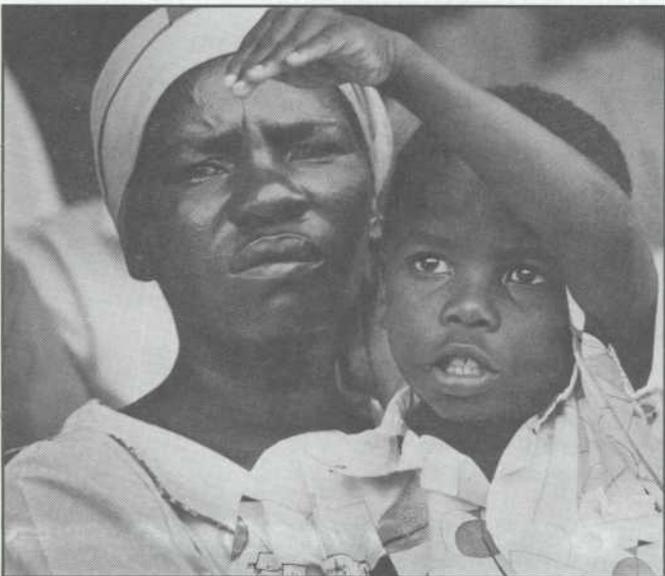
Blue represents the Namibian sky, the Atlantic Ocean, the precious water resources and the importance of rain. Gold represents the warm sun, the golden grassy plains and the Namib Desert. Red represents Namibia's people – the blood spilled and the people's determination to build a future of equality for all. White refers to peace and unity. Green symbolizes Namibia's vegetation and agricultural resources.

*Nashilongo Elago on Independence Day displays the new Namibian flag on her T-shirt.*  
Staff Photo



## National Reconciliation

The prevailing spirit of independence and nation building is that of *reconciliation*. In this regard, both SWAPO and the churches have led the way, calling for reconciliation, and peaceful and orderly registration, elections and independence celebrations. SWAPO adopted a policy of national reconciliation at the beginning of the election campaign in April of 1989, and did not use its majority to ram through provisions by forcing votes on disputed items. Rather, it repeatedly compromised, conceding certain points in order to achieve consensus. The result is a fine constitution of which all Namibians can be proud, and a spirit of national unity and goodwill.



*A young child shows his mother how parachuters are coming down from the sky at the Independence Day Parade in Windhoek.*  
Photo by John Liebenberg

## Challenges to the New Nation

Challenges to the new nation are many, difficult and serious. The problems in building a new nation, even under the best of circumstances, are monumental. We list only a *few*.

**Unemployment** — There are, for example, hundreds, perhaps thousands of former combatants who could not be included in the small army or police force who remain unemployed since the day of their return to Namibia. Thousands of returnees, as well as locals, have no source of income and no opportunity for training or further studies.

**Education** — The vision for English medium, compulsory and equal education for all; raising the level, quality and availability of education and training; and equipping teachers presents monumental challenges.

**Economy** — Changing from a colonial to a self reliant economy will be difficult in the midst of a world that seems to be realigning itself from East-West struggles to North-South neo-colonial struggles. Namibia begins with a large debt and next to no industry of its own. True freedom must include economic freedom as well as political.

**South Africa** — South Africa continues to conduct its regional wars of destabilization and maintains a force in the seaport of Walvis Bay which it still holds. The countries of Mozambique and Angola have a long history of South African funded contra-type wars. As long as Namibia remains in the jaws of apartheid, she can never truly be free.

*(Compiled from several sources, including Ralston Deffenbaugh, The Namibian and Namibia Communications Centre.)*

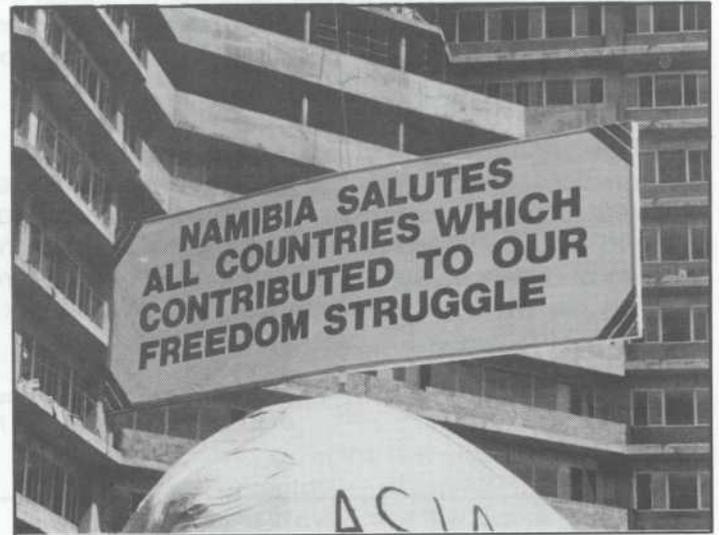
# Action Alert

The U.S. State Department has requested only \$500,000 in fiscal year 1990 for the newly independent Republic of Namibia. Compare this to the \$300 million which was immediately made available to emerging democracies in eastern Europe last fall, and the 1 billion now requested for Poland, 500 million for Panama and 300 million for Nicaragua. Compare Namibia's \$500,000 package also to the 20 million dollars going to the UNITA forces continuing to wreck destruction on Namibia's northern border with Angola.

Is it only a coincidence that the sole black "emerging democracy" is receiving a fraction of the aid promised to the other "emerging democracies" which are white or north of the equator? This is a gross imbalance.

In addition to the insulting State Department request for aid to Namibia, the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) has plans to operate their Namibia program from Botswana.

As mentioned elsewhere, Namibia cannot be truly free until she can be economically independent from South Africa and until apartheid South Africa is also free. Therefore, the continuation and intensification of economic sanctions is still essential.



A giant sign of thanks rode above a float in the Independence Day Parade in Windhoek  
Staff Photo

*The U.S. has committed to Poland — 1 billion dollars, to Panama — 500 million, to Nicaragua — 300 million, to Rumania — 80 million, Namibia — 500 thousand."*

Rev. Jesse Jackson  
Spoken at the National Thanksgiving Service  
Windhoek, Namibia, March 22, 1990

## PLEASE ACT NOW:

**CONTACT THE WHITE HOUSE AND YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TODAY.** A supplemental 1990 foreign aid package, including 10 million dollars for Namibia is now due to be considered in Congress.

1. Demand their support for increased aid to Namibia. Urge redistribution of the existing levels of foreign aid.
2. Urge continued economic pressure on South Africa through maintaining and intensifying economic sanctions. Now is **NOT** the time for rewards to South Africa for only a few minor reforms.

Contact the Washington Office on Africa HOTLINE at 202/546-0408 for taped updates on Congressional actions.

President George Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Secretary of State James Baker  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Call your congresspeople at their D.C. offices by phoning the Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121. You may also call the local office of your congressperson. A staff person will relay your message to Washington, D.C.

# Inside Namibia

## INTERNATIONAL GREETINGS AND CONFESSIONS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Excerpts from a declaration made by the United Evangelical Mission, Federal Republic of Germany, on behalf of all mission societies:

"... We have been closely bound with the people of Namibia for one and a half centuries. It was the Rhenish Mission which sent out its first messengers to the country of Namibia at that time. . . .

"Fellowship with African Christians has often strengthened us in our faith here in Germany and enriched our Christian way of life. We have great cause for thankfulness.

"But errors of great consequence have been made in our joint history and there were developments for which we have been very much to blame. Germans, among them members of our church, annexed the country as a colony. The 'protectorate' was a violent subjection of the people to German colonial rule. Fundamental human rights were trodden underfoot. Countless men and women lost their lives. We are ashamed of this history.

"There were even members of our Mission who tried to realize their own aims and ideas in Namibia. Instead of helping the people to preserve their own social structures and develop their own culture fully in the light of the Gospel, they contributed to the decay of traditional values. During the period of South African domination they stood by and watched the establishment of Apartheid structures often without contradiction or intervention and even supported this policy.

"We are ashamed that our Mission did not express definite contradiction; neither did it courageously fight against injustice, nor did it resolutely enter into conflict with the defenders of racial ideology.

"We are conscious of the guilt of our people and our Mission resting heavily on us. We ask our sisters and brothers in Namibia for their forgiveness. . . ."

Margareth "Meggie" Namuhuya (pictured at right) is one of the many promising Namibian high school graduates who are not able to go on to college because of lack of scholarships. Meggie graduated one year ago and is still waiting for the chance to study.

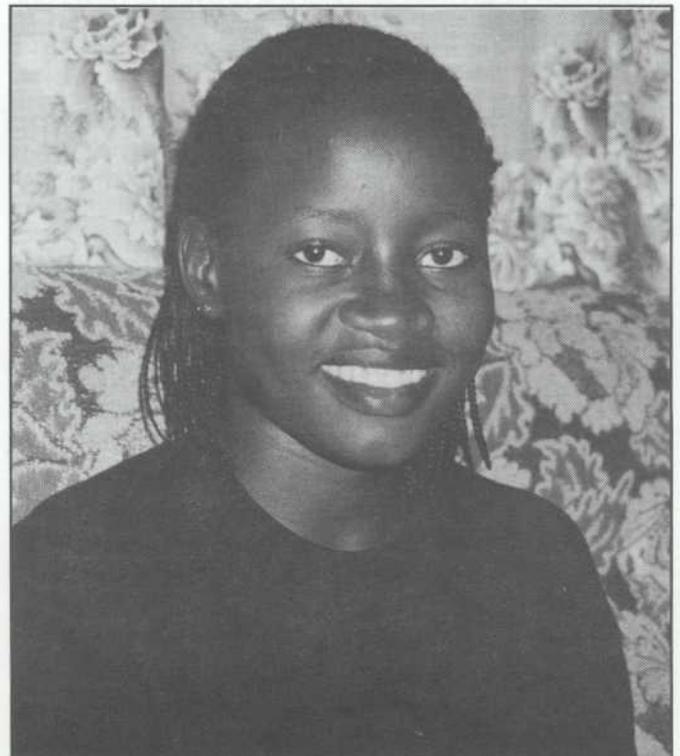
Staff Photo

Rev. Frank Chikane, General Secretary, South Africa Council of Churches:

"... In these recent years some of us, especially the youth, have been wondering about God – does God want us to pray, just to pray one day after another with no answers? We tell our people, 'you must have faith, you must be patient. One day this God in whom you believe will deliver you.' . . . That's why Namibia's Independence is a remarkable type of event. It creates hope. It makes our people to realize that, in fact, our God is alive! . . ."

Rev. Lowell Almen, Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

"... Your morning of joy has come and is shared by your sisters and brothers throughout the world. We go on from this morning mindful of what is ahead. The ELCA will not forget Namibia. Yes, the goal of freedom has been achieved here; but we shall not forget. We shall continue walking forward with you. We will continue through the scholarship program that includes some 50 students in Namibia studying in colleges of our church. We shall not forget your concerns related to the need for economic development. We shall not forget to remind our government that the kind of generosity that has been appropriately shown to countries in the north must also be shown to countries in the south. . . ."



# Resources



*Kapi Mujoro, Ed and Winnie May, and Emma Mujoro at the CCN "book launch" for the new book Church and Liberation in Namibia. Emma and Kapi authored a chapter. After many years of advocacy and visa refusals, Ed May was allowed into Namibia for the first time!*  
Staff Photo

## NAMIBIA REPORT

**Namibia Report** is a new newsletter published by Namibia Communications Centre in London and co-edited by John Evenson and Brian Wood with correspondents on site in Namibia. **Namibia Report** will publish fifteen issues during 1990 and will be available by subscription for the rate of 25 pounds British sterling for airmail overseas.

Namibia Communications Centre is a church-funded news agency established in 1984, working with the Council of Churches in Namibia and its member churches. It has been the essential link providing news and church perspective from Namibia to the outside world.

Correspondence should be addressed to: **Namibia Report**, Namibia Communications Centre, P.O. Box 286, London WC1X 0EL, U.K. Telephone: 071 833 2905 Telefax: 071 837 4147.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA RESOURCE CENTER

The Southern Africa Resource Center (SARC), located in Minneapolis, is a source of information, videos, and written materials on southern African issues. They offer a speakers bureau and educational programs for churches and schools. Associated with the Minnesota Southern Africa Network, they offer assistance in planning forums, conferences, and other events. Their periodic publications include "Amandla!" and "Arise!"

For information on membership in SARC, or to use their resources, contact them at Southern Africa Resource Center, c/o Peace Center, 2025 Nicollet Ave., #203, Minneapolis, MN 55404, (612) 870-1501.

## CHURCH AND LIBERATION IN NAMIBIA

1990. London: Pluto Press

Edited by Peter Katjavivi, Per Frostin and Kaire Mbuende, **Church and Liberation in Namibia** is a new book just introduced during the recent independence celebrations in Namibia. At the "book launch" at CCN headquarters in Windhoek the editors described the book as an effort to give Namibian theology a platform for debate and to address the question of why the Church in Namibia has been so politically active.

The editors' contributions and perspectives are of a theologian looking at the Churches' theology, a political scientist looking at the role of the Church in the struggle, and a social scientist looking at the role of the Church in society.

In addition, the new book contains a chapter on "Namibian Liberation Theology and the Future" by Kapi and Emma Mujoro, an excellent compilation of documents, prayers and reflections from the churches of Namibia, and a summary of the work of the Council of Churches in Namibia.

**Church and Liberation in Namibia** is an invaluable historical document in addition to providing a living insight into the theology and praxis of the Church of Namibia. We highly recommend it!

## NAMIBIA, LAND OF TEARS, LAND OF PROMISE

by Roy J. Enquist

The struggle for Namibian independence has been both a political and a religious event. Western assumptions about the separability of religion from politics collide with the social reality of African life.

In this book, Dr. Roy Enquist, professor of theology and ethics at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, explores this symbiosis of religion and politics.

**Namibia: Land of Tears, Land of Promise** is available for \$29.50 from:

Susquehanna University Press  
440 Forsgate Drive  
Cranbury, NJ 08512



Mathews Kapolo presents Roger Field and Ilah Weiblen of Wartburg Seminary with the new Namibian flag to be hung in the Refectory.

## A TIME FOR CELEBRATION

March 21st brought an overflowing crowd to Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, as the regular Wednesday morning Eucharist became a service of thanksgiving for Namibian independence. The homily of Namibian Pastor Mathews Kapolo was both a tribute to the people who had suffered and died in Namibia's struggle for freedom, and an exhortation to those who are now building a new nation.

Kapolo said "Namibia, your dreams have been fulfilled, your prayers have been answered. . . . Namibia, you are free at last. Soli Deo Gloria! Amen!"

Singing freedom songs, the congregation moved into the refectory where the Preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia was read. A Namibian flag, sewn by Cheryl Rose, was presented by Pastor Kapolo to Wartburg President, Roger Fjeld. With the ringing of a large "freedom bell," the flag was permanently hung in the refectory.

Namibian guests included Kapinge Kapolo and daughter, Pashuleni, Ndamono David and Toivo Isai.



March 21, Namibian Independence Day, was a festive time at the Lutheran Center in Chicago. Observance of this historic occasion began on Tuesday, with a special chapel service. Decorations, music, and the ringing of bells at noon on the 21st enabled church staff to express their joy over freedom ringing throughout Namibia. A large exhibit at the entrance to the office building ensured that everyone remembered the special day. Several hundred people signed messages of support which have been sent to the two largest Lutheran church bodies in Namibia.

## "RUTH JORENBY RESOURCE CENTER" ESTABLISHED

On April 1, 1990, Bishop Lowell Mays was present at the Pecatonica Lutheran Parish, in Blanchardville, Wisconsin, to celebrate "the living witness of Ruth Jorenby." Proclaiming that Ruth's "unique ministry of advocacy and her tireless, passionate concern for the people of Namibia had made an important contribution to parish life," the congregations dedicated a Ruth Jorenby Resource Center, where her vast collection of resource items can be utilized by the public.

Congratulations, Ruth, on this well-deserved honor!



At Our Savior's Lutheran in Denver, Namibians and their friends participated in a "service of psalms, songs and prayers in celebration of Namibian Independence." Led by "Brother John's Band" which has had a long commitment to southern Africa, the congregation sang freedom songs and listened to the reading of Psalms which have been paraphrased by Namibian theologian, Dr. Zephania Kameeta.

In her meditation, Solveig Kjeseth urged that the story of Namibia, like the stories of the Old Testament, be told and retold, so that the suffering and the struggle would not be forgotten in generations to come. Saying that "the difficult road to liberation has lead to victory. . . and a new, and perhaps even more difficult task of nationbuilding," she challenged the audience to a recommitment to this new phase of the struggle.

A highlight of the Denver celebration was a marvelous reception, and a photo exhibit, prepared by Barb Griffin, of nearly 200 pictures, most of them taken by Namibian photographer, John Liebenberg. Singing by the Namibians and South African guests ended a fine evening!

## EIGHTH GRADERS COLLECT BOOKS

An eighth grade class at Faith Lutheran Church in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, has started a book drive for the pupils of the People's Primary School in Katutura. Already Jason Liechty, Ellie Radtke, Jon Bonness-Scaffidi, Todd Miller, Becky Dorr, Lindsay Loehmann, and Mike Fisher have collected 750 books. These students, and their teachers, Joe Dorr and Kris Polzer, hope other groups will join in this effort.



## NAMIBIAN BASKETS AVAILABLE

Woven from native grasses, these plates and baskets are hand made by artisans working with a Lutheran cooperative in the north of Namibia. "Owambo baskets" are famous for their fine craftsmanship and beauty. Baskets similar to the ones in this photo may be purchased through the NNC offices in Dubuque or Denver. Proceeds from the sale of these items are returned to the cooperative, providing a much needed source of cash income for women in the north. Prices are:

Small/Large covered baskets	22.00/30.00
Basket Plates	
Coasters/small/medium/large/C-large	3.00 / 6.00 / 8.00 / 10.00 / 12.00
Basket Bowls	
Small: 6.00 Med: 10.00 Lg: 15.00	
Oblong carved wooden bowl	20.00
Wooden communion cup	10.00

## National Namibia Concerns

915 E. 9th Avenue  
 Denver, Colorado 80218  
 (303) 830-2774

Address Correction Requested

## APPEAL FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF NAMIBIAN STUDENTS

Namibia's long-awaited independence has come, and with it the challenges of nation building. The future development of Namibia depends, in large measure, on the development of its youth.

You can assist in this by providing Namibian students, already in the U.S., an opportunity to complete their education.

The Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia has been providing scholarships since 1972, but now, the coming of independence means the curtailment of this program.

There are more than 150 Namibian students who are in this country without scholarship assistance. They have arrived at a time when funds of many sponsoring agencies have virtually disappeared, and before their independent Namibia is able to implement its educational strategies.

We entreat all possible donors to make available university scholarships (both graduate and undergraduate) and awards of living expenses.

Please approach your local universities for scholarships or tuition waivers, and contact local churches and community organizations for assistance with housing and living expenses.

For more information, contact Thor Mikkel Kjeseth of the Lutheran Office for World Community (212) 808-5360.

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