



# Namibian Defence Force



## JOURNAL

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Jan - March 2019



# EMBRACING

## Women in Defence Force





Republic of Namibia  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

### VISION

*To be a reliable and committed national defence organisation with the capacity to defend Namibia and render effective peace time support.*

### MISSION

*To operate a cost effective, professional and highly mobile national defence system that will safeguard Namibia's territory, its inhabitants and national interests, and to contribute to national development and world peace.*

### CORE VALUES

*Patriotism and Dedication  
Respect for Rule of Law  
Integrity  
Transparent and Accountability  
Professionalism  
Teamwork and Cooperation*



# NDF Journal

## January to March

## 2019

No. 1 of 2019

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"As we celebrate 22 years of SADC commitments towards gender programs, we should applaud the region for the decisive action to place gender on its regional agenda program of action and community building initiative"

**Hon. Billy Mwaningange**  
Deputy Minister of Defence

"The MOD like any other government ministries has a role to play in building a better Namibia by upholding government policies and developmental plan including national policy"

**Lt Gen John Mutwa**  
Chief of the Namibian Defence Force

"Women should be deployed to all operations, open all mustering and stop stereotyping to allow both men and women maximise their full potential"

**Brig Gen Fiina Amupolo**  
Defence Inspector General

## WELCOME ON BOARD

WO1 LEONARD PENDAPALA  
IIYAMBO  
Newly appointed  
NDF SERGEANT MAJOR





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## ditor's note

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One of the focus areas in this NDF Journal edition is the welfare of women in society. This is not the initial discussion on women and children in our journal, but it is a continuation of the efforts that seek to place women on par with men and raise their confidence to thrive in their careers.

This does not put men under pressure nor does it gauge them as barriers in women's advocacy for inclusion, but it inspires men to join forces in an effort to promote the advancement of women in all spheres of life.

The Ministry of Defence has made positive strides towards the advancement of women in the defence force as it has explored gender equality and gender mainstreaming in various agenda. Read **'Great Stride Towards Gender Equality' (page 6)** and find out how the Ministry of Defence advocates for women's equal rights in the military.

Another discourse worth noting in this edition is the participation of Namibia in the Africa-India Field Training Exercise code named AFINDEX, that took place in India **(page 18)**. The Swahili proverb states, "One finger alone cannot kill a louse" and "One pole cannot support a house" tasks African defence forces to work together and establish mutual understanding in order to combat security threats facing the African continent. Many African countries contemplated interoperability training exercise and have secured partnerships with other continents' defence forces including India as a way to consolidate a unified effective measures to fight security threats across the African continent.

Furthermore, as Namibians, we should give ourselves a standing ovation for realising the return of the national heritage (Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi's Bible and the Whip) **(Page 16)**. No one could take away the joy and celebration that overwhelmed the nation upon the arrival of cultural artefacts that were kept away in Germany for more than a century. To collect and archive these significant items in the national memorial museum signify our early soldiers' heroic deeds. The Ministry of Defence played military ceremonial role at the reception of all artefacts brought back home and is the way worth honouring and dignifying early soldiers, the likes of Kaptein Witbooi and many others.

On a sad note, this edition compiled the life of the late Maj Gen (rtd) Peter Nambundunga, who passed on in January. He is remembered in so many ways. He served Namibia in uniform dating from the time of liberation struggle until he retired as the Namibian Defence Force General Officer in 2011 **(page 10)**. The MOD and indeed the NDF hold his selflessness and unwavering commitment in high regard. May his soul rest in peace.

Apart from these, you are reminded and encouraged to grab a copy of the NDF Journal Edition, and please contribute any entertaining, educational and informative article to our defence publication. It is important to hear your voice on any issue related to the defence force.

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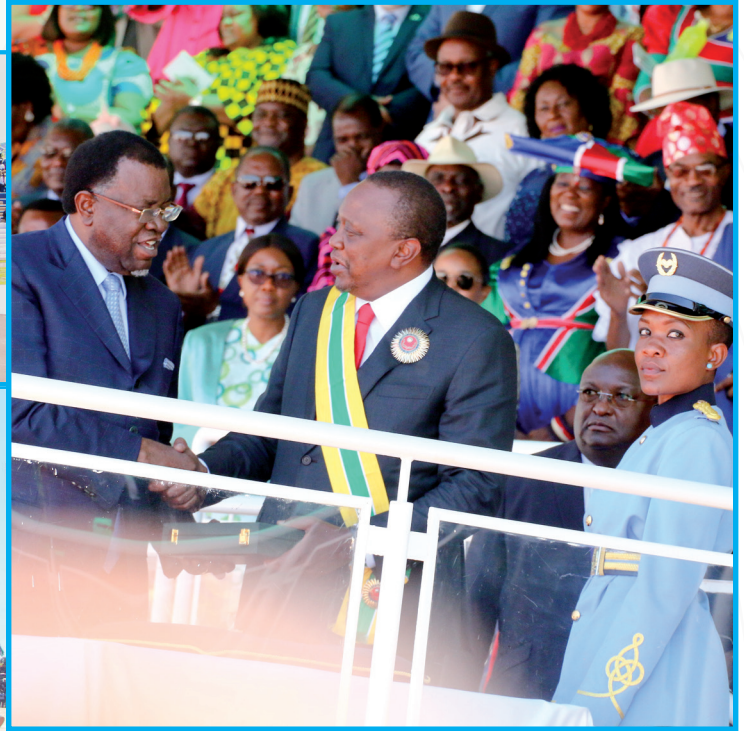
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— The Editor



# 29<sup>th</sup> Independence celebration

21<sup>st</sup> March  
Independence Stadium-Windhoek  
YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE  
United we stand, for the love of Namibia  
United we stand, for the love of Namibia







“I call for mind-set transformation of women, to move from being symbolic mothers to professional soldiers, penetrates all mustering and be deployable to all operations, in order to maximise their full potential.”

The International Women’s Day (IWD) themes are set to reflect on the successes in the fight for gender equality and gender mainstreaming. They also serve to inspire result-oriented actions and support the United Nations-Sustainable Development Goal-5 (UN-SDG-5) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) – Protocol on Gender and Development.

The UN-SDG-5 calls for the end of discrimination against women and girls because it has been proven that empowering women helps economic growth and development. The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development provides for the empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination, and the promotion of gender equality and equity through gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

The 2019, the IWD theme: ‘Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovative for Change: Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality,’ denotes that the aspiration for equal opportunities turns a new leaf and gear for the betterment of women’s status in social setup. The theme focuses on innovative ways in which the world advances gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructures. Thus, innovative approaches are central to removing structural barriers and ensuring that no woman is left behind.





**ABOVE:** Brig Gen Amupolo delivering her keynote address at the commemoration of IWD held at Tobias Hainyeko Garrison

The 2019-IWD theme earnestly supports the UN-SDG-5 which is a mechanism that interprets empowering women and promoting gender equality as synergy behind the acceleration of sustainable development. It also identifies that ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but a multiplier effect across all other development areas.

While the International organisation strives for acceleration of sustainable development through the recognition of women, the SADC also pledge support for women betterment. The SADC Member States undertook, in the SADC Treaty, Article 6 (2), not to discriminate against any person on the grounds of inter alia, sex or gender. It commits to mainstreaming gender into the SADC Programme of Action and Community Building initiatives as a prerequisite for sustainable development. The goals to deepen regional integration and strengthen community building is acknowledged to be realised by eliminating Gender inequalities and marginalisation of women throughout the SADC region. This considerate attempt includes the eradication of gender gaps in the military setups to ensure

women are equally involved in decision-making and combat operations.

It is within this context that the society is bracing for the optimistic progress in the advancement for gender equality through various platforms in which both men and women have a stake to change the status quo and voice out their desire to live in a balanced world where all people enjoy equal opportunities free of discrimination and marginalisation.

On 08 March, which is a day set for the IWD commemoration, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) joined the rest of the world by assembling men and women at Tobias Hainyeko Garrison and Lt Gen Dimo Hamaambo Garrison to take into account women's prospects, looking at the progress made and chart the way forward.

As a tradition, on this day the soldiers usually come together to observe and celebrate gender equality achievements in the ministry and simultaneously renew their commitments towards the advancement of women in the military. The Ministry believes development cannot take place if it excludes half the human race, and thus made gender equality a priority and central to its work. The Ministry has an impressive record on women advancement looking at the growing inclusion of women in tasks traditionally presumed for men.

In 2009, the Ministry created a Gender Division which is mandated to ensure gender responsiveness in all doings. Since then, considerable improvement in representation and participation of women has increased gradually. Mechanisms for achieving gender equality and mainstreaming gender in institution policies, programs and practices have been established so far. In addition, Gender Advisors at Services, Formations and Units were appointed on full basis.

Moreover, data on women's representation in leadership structures and participation in decision making has improved while participation in peacekeeping missions recorded high.

Participation of women in peacekeeping missions improves from 0% in 1993 to 10% in 2014, meanwhile in leadership and command positions the number has increased from 5% to 18% as per 2016 statistics.

Overall, the general representation of women in the force was recorded at 23% in 2016.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is clear on its resolve to promote the women's contribution to peace and security. In 2000, UNSCR 1325 emphasised that women's "equal participation and full involvement" is important to promoting peace and security.

**Great: continued on page 8**





Pte Kapiye, operating Anti Air Defence Gun

**Great:  
From page 7**

## CROSSING THE BRIDGE

The MOD makes it a priority to ensure women's representation at all levels of its structures. Women in the NDF have proven that they are equally capable and possess similar appetite to deliver in men's traditional domains.

*Among such women are:*

**PRIVATE (PTE) JOHANNA KAPIYE**, an Anti Air Defence Gunner from Air Defence Brigade. She feels great to be part of the profession portrayed as men ground. "I feel unrestricted and comfortable to work with men and appreciate their guidance and encouragements to defeat the odds. It helped me to put behind the belief that this gun was made for men only," she said.

Pte Kapiye experienced anxiety when she was selected to be part of the five (5) crew for Anti Air Defence Gun.

She felt hard-done and punished for the wrong she cannot reminisce.

"The gun looked big and terrifying, let alone imagine its sound and the men's forcefulness during the training. However, after I familiarised with the technicality and its user-friendliness I became passionate about it." All started with the basic military training at Military School back in 2015, where she together with others went through various conditioning techniques to adapt to military life and ensure that they obey all orders without hesitation. "All began in the basic military training where we rubbed shoulders with men in all training aspects and afterwards graduated together. After I mastered the Anti Air Defence Gun, I came to realise that the basic military training was more intense and eventually disposed of fear," said Pte Kapiye.

Many women miss opportunities in various professions due to popular belief that most of the arduous tasks were made for men. "Women should not shy away from opportunities. We should grab any opportunities in men's territory and show our capabilities. The Anti Air Defence Gun is just another weapon and can be operated by anybody irrespective of gender, hence we should explore opportunities and live up to the desire to compete with men," Pte Kapiye said.





Flt Offr Kamunguma flying Air Force's Transport Aircraft



LS Robyn, the only woman professional diver at the Marine Corps dressing her swimming costume during one of the Marine Corps operations

**FLIGHT OFFICER (FLT OFFR) NDUNO KAMUNGUMA**, a pilot at the Air Force is living her dream and reaping the fruits of her focus, hard work and determination that culminated into a respected pilot for Transport Aircraft. "I am relishing my 12 years in the profession. Training in a male dominated environment was challenging, but with the encouragement of my instructors, hard work and determination it all yielded well in the end," said Flt Offr Kamunguma.

Flt Offr Kamunguma aspires to be more than what she was yesterday and live by a catchline 'today's success is tomorrow's mediocre. "Growth should be the most common denominator in your endeavour. Come one come all, let us all conquer the forces of the skies, the sky has no limits. Only you are your worst limitation. Nothing is impossible, the word itself say I am possible," she said.

**LEADING SEAMAN (LS) ALLEN ROBYN** from the Marine Corps is enjoying her career. She joined the Namibian Defence Force in 2012 and was deployed to the Navy. She found nothing sinister about being a Marine, the profession where intensive training and sacrifices are indispensable that in some cases incurs bad injuries. "After proper training in both Namibia and China, I find my career very exciting and it gives me an opportunity to experience things some people can only dream of," she said.

LS Robyn believes anyone can reach the aim pursued irrespective of gender as there are no jobs meant for men only. "Being a female is not a disability. You can be whatever you want to be in life, a lot of times it requires us to put more effort and the reward would completely be worth it. I am encouraging females to join me because it is such an empowering feeling to do a job relatively considered as men's only," she said.

"The IWD event presents a great opportunity to cherish women's accomplishment and to encourage each other in one way or the other. It is a day we come together to acknowledge, to honour, to celebrate acts of courage, contributions and achievement of notable and ordinary women," Brig Gen Fiina Amupolo, Defence Inspector General said this while addressing the IWD celebration gathering at Tobias Hainyeko Garrison Parade Ground.

Brig Gen Amupolo is challenging members to think equal and act innovatively. "I call for mind-set transformation of women, to move from being symbolic mothers to professional soldiers, penetrates all mustering and be deployable to all operations, in order to maximise their full potential." said Brig Gen Amupolo.

It is thus on the basis of IWD themes that the striving for gender equality find the balance to influence mechanisms that endeavour to change the worldviews perceiving women as in-proficient. There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.



# LAST HONOUR

## For Major General Nambundunga



*Late Maj Gen (rtd) Peter Nambundunga*

A hero of the liberation struggle and one of the founders of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) has gone to rest but leaves behind a rich legacy of selflessness, fearlessness and unwavering commitment to his country.

Major General Retired (Maj Gen rtd) Peter Kagadhinwa Nambundunga passed away on 15 January 2019 and was laid to rest at the Omugulugombashe National Heritage Site, the place where the country's armed liberation struggle started in 1966.

He was accorded a state funeral for his illustrative contribution to Namibia's independence and, to the establishment and development of the NDF.

The 17 Gun Salute conducted by soldiers during the burial ceremony recognised Maj Gen Nambundunga's long-serving and patriotic deeds to the nation, his seniority in the defence force as well as his patriotic deeds to the nation.

It also bestowed honour on his departure.

Meanwhile, the national flag draped over and military badges pounded on the casket (headgear and sword), honours the memory of his service to the nation and the superior role he played in the NDF that enticed his rise through the ranks and files of the force.

Many significant events during Namibia's pre and post-independence have put Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga in the national heroes' category for which he was duly accorded a State Funeral.

For his heroic deeds he remains an epitome to generations, more so for his role in the liberation struggle and in independent Namibia.

Tributes recounting Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga's life poured in during the memorial service held at his homestead at Oshihole village in Omusati Region. His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia and the Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force said "We bury a man with a selfless disposition who was ready to sacrifice all and was ready to lay down his life for the purpose of liberating the people of Namibia." He joined other Namibians in the liberation struggle in 1975 and underwent military training in Kongwa, Tanzania and later was appointed as Chief Instructor at the same center in 1977.

Major Gen (rtd) Peter Nambundunga also known as 'Cosmos' inspired many Namibians through his fearlessness and patriotism towards the country's freedom. He served in the liberation movement South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) as a military strategist and member of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) Military Council. The President said, Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga was one of the military strategists and his leadership acumen, as a commander, was instrumental in boosting the morale of his fellow PLAN combatants to effectively engage the enemy forces. "The late Nambundunga dedicated his greater youthful and adult life for the liberation struggle of our motherland until victory was attained and thereafter to build a free and independent Namibia," said the Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force.

Following the Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council in 1978, which facilitated the return of Namibia's refugees



*H.E Dr. Geingob paying final respect at the casket of the late Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga during the burial ceremony at Omugulugombashe National Heritage Site*



and ex-combatants ahead of elections in Namibia under the supervision of United Nations Assistance Transitional Group (UNTAG) in 1989, Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga was repatriated and formed part of the NDF pioneers. In 1990, the late Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga was inducted in the NDF with the rank of Colonel and appointed as the Director of Logistics and thereafter rose through the ranks of the NDF up to Major General. "Nambundunga continued to serve the people of Namibia with commitment and dedication as one of the founders of the newly established Namibian Defence Force where he rose through the ranks," H.E Dr. Sam Nujoma, the Founding President and the Father of the Namibian Nation said during the memorial service.

Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga served the MOD and NDF in various capacities in and beyond the country. From 2000 to 2005 he served as an NDF Chief of Staff, responsible for administration and routine matters to allow the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) to concentrate on policies and strategic matters.

His leadership acumen spoke volume as he was appointed Army Commander, taking over from the then Maj Gen Martin Shalli in 2005.

From 2009 to 2011 he was appointed as Acting CDF, the post he held until he retired from active military service in 2011.

On regional assignments, Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga participated in the SADC Allied Forces (Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe) operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He also represented Namibia on the Joint Verification Commission, which oversaw the implementation of the ceasefire and peace process in the DRC during Operation Atlantic from 1999 to 2000. On other assignments, he was the Coordinator and the Principal Officer in the CDF Office representing NDF on bilateral issues amongst others.

Late Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga was decorated with the following medals: The Most Distinguished Order of Namibia First Class, NDF Commendation, Army 10 Years, Army 20 years, Operation Mandume and Operation Atlantic medals.

After retirement from active military service, Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga was appointed and served as the Special Advisor to the Governor of Ohangwena Region, the position he held until his untimely passing on 15 January 2019.



*Pallbearers paying last respect as the casket of the late Maj Gen (rtd) Nambundunga is being lowered at the Omugulugombashe National Heritage Site*





*WO1 Albert Siyaya*

“WO1 Siyaya served in difficult times and played a major role in various combat operations. His legacy of the liberation struggle is known to most of us,”

## *WO1 SIYAYA* *Retires as NDF Sergeant Major,* *WO1 Iyambo takes over*

The Namibian Defence Force (NDF) bade farewell to one of its longest serving Sergeant Major (SM). His noble task of enforcing order and discipline as well as improving military ceremonial functions, contributed to the positive outlook of the force.

After 28 years in NDF uniform which followed 12 years in exile as a PLAN combatant, it was time for NDF Sergeant Major (SM) WO1 Albert Nyambe Siyaya to hang his boots and face a new chapter of his life as an ordinary Namibian who can look back with pride at his contribution to a peaceful and stable Namibia.

He joined the liberation struggle at a tender age in Zambia in 1978. He received military training in Zambia, Angola and Cuba.

Amongst military appointments he held in the liberation struggle include; Platoon Commander, Battery Commander and Air Defence Group Commander.

Acknowledging the role of WO1 Siyaya played during the liberation struggle, Lt Gen John Mutwa, Chief of Defence Force (CDF) at the official handover of the office said, “As a cadre of the liberation struggle under the 1<sup>st</sup> Mechanised Brigade of PLAN, WO1 Siyaya served in difficult times and played a major role in various combat operations. His legacy of the liberation struggle is known to most of us.”

During the implementation of UN Resolution 435, that guaranteed the safe return of Namibian refugees and ex-combatants to Namibia, WO1 Siyaya was repatriated in 1989 and joined the NDF in 1990. He became the founding Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of Air Defence Battalion in 1991. He then served the NDF as a Formation Sergeant Major (FSM) for 26 Bde from 1998–2003, 4 Artillery Brigade FSM 2004–2009, Military School FSM 2010–2011, Air Force Sergeant Major 2011–2016 and thereafter, NDF Sergeant Major 2017–2019.

Lt Gen Mutwa commended WO1 Siyaya that he has been inspirational at all Arms of Service, Formations and Units, and served as a role model to the soldiers and his peers alike. “As an individual with charismatic stature, he entirely inspired his colleagues and peers wherever he served the NDF.



He served with great sense of determination, diligence and enthusiasm,” CDF said.

WO1 Siyaya has been active especially in enforcing the mustering of military standard drills and ensuring maintenance of tidiness amongst troops under his care at all times.

As the RSM, for the AD Regt, he almost won every competition in his category.

The responsibility of NDF SM was since entrusted to another pioneer of the NDF, WO1 Leonard Pendapala Iyambo who is renowned for his ‘no-nonsense’ approach to military discipline.

Handing over the symbol of office, WO1 Siyaya congratulated WO1 Iyambo whom he recognised as charismatic, dedicated and a determined leader. He therefore, charged him to take over where he left off “I leave you with the people, lead them. I leave you with the project to develop the career of the Sergeant Majors in the Force,” said Siyaya.

WO1 Siyaya is decorated with various medals for his service to the nation, which amongst others include:

**NDF 10 Years medal, Army 10 Years medal, Army 20 Years medal, Army Pioneer medal, 10 Years NDF Meritorious medal, Air Force Commander’s Exemplary medal, Operation Mandume medal and Operation Atlantic medal**

WO1 Iyambo took over the NDF Sergeant Major Office with extensive experience. He served the defence force at various positions including the Army Sergeant Major. He joined the NDF in 1990 subsequent to 10 years in the liberation struggle as a PLAN combatant.

His Sergeant Major responsibility started in 2002 when he was appointed Advisor to NDF Sergeant Major and later became FSM for Military School in 2003. In 2004 he was deployed to 26 Bde with the same responsibility and subsequently served his last FSM duty at 21 Bde from 2016-2018 prior to his appointed as Army Sergeant Major in 2018.

WO1 Iyambo took over the NDF Sergeant Major position knowing that the task ahead was challenging and needed assurance of commitments. “Knowing that the current assignment I take is tough and challenging, let me promise that I will perform to the best of my knowledge to serve the territorial integrity of our motherland without fear or reservation,” WO1 Iyambo said.



*WO1 Leonard Pendapala Iyambo*

The appointment of WO1 Iyambo as NDF Sergeant Major got credence from various military courses he undertook, such as WO Ceremonial Course, Sergeant Majors’ Course, Command Sergeant Majors’ Course, Formative Training for WOs and NCOs Course and Leader Professional Development Course amongst others.

For his participation in the liberation struggle and commitment to the NDF, WO1 Iyambo was bestowed with Veteran of War of the Liberation Struggle status and decorated with various medals such as; **Army Pioneer Gold medal, Army Ten Years Service medal, Namibia Commendation medal 1st Class and Army Twenty Years Service medal.**

## **DUTIES OF NDF SERGEANT MAJOR**

**NDF Sergeant Major is tasked to make sure that discipline, drill, dressing code, performance standards and morale of the non commissioned officers are maintained at all times.**



# DEFENCE

## *Tackling gender based violence*



*Group photo taken after the Award of certificates to 21 Bde soldiers who attended GBV elimination workshop in February. The workshop was jointly conducted by MOD's Gender Division and Women's Action for Development*

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most severe human rights violations pervading the world and as such, it has become a priority to be eliminated. It is also on that basis that the United Nations has listed the elimination of gender-based violence as the fifth goal among its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) that individual countries must prioritise for action.

Specifically, Goal 5.2 of the SDG's calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. As signatories, countries of the world have committed to work towards the elimination of GBV.

It is also in that light that the Ministry of Defence (MOD), as a key and critical arm of the state, has intensified its effort in fighting GBV in its ranks as a small but significant step towards eliminating GBV in the country.

It is also against that background that the MOD's Gender Division organized the first-ever training on GBV for male soldiers.

The workshop, hosted jointly with Women's Action for Development (WAD), was an effort to discuss how soldiers can join hands to address the escalating human rights violations against women. During the two-week dialogue, participants appreciated the full spectrum and causes of GBV, its preventative methods as well as understand their own roles in fighting GBV.

*"DUE TO THE NATURE OF OUR WORK, UNIFORMED PERSONNEL, MAJORITY OF THEM ARE PRONE TO PLEASURE AND STRESS, HENCE, THEY NEED TO BE CAPACITATED WITH KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES THAT ENABLE THEM REACT PROFESSIONALLY WITHOUT EMOTION AND ANGER, WHEN CONFRONTED BY STRESSFUL SITUATIONS,"*



Generally, the aim of the workshop was to create attitudinal and behavioural changes among men in uniform in order to inspire them to form part of the synergy against GBV.

Close to 100 members, mostly men drawn from the 21 Brigade received their certificates on 11 February, a significant demonstration of MOD's committed to fight the GBV in society.

Statistics indicate that GBV is an old phenomena and the society in recent years have realised the need to embrace ways and means to address its root cause. Soldiers are national security personnel and as such they need to put the interest of the people first to the extent of protecting them from human calamity such as GBV.

To manifest this undertaking, the MOD, by all means necessary have to explore pathways to end GBV through various platforms including workshops, information sharing. Lt Gen John Mutwa, Chief of Defence Force said at the handover of certificates that "for many years we have been living in denial that GBV is a threat to human lives until we started witnessing episodes of passion killings and rapes. It is a responsibility for everyone to ensure that fighting GBV is a cross cutting action."

General Mutwa's statement reflected various statistics and reports which revealed the escalating GBV cases in the country. A report by the Namibian police compiled in 2016 disclosed that 5000 GBV related crimes were committed between 2014-2016. This is indeed a worrisome rising figure that raised eyebrows and prompted institutions and individuals alike to advance measures to deal with the escalating GBV cases.

GBV transpires in various acts that induce long-term physical and mental health problems in victims, their families and the communities as a whole. Some common acts of GBV are rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, reproductive coercion, infanticide, prenatal sex selection or obstetric violence, and among others. The common form of GBV in Namibia as per the National Gender Policy 2010-2020 on GBV are rape and domestic violence. The Windhoek Observer Newspaper of 22 September 2017 alluded to the statistics disclosed by the Namibia Police's GBV division, revealing that about 50,000 crimes related to GBV were reported from 2014-2016, with the Khomas region alone. In 2016 alone, statistics from the Namibian Police showed that more than 2,000 cases of gender-based violence were reported in the country.

Given this in-human recitals and the gravity of their consequences, it is simply important to intensify the fight against GBV through the microscope of various gender related concepts such as gender mainstreaming, marriage act, maintenance act, domestic violence and, substance and alcohol abuse. "I am pleased that the MOD like any other

public institutions, provide leadership in capacity building by upholding government policies and development plans including the national gender policy. I am expecting soldiers to be change agents in the society they serve and make Namibia a safe haven for all," said Chief of Defence Force.

The National Gender Policy 2010-2020 on GBV set objectives and strategies for laws and policies to reduce the prevalence of gender based violence and increase protection for women and girls. These legislations sets platforms advocating against gender based violence. Col Elizabeth Mboti, Head of Gender Division-MOD on her remarks at the handover of certificates said men should be partners in advocacy against GBV, hence building awareness for male networks to promote male involvement in preventing GBV is the right way to go.

Suffice is to say the Defence Ministry responds positively to the national call to end GBV through engaging various experts and stakeholders, to train men in uniform to break the cycle of violence. "Due to the nature of our work, uniformed personnel, majority of them are prone to pleasure and stress, hence, they need to be capacitated with knowledge, skills and techniques that enable them to react professionally without emotion and anger, when confronted by stressful situations," Col Mboti said.

The increased GBV cases have been a subject for debate with some critics pointing that lack of men's involvement hampers sound progress in resolving the scourge. Statistics labeled men as main culprits of GBV, hence engaging them in the fight against human right violence could reduce the likelihood of GBV.

Col Mboti said the government has committed towards eradication of all forms of GBV. "Hence, this being part and parcel of the defence of our territorial integrity and the maintenance of peace and stability, we are likely to fail in our duty, if we don't take concrete actions and this is the right time and the correct step in the right direction," Col Mboti said.

The eradication of GBV in society is viable given that it involves both men and women; public, private and non-government organisations, taking concerted effort and find propitious actions to end GBV. To this end, Col Mboti said commanders at all levels should support GBV trainings in the NDF, release members to attend related workshops so that in the end, they help combating malfeasance in the communities. "We need your support so that the message spread by this program reaches every member of the NDF," Col Mboti said.

Workshops to advance and intensify fighting against GBV continue across the NDF establishments as efforts to provide all soldiers with information leading to the utterly found measures to address violence against humanity and equip soldiers with courage and determination to contribute to the national peace and security.



# NATIONAL HERITAGE

## RETURNS HOME TO DIGNIFY EARLY SOLDIERS

**T**he return of Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi's Bible and the Whip from Germany, underlined Namibia's unrelenting efforts to bring back its heritage. It also serves as a fruitful outcome of the ongoing dialogue between Namibia and Germany over the genocide perpetuated by the German forces against thousands of Herero and Nama people more than a century ago.

The Bible and the Whip of the former Nama leader was brought back in Namibia after it was retained in Germany for 126 years. These cultural artefacts are one of many items which were seized by German colonial soldiers after they attacked Kaptein Witbooi at Hornkranz, a village about 120 km southwest of Windhoek on 12 April 1893. The attack killed over 70 people, while Kaptein and some others survive and escaped.

The Bible which Kaptein Witbooi travelled with on many occasions, consists of the New Testament, published in Nama language and was printed in Berlin in 1866.

The delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) arrived in Namibia with the Bible and the Whip on 26 February 2019. The Namibian Defence Force (NDF) Quarter Guard was mounted from the apron to the terminal at Hosea Kutako International Airport to honour the returned items Kaptein Witbooi used as symbols of his leadership.

The arrival of the artefacts is the second consignment of historic items returning from Germany following the repatriation of Hereros and Namas skulls and bones of genocide victims last year. History maintains that these remains were taken by German colonial forces more than a century ago for the purpose of experiment that aimed at proving racial superiority of white Europeans. The killing of indigenous and the abduction of their remains was a means to coerce Namibian leaders to cease the fight against German colonialism.

The NDF is tasked with the responsibility to honour historic national significances with military ceremonial and they have been carrying out the ceremonial duties with passion and certainty. The Defence Force is committed not only to the principle and value enshrined in the Constitution



*The Bible and Whip of Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi that returned from Germany. These collections have since been archived in Independence Memorial Museum in Windhoek*

but also entrenched in the forefathers unflagging behaviours that have withstood the colonial oppression and inspire the subsequent leaders to steer the course of liberation.

The heroic deeds of the Namibian early leaders such as Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi, Chief Samuel Maharero, King Mandume Ya Ndemufayo, King Ipumbu Ya Tshilongo, King Nehale Iya Mpingana, Chief Jacob Marengo, Chief Hosea Kutako and many other heroes and heroines inspire the defence force to execute their constitutional mandate diligently.

At the Bible and Whip official handover ceremony held at Gibeon in Hardap Region in February, the military ceremonial battalion led the proceeding escorting the wooden box that contained heirlooms to the podium. Gibeon, a small village was filled with tears and joy as the Defence Force Brass Band played the National and African Union Anthems, before His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia took stage to accept the artefacts from Hon. Theresia Bauer, the Minister of Science, Research and Arts Baden-Württemberg and the head of the FRG delegation.

"It is true that an event such as this will evoke painful memories, given the history of our country, but similarly, the repatriation of the bible and whip of Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi, is an occasion for Namibia to pay honour to one of its foremost heroes. Such an event should be graced by an





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atmosphere of peace, sensitivity and understanding, instead of being demeaned by misgivings and hostility,” said the President.

The restitution of colonial heirlooms is a historical obligation that further consolidate ongoing dialogue between Namibia and Germany and review the colonial history. The two states have been engaged in dialogue shedding light on the genocide perpetuated by German colonial forces

against thousands of Herero and Nama people over a 100 years ago. Thus, the return of the Bible and the Whip is one of the success stories resulting from the ongoing bilateral engagement.

The Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi's Bible and Whip are archived at the Independence Memorial Museum in Windhoek alongside other national heritages ready to be accessed by everybody irrespectively.



*H.E Dr. Hage Geingob receiving Kaptein Hendrick Witbooi's Bible and the Whip from Hon. Theresia Bauer, Head of the FRG delegation.*





The frequency of security threat in certain areas of the African continent has prompted the African nations and their friendly overseas countries to engage in joint military trainings. These initiatives are aimed at exchanging experiences and acquisition of new practices that are crucial to peace support operations.

The need to unify military operation's practices in the African continent was intensified when India initiated a joint training exercise between its Armed Forces and certain African Defence Forces through Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX). The hosting of this exercise was a step that intended to add value to peace support operations and save lives in the conflicted African

zones. Contingents comprised of 10 military personnel each from 17 African countries alongside a contingent from India Armed Forces came together at Aundh Military Station in Pune, India from 16-27 March, to participate in the first episode of AFINDEX.

The African countries that joined Namibia in AFINDEX-19 were Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The first edition of the exercise reflects the growing strategic ties between India and the African continent. It also delineated as best practice to further cement relationship amongst the nations and act as a catalyst in bringing synergy



(Left and right pictures,) Photos taken during AFINDEX-19 in India. Namibia participated with other 17 African countries



and cooperation within the African Defence Forces while undertaking peace support operations under the United Nations.

The training was conducted under the ambit of United Nations' Chapter 7, which sets out the UN Security Council's power to maintain peace. It allows the Council to "determine the existence of any threat to peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" and to take military and non-military action to "restore international peace and security."

India has gradually enhance military and defence cooperation with a number of African countries and has extended training offers to many African military personnel. It has participated in the UN Peacekeeping missions in Africa and has sizeable contingents in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. The Importance of engaging with Africa has been identified at the highest level and had been encapsulated in the India-Africa Forum Summit 2015.

The overall aim of AFINDEX-19 was to train the participating nations in planning and conducting Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) and Peacekeeping Operations under the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations mandate.

As an inaugural version, AFINDEX-19 further acquaints the contingents with each other's operational procedures as

prescribed by the United Nations directive.

With regard to HMA, the training included Mine Risk Awareness Program, Survey and marking of mine affected areas, establishment and functioning of Mine Action Center, both manual and mechanical methods of de-mining, instructions of land release post de-mining, and handling and disposal techniques for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

The contingents have benefited from shared experiences of various UN Peacekeeping Missions they participated such as training on protection of civilians in war torn areas, methodology of carrying out patrolling and convoy protection, establishment of Company Operating Bases and, Command Posts as well as the actions to be taken from the Operating Bases.

Additional to the HMA and Peacekeeping Operations, AFINDEX-19 served as an introductory episode in which participating nations enhance diplomatic and cultural bonds, which are keys in joint military operations. "AFINDEX is a great tool to help fostering the existing bond between India and African countries and we need to closely work together to ensure peace and stability," H.E. Prashant Agrawal, India's Ambassador to Namibia said this while briefing the 10 Namibia's contingent members to AFINDEX-19 at the High Commission of India office in Windhoek.



# WOII JOHANNES

## REIGNS SUPREME IN WOMEN MARATHON

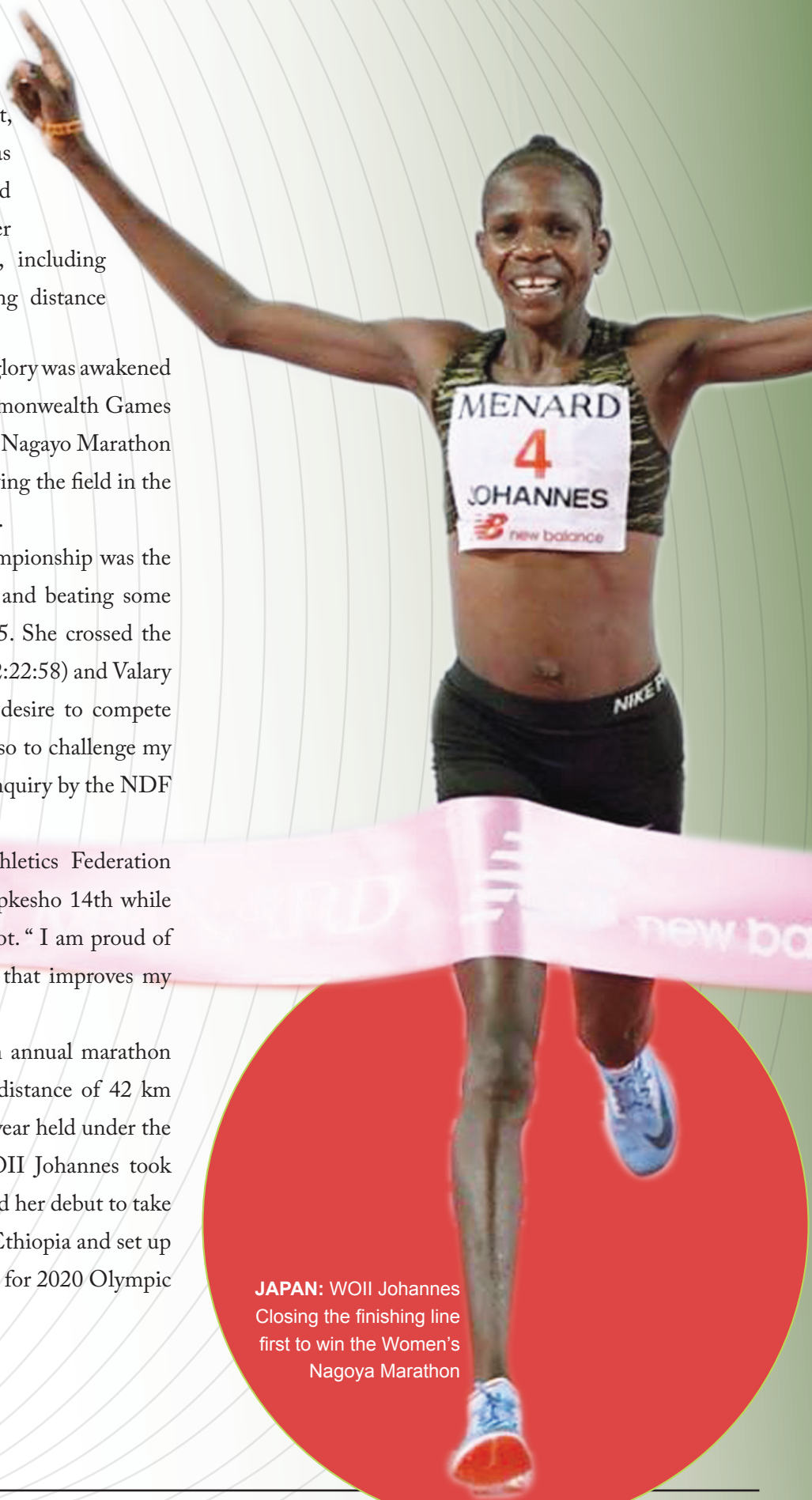
Commonwealth gold medalist, WOII Helalia Johannes has set her sight on winning a gold medal at next year's Olympic Games after excellent performances in recent races, including setting new national records in the long distance disciplines.

Johannes' quest for more international glory was awakened when she won the Marathon at the Commonwealth Games last year. She has since gone on to win the Nagayo Marathon Championship in Japan as well as destroying the field in the Spar 10km Series one (1) in South Africa.

The Women's Nagoya Marathon Championship was the event where Johannes reigned supreme and beating some of the world's best in the time of 2:22:25. She crossed the line ahead of Kenyans' Visiline Jepkesho (2:22:58) and Valary Jemeli (2:23:01). "I was inspired by the desire to compete with some of the best in the world and also to challenge my personal best time," said Johannes upon enquiry by the NDF Journal.

The International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) ranks Jemeli at 13th position, Jepkesho 14th while WOII Johannes ranked below at 19th spot. "I am proud of myself because of my timing in Nagoya that improves my world ranking," she said.

The Nagoya Women's Marathon is an annual marathon race for female runners over the classic distance of 42 km held in Nagoya, Japan early March every year held under the IAAF Gold Label road race status. WOII Johannes took part in this event for the first time and used her debut to take over the reign from Meskerem Assefa of Ethiopia and set up her personal best time (2:22:25) to qualify for 2020 Olympic games to be held in Tokyo, Japan.



**JAPAN:** WOII Johannes Closing the finishing line first to win the Women's Nagoya Marathon



After winning the Commonwealth Marathon, WOII Johannes was crowned 2018 Namibia Sportswoman of the year. "To be crowned sportswoman of the year motivated me to keep on working hard and compete in the prestigious events," she expressed.

At the age of 39, WOII Johannes seems to have discovered new energy to conquer the world and her performances since Japan have borne further testimony to that quest. She said it all depends on how her body is responding and also based on the training schedule. "It is quite challenging but with the family that understands sport, I am able to manage my time and succeed," said Johannes.

The NDF Athletic coach, Sgt Robert Kaxuxuena said WOII Johannes knows what she wants to achieve in sport and through discipline and inner desire to succeed, she brought home accolades from prestigious events. "Helalia is a disciplined athlete, punctual and takes advices and instructions seriously," said Kaxuxuena.

As a coach, Kaxuxuena is tasked to oversee the welfare of the NDF roadrunners, motivate and encourage them to commit to exercise and training schedule. "Once again it comes back to discipline because being a soldier requires self-discipline

and time consciousness," said the coach.

Kaxuxuena has been a roadrunner

since he joined the NDF in 2002 and became the NDF Athletics coach in 2012. He has been behind the success of many NDF roadrunners such as Capt Frans Hosea, SSgt Paulus Iyambo, Cpl Simon Shipingana, LCpl Rachel Akukothela, LCpl Reonard Nampala, Pte Otilie Aimwata and Pte Alina Armas. "I am open as a coach to train potential NDF members and hopefully Helalia's achievements may motivate more soldiers to join the team," Kaxuxuena said.





# PTE SHINIMA

## aims for more boxing titles

**T**he 21 Brigade pugilist, Pte Charles Shinima is potentially a world champion in the making. That much became apparent during his last fight as well as back to back knock-outs in his last three bouts.

Shinima felt his fellow countryman Ebenestus Kaangundue with a second round technical knockout in the battle for 10 rounds vacant National Super Welterweight title held in March 2019 hosted by the MTC Nestor Tobias Sunshine Boxing and Fitness Academy at A. Shipena Secondary School in Windhoek.

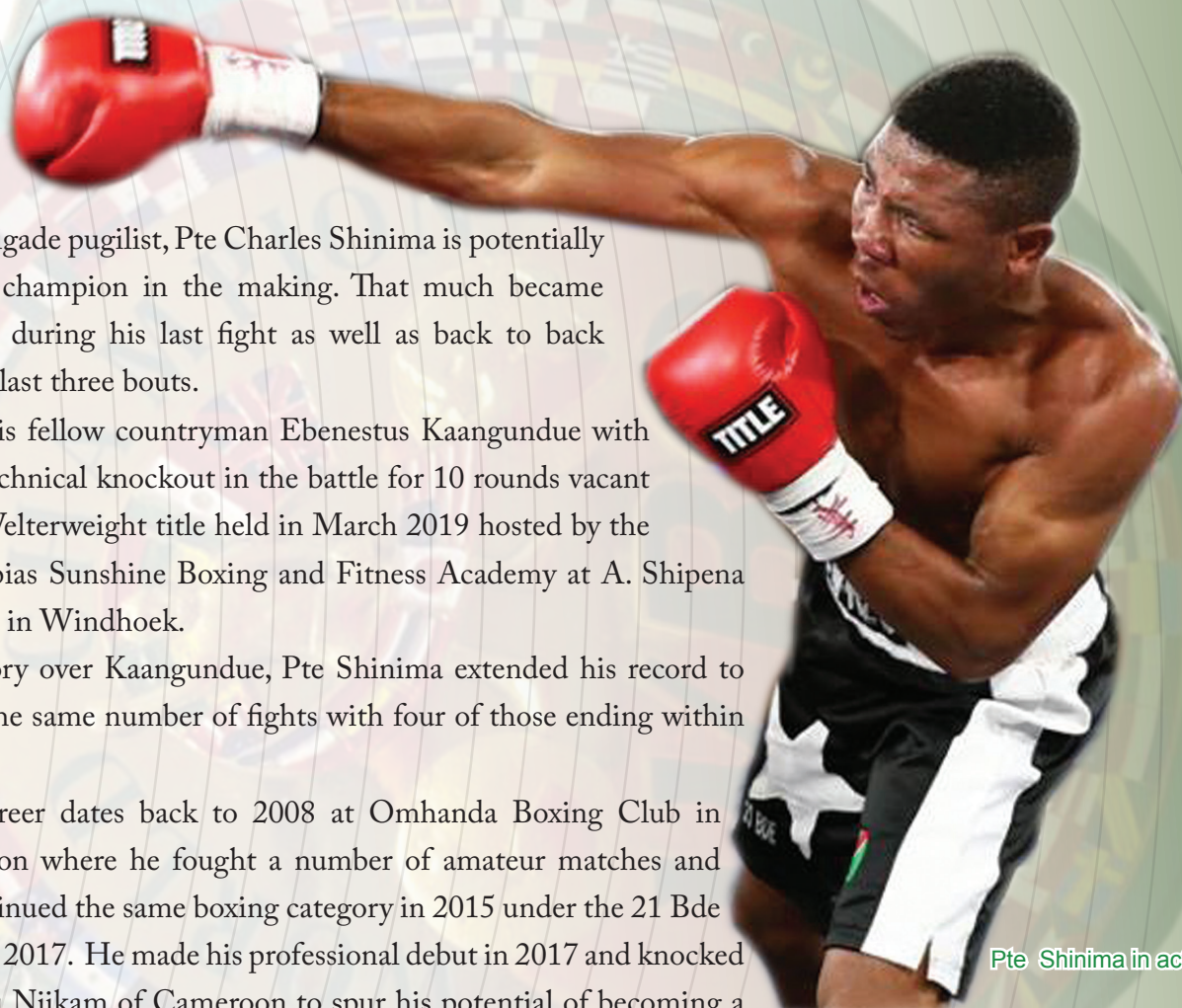
With the victory over Kaangundue, Pte Shinima extended his record to eight wins from the same number of fights with four of those ending within the distance.

His boxing career dates back to 2008 at Omhanda Boxing Club in Ohangwena Region where he fought a number of amateur matches and subsequently continued the same boxing category in 2015 under the 21 Bde Boxing Club until 2017. He made his professional debut in 2017 and knocked out Salif Nsangou Njikam of Cameroon to spur his potential of becoming a future champion in Super Welterweight division.

Pte Shinima told the NDF Journal that he was aiming high and working hard to retain his undefeated professional record. "I am working on my dream of becoming a world champion in welterweight division and winning the national title is an advanced step in my professional boxing class," Pte Shinima said.

Most of his professional fights were held in Namibia except a technical knockout win over South Africa's Junior Kakondo at Swazi Royal Spa Casino in Eswatini (Swaziland).

Pte Shinima hailed from 21 Bde Boxing Club under the guidance of coach, Corporal Eddy Mandongo.



Pte Shinima in action



Guard of Honour, honouring

# The opening of 6<sup>th</sup> Parliament 2019

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**"Promoting integrity, Accountability and Professionalist"**





