

SPECIAL SUPER MARKET

Our Namibia.



NAMIBIA for sale? This signboard, one of many scattered across the north, was pictured at Ondangwa.

CONSTITUTION WILL BE ADOPTED ON FRIDAY

NAMIBIA'S Constituent Assembly finished debating and amending the draft independence constitution on Friday and is set to approve it by the necessary two-thirds majority this Friday.

Meanwhile, the document has been referred to lawyers and a specially-appointed all-party committee, who will incorporate agreed changes and generally polish up the document.

The CA is then due to meet briefly on Tuesday at 10am for a final look at the document. "Then it will be printed and adopted unanimously on Friday," CA chairperson Hage Geingob said.

However, it is unlikely that the constitution will be adopted unanimously as hoped.

Mr Kosie Pretorius of Action Christian National has already indicated that his party will abstain from voting, while the Federal Convention of Namibia have instructed their delegate, Mr Mburumba Kerina, to totally reject the constitution.

The item which sparked controversy on Thursday and involved at least five hours of debate - procedures for the amendment of the constitution - was swiftly resolved on Friday morning.

DTA chairperson Dirk Mudge said his party had agreed to accept the proposal for amendment as it stood in the draft.

Despite having some problems with

the clause, Mr Mudge said one reason they had decided to drop their reservations was the spirit in which deliberations had taken place.

"I cannot let the opportunity go by without bringing to the notice of the Namibian people that in this House a party which could have been easily outvoted was allowed about five hours to state its case," the DTA man said. "I think this is a victory for democracy."

The disputed clause sets out that the president may call a referendum to approve by a two-thirds majority changes to the constitution if an amendment fails to get a two-thirds vote in both houses of parliament.

The DTA had not wanted the matter left to the discretion of the president, and suggested that the National Assembly must ask him, by means of a two-thirds vote, to call a referendum.

This was vehemently opposed by Swapo, who said it denied the people a say in how the constitution should be altered in cases of deadlock.

Despite getting this issue out of the way quickly on Friday morning, the DTA, supported by National Patriotic Front leader Moses Katjuongua,

just as speedily got its teeth into another issue.

"Brother Barnes", as the DTA's Barney Barnes is sometimes referred to by Swapo members, said the DTA did not support the concept of the president being able to nominate cabinet ministers or deputy ministers. In terms of the constitution the president is able to nominate six people to top governmental positions.

In addition, Swapo pushed the idea that deputy ministers need not be elected from the House, but could be nominated.

Mr Barnes said the DTA already regarded the six nominees as a compromise and were not prepared to make further concessions on the matter. A compromise proposal by the Federal Convention of Namibia's Mr Kerina that the number of nominees be increased from six to 10 was also rejected.

Mr Katjuongua argued that the appointing of people not elected would be like "opening Pandora's box".

Swapo's shadow Information Minister Hidipo Hamutenya was quick to point out that those arguing that nominating six or 10 people from outside the Assembly to ministerial jobs would add to the taxpayers' burden and were the very same people who had proposed a second house.

"There is a contradiction somewhere here," he remarked dryly.

Mr Hamutenya then proposed that deputy ministers should be allowed to be elected from one of both houses, a suggestion which was accepted by everyone.

reported murders, stock theft and other acts of violence, apparently committed by armed men operating across the common border. But this is the first incident in which Namibians have sustained injuries from a shell fired from the other side.

Swapo on Saturday set up a border post at Omungwelum. The police say they have stepped up patrols in the area.

A spokesperson for Untag in Windhoek on Friday confirmed that fighting was taking place on the Angolan side. He said Malaysian troops at Beacon 16 have heard the sound of artillery and exchange of fire.

STRAY SHELL INJURES 10 IN THE NORTH

TEN people were injured on Thursday after a stray shell landed in a kraal in the Oshali-Oshindombe area on the Namibian border with Angola.

Four people, including two children - a one-year-old boy and an eight-year-old girl - were treated at Oshakati hospital on Thursday night. Hospital sources said the victims had chest, arm and leg wounds.

The shell was fired from the Angolan side where heavy fighting is reported between Fapla and Unita rebels. At the same time, 10 armed men in Unita uniforms entered the nearby hamlet of Ongenga, but local people appear to have foiled their mission. They retreated across the border, empty-handed.

Cross-border attacks and robberies have considerably increased in recent weeks. Border residents have

NO FCN RIFT SAYS DIERGAARDT

Rehobothers protest draft constitution

SIMMERING discontent among sections of the population at Rehoboth over Namibia's draft independence constitution could spill over into a protest today.

Baster and FCN leader Kaptein Hans Diergaardt said last night that there were "rumours that the people are going to have a demonstration" at Rehoboth.

He maintained, however, that he was not involved with planning the protest.

At the same time, Kaptein Diergaardt confirmed that he was not happy with sections of the draft constitution, particularly as far as regional government is concerned.

"I won't say I'm unhappy, but I feel very strongly that regional governments and their functions are not clearly defined," he told The Namibian in a telephonic interview.

The FCN man dismissed rumours that there was a rift between the Federal Convention of Namibia's delegate in the Constituent Assembly, Mr Mburumba Kerina, and the rest of the FCN leadership.

Kaptein Diergaardt added that he

thought Mr Kerina was capable of adequately representing the FCN's views.

As far as the legal letter sent to Mr Kerina last week instructing him to totally reject the constitution was concerned, Kaptein Diergaardt said he had been unaware of it.

"I was asked by some FCN members...that we ask Professor Kerina not to vote for it. I was not aware that they had asked an attorney to send the letter. I thought it would simply go on the FCN letterhead," he explained.

The hasty legal letter to Mr Kerina created the impression at the time that normal communication between him and Kaptein Diergaardt, Mr Patrick Limbo and Mr Kephias Conradie had broken down.

In the past, Kaptein Diergaardt has threatened to declare UDI if Rehoboth was not given adequate self-governing powers and functions.

Public must help 'People's Police'

BY MOCKS SHIVUTE, NAMPA

ALL former members of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (Plan) who received police training in exile will be integrated in the South West African Police (Swapol) structure, shadow Minister of Home Affairs, Hifikepunye Pohamba, said at Oluno yesterday.

Speaking to members of the public and Swapol from the Ondangwa area, Mr Pohamba said he and Commissioner of Police General Piet Fouché had realised there were not enough policemen in the troubled northern area.

This had resulted in a joint decision to integrate Plan members into the existing structures.

Mr Pohamba and his entourage visited Outapi, Ruacana, Okalongo, Omungwelum, Okongo, Omundaungilo, Engela, Ohangwena and finally Oluno over the weekend. At all places he addressed joint meetings of Swapol and the public on the same issues.

He told the gatherings that the police force would fall under the Ministry of Home Affairs. That was why he was travelling with General Fouché to address the issue of a police force.

The shadow minister said he had also asked Administrator-General

Louis Pienaar to remove all Casspirs from Swapol.

This had been approved and showed "good co-operation between the incoming government and the outgoing administration".

Mr Pohamba also stressed the need for reconciliation, and urged the public not to throw stones at the police or call them names like 'makakunyas' or 'sell-outs'.

"From now on they should be called the People's Police because they are going to serve your interest and not that of the illegal regime of Pretoria."

Mr Pohamba appealed for co-operation between the police and the public. The shadow minister also gave the assurance that the police were not going to be dismissed from the force.

"Those presently in Swapol are all sons and daughters of this country," he added, saying that members of the South African Police had been sent back to the Republic.



A SECTION of the meeting at Omungwelum which was addressed by shadow Home Affairs Minister Hifikepunye Pohamba and Namibia's Police Commissioner General Piet Fouché on Saturday.