

FINAL DRAFT IS COMPLETE

Standing Committee reaches agreement after weekend sitting

BY GWEN LISTER

AN AMENDED version of the draft constitution compiled by legal experts was adopted over the weekend by the Standing Committee, and will be put before a sitting of the elected Constituent Assembly on Thursday.

The Standing Committee, which sat right through the weekend, finally reached agreement in principle on most of the political issues in the draft, and sources say there are "some changes (to the draft) but not radical ones".

It is now reported that it only remains for the legal experts to tie up loose threads in Namibia's draft independence constitution, but that the weeks of behind-closed-doors meetings of the Standing Committee are now effectively over.

Sources described the process of agreement as a 'long one of give and take' - the major issues of contention being the powers of the Presidency and the bicameral legislature - the shape of the first and the powers of the second house.

According to sources, Namibia's executive will consist of a strong Presidency, elected by parliament but responsible to the people. There will be a bicameral (two houses) parliament, and a mixed electoral system.

The first house will be elected on a proportional system of representation; and the second house will be elected on the basis of single-member constituencies.

Sources would not give too much detail about other changes to the original draft (which was published in summarised detail by The Namibian recently) but said that negotiations had been tough, and that it had been a "long and tortuous process".

The Constituent Assembly will meet

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AMBASSADOR A.G.H. Mohiuddin, Special Envoy of the President of Bangladesh (second from the right), was seen at a reception hosted in his honour by the Bangladesh police contingent in Untag on Friday evening. Also seen in the picture are: the United Nations Special Representative, Mr Martti Ahtisaari, the Deputy Special Representative and Snr Supt. B.I. Siddigi, the contingent commander. During his three-day visit, the Special Envoy met the future President of Namibia, Mr Sam Nujoma, the UN Special Representative and the force commander of Untag.

Help yourself to handgrenades

NAMPA reports from Oshakati that the former Okave Koevoet base at Oshakati was left unguarded last weekend, and "several ex-Koevoet members might have stolen as many weapons" as they wanted.

Nampa added that the former base was full of piles of weaponry and ammunition.

He said that "no doors were locked and many rounds of ammunition, handgrenades, mortar shells, 81mm mortars, assault rifles and other military equipment was left scattered all over. Several people went in and out as they wished".

Nearby residents had told Nampa that on Friday evening a week ago, one military truck was seen loading weapons at the Okave base.

It was also reported that on the same Friday, a man was caught carrying a box of 32 handgrenades from the Okave base. When confronted by

a police officer from the Oshakati police station, he dropped the box and ran.

When asked about the incident, Chief Inspector Blaauw of Oshakati said he "knew nothing about the Okave base". He added that he knew about the man caught with 32 handgrenades, and said that efforts were underway to trace the person concerned.

Residents are concerned about a proliferation of dangerous weapons in the north; many are of the opinion that they may have been stolen from the Okave base by ex-Koevoet elements, living at the nearby Omashala compound.

TOIVO ON CHANGE

CHANGE would not come about overnight in Namibia, but would take place slowly, said Swapo's shadow Minister of Mines, Mr Andimba Toivo ya Toivo.

Speaking at a public meeting in Otjiwarongo, Mr ya Toivo also said that opening of schools to all races was a realisation of what Swapo had fought for over the years.

According to a report by SWABC TV, Mr ya Toivo said that Swapo had fought the war of independence for all inhabitants of the country, regardless of race or colour. For this reason no one would have the right to discriminate against others, he said.

Swapo was striving for reconciliation, and the differences of the past must be put aside, he added.

He condemned those guilty of theft and damage to property, and requested them to contribute to the future of the country, to ensure that Namibia was a responsible and healthy country where everyone could live in peace with one another.

According to Mr ya Toivo, food production was one of Swapo's pri-

orities, and areas such as Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Grootfontein, Tsumeb and Outjo, would play an important role in this regard.

Referring to the draft independence constitution, Mr ya Toivo said that the draft constitution would be tabled before the Constituent Assembly at the end of this week for ratification. After this, an independence date would be decided on, he said.

SAM BACK FROM LUANDA

SWAPO President Mr Sam Nujoma ended a 24-hour working visit to the Angolan capital of Luanda on Sunday.

Political observers in Luanda said the military situation on the border between Angola and Namibia was thought to have been one of the topics discussed by Mr Nujoma and Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos.

Angolan government forces are reportedly engaged in an offensive against strongholds of the U.S.-backed Unita rebel movement close to Angola's border with Namibia.

Observers in Luanda said Mr Nujoma was received with the honours normally reserved for a head of state.

SEMINAR CALLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENTAL education, a concept which sees people being taught to care for Planet Earth, on which they depend, rather than be egocentric, is the best possible education now that natural resources are in such danger.

This was aired at a seminar on environmental education, held at Centaurus High School, Windhoek, at the weekend.

A cross-syllabus approach, joining different subjects with an environmental component, would be effective and appropriate.

This was the view of two key speakers, Mr Rob Soutter of the Southern African Nature Foundation, and Mr Peter Tyldesley, headmaster at Centaurus.

"In a country as dry as Namibia, people must live within the means of their environment," said Mr Soutter.

Botswana, he said, was taking up the approach of environmental education and Zimbabwe had already done so.

The seminar heard that while children had to be taught the values of caring for this planet, efforts were not targeted at them alone.

Women, he said, were being involved in several projects as development agencies were discovering in Asia, Africa and South America that

men were more interested in getting cash to buy commodities such as liquor and radios.

It came up, however, that women in the third world were at the sharp end of environmental degradation, often walking many hours to get food and water.

They also received the least education and would perhaps be the hardest group to get through to.

Other targets, considered even more important than the student fraternity, were farmers, civil engineers, developers and financiers.

Citing an example of how lack of environmental awareness brought about drastic problems, Mr Soutter said the town of Ladysmith in Natal had suffered from floods in three successive years and tried to solve the problem by building a dam upstream in the Klip River.

"That was treating a symptom rather than the problem. What had happened was that nobody recognised the importance of wetlands."

Turning to Namibia, he praised the project carried out by Mr Garth Owen-

Smith in which the interests of Himba-speaking people had been taken into account in an effort to administer conservation in areas of the Koakoveld.

"You can transfer ideas easily by showing examples," said Mr Soutter.

Headmaster at Centaurus, Mr Peter Tyldesley, stressed that environmental education could only take place within a community.

"I cannot, as the head of Centaurus, design a programme for students in the Kavango region. It would be irrelevant to their needs."

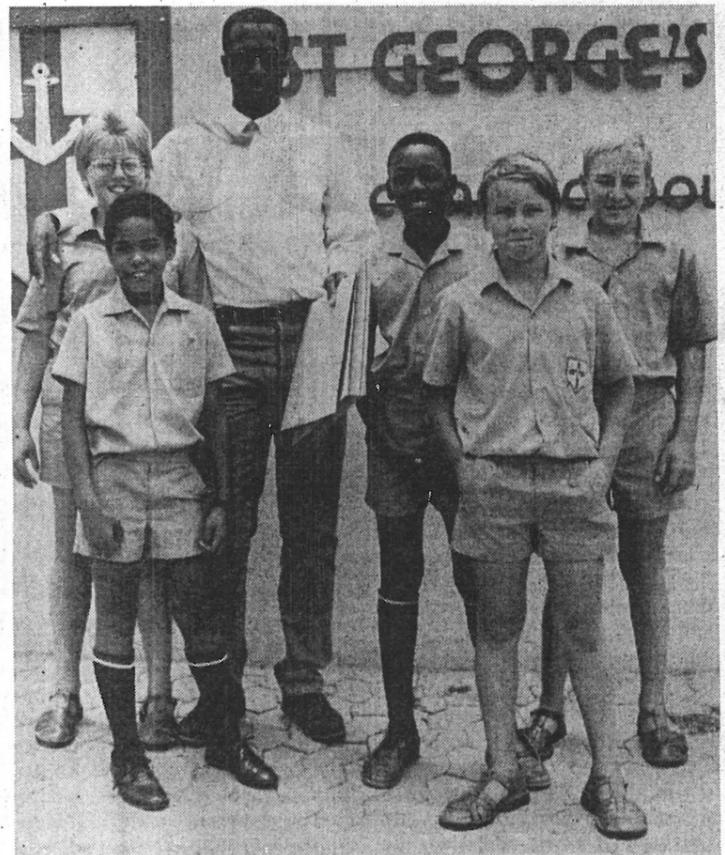
Mr Buddy Wentworth, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport in the shadow Cabinet, said from the floor that draft proposals for education reform were being tabled.

He added that provision would be made for the establishment of curriculum committees on which educationists and other interested parties would serve, suggesting that lobbyists for the environmental education concept could use this opportunity.

Also from the floor came the opinion that most of Namibia's people lived close to nature and did not see a situation in which their resources were being depleted.

This, it was said, would present a great problem for environmentalists getting support from communities where there were also major conservation interests.

However, another opinion was aired that returnees had been shocked to see the denudation of tree cover in the northern areas after 30 years during which tribal conservation ethics had been disregarded.



WITH a little bit of thought and creative talent one of these scholars could become the lucky winner of one of the prizes in the Shell Art Competition. One of the aims of the competition is to make all young Namibians realize the value of their unique environment. The pupils above were photographed outside St George's school with the co-ordinator of the competition, Mr Moses Mberira.

BIG PRIZES IN SHELL ART COMPETITION

THERE are cash prizes worth up to R500 to be won in the 1990 Shell Art Competition for school students which was launched on Thursday.

The theme this year will be 'Trees of Namibia', and the competition is open to Sub A to Standard 10 pupils at all schools.

The competition is sponsored by Shell Namibia Limited in co-operation with the Desert Ecological Research Unit and the State Museum.

To illustrate the theme 'Trees of Namibia', students can either depict how trees are used by people and other animals, or how and why trees must be conserved.

The first prizes in the different categories range from R100 for Sub A-Standard 1 pupils, right up to R500 for the Standards 8-10 category.

The winning entrants' school will also receive prizes up to the value of R500.

In addition, winning pupils in

Standards 5-10 will be invited to enjoy a six-day expedition to the Desert Ecological Research Unit's station at Gobabeb in the Namib desert.

According to Mr Moses Mberira, one of the aims of the competition is to allow the artistic talents of pupils to be displayed and recognized.

Other aims are to make all young Namibians realize the value of the country's unique environment, and to complete the good work being done by the schools in the fields of art and ecology.

Inquiries about the competition should be directed to Mr Moses Mberira at Shell Namibia Limited, telephone (061) 22-6141.

Posters advertising the competition, as well as entry forms, will be sent to all schools.

CONCILIATION PROGRESS

THE Conciliation Board which was appointed by the Administrator General to consider and settle a remuneration dispute between the Master Builders and Allied Trades Association (MBA) and the Namibia Building Workers Union (NBWU) met in Windhoek on January 18.

According to a press release, a fair amount of progress was achieved during the difficult negotiations which lasted from 09h00 to 16h00 and agreement was reached on various issues. However, some important matters could not be finalised and the disput-

ing parties agreed to meet on February 1 again to continue the collective bargaining attempt to reach settlement. Release of further details of the discussions at this stage could jeopardise the final outcome of negotiations, the press release conceded.

EMINENT VISITOR FROM NIGERIA

THE Deputy Inspector General of Police of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr P B O Oyasande, arrives in Windhoek today for a week-long visit to Namibia.

During his stay, he will pay a courtesy call on, among others, the UN Special Representative and his senior officials, Swapo leadership, as well as senior officials of the SWA Police.

He will also visit Oshakati, Ohangwena, Okatope and Otjiwar-

ongo to see members of the Nigerian police contingent in the Untag Civil Police. Nigeria has the largest police contingent in Untag.

Mr Oyasande will be accompanied by Mr A Sheidu, Assistant Inspector General of Police and Dr Rose Wushishi, Commissioner of Police.

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on Thursday to debate the finalised draft in its entirety, but observers felt that it was too early to expect an announcement of an independence date at the end of this week.

The meetings of the Standing Committee have been attended by three legal experts from South Africa who assisted in the compilation of the original draft constitution - they are Professor Marinus Wiechers, Mr Arthur Chaskalson SC and Professor Gerhard Erasmus.

Sources said that there was a general relief at the fact that the political positions within the Standing Committee had finally been agreed upon,

so that ratification of the constitution, and the announcement of an independence date, will still be possible within the month of January.

The announcement of an independence date will largely depend on how speedily the amended draft constitution is agreed to by a full sitting of the Constituent Assembly.

However, not many problems are expected with final ratification and hopefully, adoption by consensus, since the parties in the Assembly are all represented in the Standing Committee where most of the deliberations have taken place.

TV TONIGHT

17h58: Programrooster

18h00: Weet Jy Nie

18h05: Pound Puppies

18h25: Educational Programmes

"Bread and Butterflies: Planning ahead the racer"

"Manufacturing Games: Shock Absorbers"

18h50: Klein Niklaas

"n Halsband vir Patrasch"

Patrasch is weer heeltemal gesond en Niklaas besluit dat hy sterk genoeg is om saam stad toe te gaan. Hulle ontdek dat Patrasch se vorige eienaar ook in die omgewing is.

19h13: My Secret Identity
"Only trying to help"
Andrew's mother reads his diary and gets very concerned.

19h36: Growing Pains
"How the West was won" (Part II)

After staging a sit-in to protest the firing of his favourite teacher, Mike is suspended from school.

20h00: Nuus/Weerberig

20h25: Prodigious Hickey
Hickey and "The Shad" become rivals for the allegiance of their fellow pupils and "Uncooked Beefsteak" arrives on the scene.

21h08: Blue Grass (Final)

22h16: News/Weather Report

22h23: Sport

23h23: Dagsluiting

US experts for constitution

TWO American constitutional experts would meet within a week with Untag, members of the Constituent Assembly and political leaders, for discussions, reports SWABC TV.

According to a news release, one of the experts, Professor Dennis Thompson, was invited by the Foundation for Democracy to advise Namibian officials about the finalisation of a draft constitution for an independent Namibia. He is a lecturer in Political Science at the Brigham-Young University.

Professor Thompson will be accompanied by Professor John Moore, who heads the department of International Law at the University of Virginia.

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