



Namibian Defence Journal



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April - September 2020



Air Marshal Martin Pinehas
Chief of the Defence Force



NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE

VISION

The NDF envisions developing and maintaining a small, highly mobile and professional force which excels in service through discipline, vigorous training, possession of modern armament and is ready to defend and guarantee the security of the motherland.

MISSION

The primary mission of the NDF as enshrined in the Constitution, Chapter 15, Article 118, is to defend the territorial integrity and national interests of Namibia. Its secondary roles include assisting civil power and local authorities in domestic support operations when required, and to undertake SADC, AU and Peace Support Mission.

CORE VALUES

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



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"I am looking forward to work with you in ensuring that the NDF remains a formidable force, ready and able to defend the territorial integrity of Namibia."

H. E. Dr. Hage Geingob

Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force

"You can only know yourselves when you exercise together as a defence force."

HON. REAR ADMIRAL (RTD)

PETER VILHO

Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs

"Living up to the expectation demands you to understand the importance of our mission and to recognise that we inherited this noble task."

AIR MARSHAL MARTIN PINEHAS

Chief of the Defence Force

"Cadre course is fundamental to continuous production of best quality and guarantees a positive future with improved service delivery and innovation."

AIR VICE MARSHAL

TEOFELUS SHAENDE

Air Force Commander

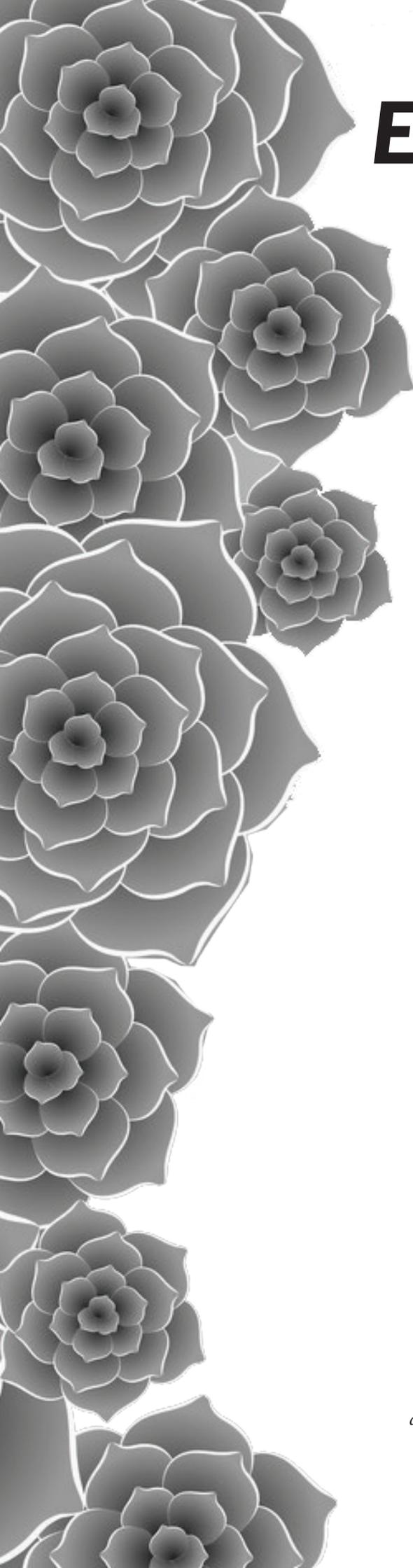
"Now we can appreciate the love of God and through the blood of the covenant, we are now entitled to come to Christ, and claim Him as our Lord and Saviour of our life."

COLONEL A. HAMWAAMA

NDF Chief Chaplain

COVER PAGE

Newly appointed Chief of
the Defence Force
Air Marshal Martin Pinehas



Editor's viewpoint

While I was preparing the editor's viewpoint for this edition, I thought of a recent rare occasion in our midst that some of us may have not noticed or just considered not noteworthy.

I am referring to the state of transition experienced in our ministry over the past 6-month [APRIL-SEPTEMBER] that impacted our structure across the board. The year 2020 in our ministry has got to be set aside as a period of transformation given numerous appointments and promotions occurring in the ministry.

Never ever, in the history of our ministry have we witnessed the change in leadership, starting with the ministers, executive director, chief of the defence, services commanders and other managerial positions in a short period as it happened this year.

I can confidently say that this occurrence signals the beginning of the exodus of pioneers from the force because a number of those affected by the change have retired from active service and most of them are the founders of the defence system. The likes of Lt Gen Mutwa, former Chief of the Defence Force; Rear Admiral Nghipandua, former Navy Commander; other several generals and senior officers who have been in the leadership of the defence force have hanged their military boots.

Just to refresh your mind!

Honourable Penda Ya Ndakola was succeeded by the former Defence Executive Director; Hon. Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho as Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, while Hon. Hilma Nicanor replaced Hon. Billy Mwaningange as our Deputy Minister. Rear Admiral Vilho was succeeded by Commissioner (rtd) Trepine Kamati as Executive Director.

Lt Gen John Mutwa retired as the Chief of Defence Force, handing over the reign to Air Marshal Martin Pinehas who simultaneously handed over the command of the Air Force to his Deputy, Air Vice Marshal Teofelus Shaende. Air Vice Marshal Shaende is deputised by Air Commodore Abed Hihepa. At the Navy, Rear Admiral Nghipandua retired from active military service and he was succeeded by the former Commander of Naval Operation, Rear Admiral Alweendo Paulus Amungulu.

Brig Gen Petrus Nathinge, Director of Defence Central Staff was promoted to Maj General and appointed Deputy Executive Director of the newly established Department of Strategy, Policy and Plans Coordination. The Human Resources (HR) Directorate's Chief of Staff, Brig Gen Aktofel Ndengu Nambahu relinquished the position to the former Deputy Commandant of the Namibia Command and Staff College, Brig Gen Robinson. Brig Gen Nambahu was appointed as the General Officer Commanding 12 Brigade, taking over from the retired Brig Gen Kapala. Furthermore, Brig Gen Fillemon Shafashike was appointed as the Chief of Staff for the newly established Directorate of Policy and Plans, while Col Haiping, the Commander of the Composite Depot also retired and he handed the reign over to Group Captain Peter Isai Lambert.

The Editorial staff wishes those retired from active service (across the board) a happy and healthy rest. They have done their part and can rest assured that they left the defence in capable hands.

On the same card, congratulations to those who have been promoted and appointed at various designations. We congratulate and wish you every success in your new duties. Be aware that you have our full support. ■



President appoints new CDF

“In my capacity as the Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force and by virtue of the power vested in me by the country’s Constitution, I am mandating you to make provision for a balanced structuring of the defence force and make suitable appointments of members under your command within a prescribed laws, policies, rules and procedures.”

His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of Namibia and Commander-In-Chief of the NDF



Air Marshal Pinehas salutes the President as an acknowledgement for his appointment as Chief of the Defence Force during the rank conferment and appointment ceremony at the State House

Sgt P. J. Amunyele: DHQ

The 31st March 2020 will go down in history as a date the Commander-In-Chief (C-I-C) of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) promoted the Air Force Commander, Air Vice Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas to Air Marshal and appointed him Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) to become the first non-army general to assume the command of the NDF in an independent Namibia.

His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of Namibia elevated the former Air Force Commander counting on his pre and post independence military experience, to lead the men and women in uniform and ensure that the NDF continues to be a credible and honourable military institution that the citizens can continue to be proud of. "In my capacity as C-I-C of the NDF and by virtue of the power vested in

me by the country's Constitution, I am mandating you to make provision for a balanced structuring of the defence force and make suitable appointments of members under your command within a prescribed laws, policies, rules and procedures," said the President at the rank conferment ceremony held at the State House on 31 March 2020.

Air Marshal Pinehas assumed command of the NDF effective from

the 1st of April 2020 and he is expected to demonstrate his leadership quality and military proficiency that traverse over 40 years traced to the period in the liberation struggle as the combatant of the SWAPO military wing People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN).

Born on 11 November 1962, at the age of 15, the young Kambulu departed into exile and joined others in the fight against colonial oppression in Namibia.

He joined the liberation struggle in 1977 and received cadet training at the Cadet Military Academy in Cuba in 1981 followed by several military trainings including the Flying Training on Jet Aircraft from 1984 to 1989 in Libya.

In exile, he carried out a number of responsibilities. Between 1980 and 1989 he served in two positions: Deputy Commander for the Namibian students' group at the Cadets Military Academy and Commander of the Pilots Group in Libya, the position he held towards Namibia's independence.

After independence, he was inducted in the NDF in 1993 with the rank of a lieutenant and immediately his aviation career took-off when he was appointed Commander of the Air Wing Squadron and subsequently designated as Commander NDF Air Wing. Later, he was promoted to Air Wing Chief of Staff and oversaw the commissioning of the Air Force in 2005, which happened concurrently with his promotion to the rank of a Brigadier General.

Seven years later, another promotion to Air Vice Marshal came his way and it is the rank he carried for a period of time and certainly the last in the sky-blue sphere.

His military career is reinforced by various courses he underwent and they have been instrumental leadership quality and beneficial in the transformation of the Namibian Air Force into a strong air-power system with a distinctive fleet of air assets and highly skilled personnel. He completed the Junior Staff course; Qualified Flight Instructor (Higher Performance Aircraft) - Air University - US; Qualified Instructor on Transport Aircraft - China; Military Law course - University of Namibia; Air Command and Staff, Air University - US; Level 3 Aviation Security Managers course and the Executive Defence Management course. Meanwhile, he obtained a Master's in Business Administration; Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Regent Business School - SA, and Honour's in Air Operation from Air University Alabama - U.S.

With 40 years of military career dominated by aviation experience, CDF has 3760 hour flight-time grand total, with 760 hour instructor-time.

The contemporary stature of the Air Force speaks volume of his dedication and competence in transforming the air power into a battle ready force. Evidently, he placed the Air Force in



President flanked by CDF and his spouse Maj Liina N. Pinehas after the rank conferment and appointment ceremony

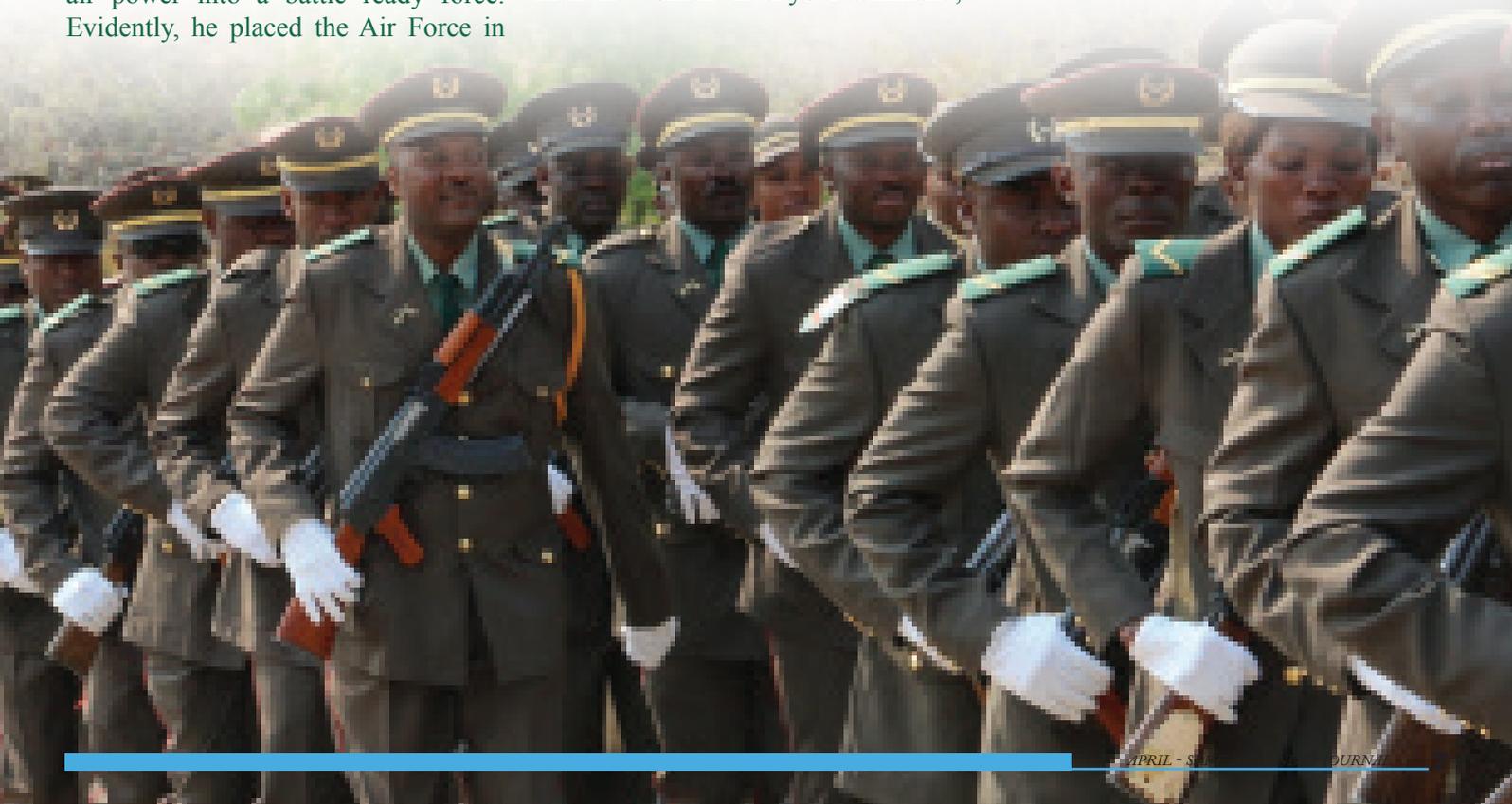
a continuous state of transformation to become a distinctive force that meets and live up to the constitutional mandate. In addition, he oversaw the establishment of the state-of-the-art Air Force headquarters in Karibib, the School of Air Power Studies and the Air Force Technical centre both in Grootfontein as well as the acquisition of air-power armament among others.

Despite his aviation background, his military credentials convinced the President to confer on him an extraordinary responsibility, to ensure that the NDF lives up to the nation's expectations. "I expect you to carry out your duties and responsibilities with vigour, determination, dedication, commitment and to be exemplary to the men and women under your command,"

President said, adding that: "I am looking forward to work with you in ensuring the NDF remains a formidable force, ready and able to defend the territorial integrity of Namibia."

The new NDF chief received numerous awards and decorations, all complimenting his unrelenting service to the force and contribution to national and international peace and security.

CDF is a recipient of prestigious awards including: Meritorious Service medal (NDF), Merito Santos – Dumont medal (Brazil), Air Force Pioneer medal, Air Force Exemplary medal, Operation Mandume Ya Ndemufayo medal, a Longevity medal and the biggest of all is the National medal, 'Order of Eagle 3rd Class'. ■



Exercise 'Khan Strike', a resounding success

Staff writer: DHQ



Hon. Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho Minister of Defence (unedited) statement at the closing of military training exercise 'Ex-Khan Strike'. The statement have been trimmed to fit this format

Hon. Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs was joined by Air Marshal Martin Pinehas, the Chief of the Defence Force, Service Commanders and Hon. Merania Ndjago, Karibib Constituency Councillor among others, at the closing ceremony of a 3-week long [31 July to 20 August 2020] NDF's interoperability military exercise code named 'Ex-Khan Strike' that took place in Karibib District.

In his statement he delivered on 21 August 2020 at the closing ceremony of the exercise, Minister expressed satisfaction over the fruitful outcome of the exercise, saying: "We appreciate the opportunity to see the coming into fruition of what you have been preparing for over the past 12 months, which is a demonstration of a Joint Services Operational Capability.

"I would also like to thank all the participants for displaying a high-level skills, knowledge and professionalism. Further more, this event would not have been possible without the many months of preparation and commitment on the part of the exercise planners.

In 'The Art of War', Sun Tsu once said: Know yourself and you will win all battles, "You can only know yourselves when you exercise together as a defence force, hence Ex-Khan Strike, which is being conducted with one important aim, to test the interoperability among the forces and to carry out a live demonstration of integrated weapon systems.

The joint military field exercise was planned at a brigade level and was conducted at battalion group level, consisting of elements from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Engineers, Special

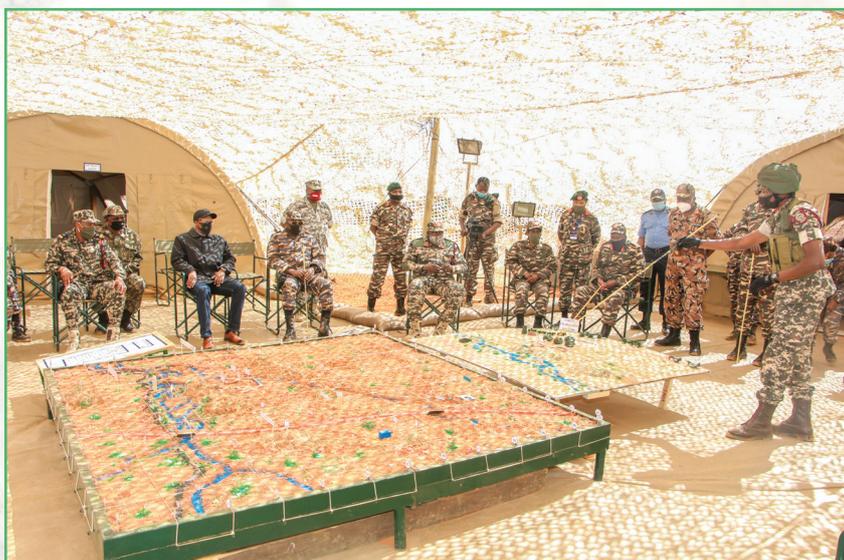
Forces and the Mobile Military Hospital. These types of exercises are meant to prepare you against threats to the well-being and security of our people. To enable you to maintain our sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence; to create conditions in which democracy is consolidated and social justice and economic development is achieved and to ensure an environment in which our citizens live in peace, freedom and safety.

I must say that we have done well over the past 30 years until the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global scene, which has seen

every country reeling under the impact of the virus that is killing individuals, destroying economies and threatening people's livelihoods.

The defence force has played a commendable role in acting as front-line workers. The force has participated in the manning of roadblocks and the patrolling of national borders. They have contributed to the setting up of quarantine centres and hospitals.

However, the force has not been spared from the impact of Covid-19. Apart from the high risk that comes from being front-line workers, the defence personnel are also exposed because they live in communities, dine together in messes, travel together in groups and act together in operations, which makes it difficult to maintain social distancing.



Col John Shimweetheleni, Commander of the Namibian Special Forces who was also the Commander of 'Ex-Khan Strike', orientating Hon. Minister and his entourage on the sand-model platform depicting the deployment of troops and equipment during the exercise



knowledge and experience you gained over the past 20 days, you will return to your respective HQs, formations and units with new ideas and new ways to inspire your troops in facing various security challenges. All security challenges require team efforts. And this exercise has offered all of you the opportunity to deepen your personal ties with your counterparts from other services.

Allow me on behalf of the Commander-In-Chief and the Government of the Republic of Namibia to extend our appreciation to the Chief of the Defence Force and each and every member who contributed in making EXERCISE-KHAN STRIKE a success.”■

The virus containment measures such as quarantine and nation-wide lock-down have had a negative impact on crucial defence activities. Joint exercise, drills, conferences, regular training and recruitment have either been cancelled or delayed. For that same reason this exercise has been modified both in size and scope.

The exercise was not triggered by any given development. It is a routine informed by the NDF mission statement. And I am confident that, armed with the



(BELOW & ABOVE): Final stage of the exercise simulating battle engagements



Message from Chief of Defence Force

Staff writer: DHQ



Air Marshal Martin Pinehas
Chief of Defence Force
(unedited) message
to the NDF members.
The message have been
trimmed to fit this format

Upon assuming his appointment as Chief of the Defence Force in April 2020, Air Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas from July to August 2020 took a familiarisation tour around the NDF establishments to introduce himself to the soldiers and spell out his expectations. The CDF also engaged the local and traditional authorities and shared perspectives on security situation in their respective areas of jurisdictions.

During his address to NDF members, the CDF reiterated on a number of issues.

"It gives me immense pleasure to address you for the first time since my appointment, I decided to talk to you, firstly, to introduce myself to you as the CDF, secondly, to familiarise myself with the conditions and challenges in your areas of responsibilities and, thirdly, to address you on specific issues concerning the defence force.

First of all, the NDF was established to perform a specific mission, to defend the territory Integrity of Namibia and the national interests through the protection of the citizens and their properties. This is the primary mission of NDF, however we are also ought to fulfil our secondary role that requires us to assist civil powers and civil authorities. I must thank you for having participated in various domestic support operations.

Living up to the expectation demands you to understand the importance of our mission and to recognise that we inherited this noble task. There were people that came before us, who upheld this important mission until they exit the force.

I must say that as soldiers, we are very lucky and privileged to be members of the NDF. Serving our country in uniform is not a right but a privilege. Therefore, we must be proud and serve our country with utmost dedication and commitment in the knowledge that we have inherited a glorious history of strong leadership and commitment to duty. Surely, we can only uphold this heritage if we are disciplined and understand why we are in uniform.

Moreover, in executing our duty, we have to observe worrying trends and contemporary issues affecting our defence force.

There are elements of mischievousness in our midst, the acts that disparage the reputation of the force and put our integrity in the state of disarray. Certain individuals are not conducting themselves professionally whether on or off duty. We have taken note and continue to record a number of misbehaving NDF members and a number of criminal activities committed by the soldiers. Criminal activities paint our force a bad image.

Compatriots! We are not living on an island. We as NDF members should lead by example, in terms of organisation, uniqueness, etiquette and the manner we conduct ourselves in public. Elements of indiscipline, crimes, AWOL, defying lawful commands and alcohol and drug abuse are some of the disturbing trends in our midst ought to tarnish our reputation.

I am here telling you that these acts will not be tolerated any further. We are prepared to fight every inch of unbecoming behaviours. Alcohol abuse or irresponsible drinking while in uniform and all shorts of things place our force in disrepute and it is against our governing principles. Every soldier is the public face of the NDF, whether on or off duty, therefore, we must behave in the most professional manner as members of the NDF.

I must consent that we will take concerted measures and resort to Military Discipline Code to ensure that all unbecoming elements are rooted out of the force in order to preserve our hard earned reputation and good image.

We took note of certain individuals frequently on social media, making antagonistic remarks against the government. What we need to understand is that we have been faced with challenges, mostly, as a result of economic downturn perpetuated by the recent drought, Covid-19 outbreak and the global economic recession. This misfortune does not give us (soldiers) the audacity to attack our government. How can we attack our own office, turning against what we are supposed to protect with dignity and a sense of pride.

We are lucky to have a communication platform to engage our family and friends, but this should not go to the extent of abusing these privileges by divulging sensitive information: uploading your picture wearing uniform, posing of weapons or revealing the locations is dangerous and a time ticking bomb. We took oath to shroud restricted information whether on or off duty, but now what we are doing is the opposite. Many of you have now become agents, providing information to dangerous people not aware that this information may be used against us as individuals or as an institution. We need to stop

exposing our capability because it might have a long term negative impact on the system.

Another disturbing trend among us is laziness and carelessness. As soldiers we need to look smart, physically and mentally. The military installations are our second homes and is where we spend most of our time. We must always guide these government properties jealously and take responsibility for the environment that provides for us. The government is doing everything at its disposal to ensure that we live in a conducive environment with ideal facilities and equipment. However, we need to meet the government halfway, to strive to develop ourselves and the organisation we are serving in order to contribute positively to the growth of our brand.

The other threat worth mentioning is the persisting of terrorism in some parts of the continent and our country is not immune to these eminent security threats. I believe as military persons we are aware of terrorism acts and its glue-some consequences.

We read or heard about terrorism act in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and of recently surfacing in our region. It is a worrisome situation that needs our preparedness. The onus is on us to take precaution measures to be vigilant and identify signs of possible terrorists activities be it on social media or elsewhere.

As soldiers, we took an oath to serve in the NDF, at any location, any time and in any situation. We need to prepare ourselves to be deployed in local, regional, continental or international missions and it requires us to prepare physically, mentally and emotionally.

Every soldier irrespective of gender is on call 24/7 and this makes us available to any emergencies at any given time.

Many NDF pioneers are facing retirement from the force. Many left way ago and the same thing will happen to us in due time. This is the time we are required to carry out our success plan to make sure that we prepare our successors. It means, you must be properly trained and disciplined. In addition, you have to prepare yourself physically and mentally. The important thing we need to understand is that we are the last resort. So we must be intact, unified and stick to the mission to defend our constitution.

We should not allow ourselves to be divided, because once split up, we can easily be defeated and this is what is coming for us if we are incoherent and drowned in evil social acts. ■

New Air Force Commander

Staff writer: DHQ

The newly appointed Air Force Commander Air Vice Marshal Teofilus Shaende (43) established himself professionally and possess leadership attributes that are essential to the Air Force operational concept, hence expected to apply his aviation acumen to keep the Air Force on a continual transformation.

Air Marshal Martin Pinehas, who was appointed as the Chief of the Defence Force effective 1st April 2020, mounted the diaz at the Air Base Karibib parade ground on 5th June 2020 to hand over the Air Force reign to his Deputy whom he groomed and deemed competent to lead the men and women in blue.

Upon handing over the symbol of power to Air Vice Marshal Teofilus Shaende, the outgoing commander enthusiastically revealed that the national air power achieved a lot with only few pilots, technicians, aerial observers and with no aircraft or infrastructure, hence appreciated the dedication and passion of the pioneers who have managed to build a strong force and succeeded to lay a strong foundation for the next generations. "As we relinquished command to the younger generation, we urge you to emulate the courage, bravery, commitment, dedication, discipline, and

passion demonstrated by those who came before you. These will set you in good stead to propel the development agenda of the Air Force and towards maintaining a professional air power.

Prior to the change of command parade, Air Vice Marshal Shaende and his deputy Air Commodore Abed Hihepa received their new insignias from the Chief of the Defence Force at the rank conferment ceremony took place at the Defence Headquarters on 1st June 2020.

The new commander is no stranger to the Air Force environment as he served the national air power since 1999 and occupied key positions that qualified him to the new appointment, however, he is ready to face the challenges. "Surely, my tasks will not be easy, I am aware of the mammoth responsibilities upon this appointment, particularly as we strive to continue developing the Air Force in the



Air Vice Marshal Teofilus Shaende
Air Force Commander

fast evolving threats to ensure that it is in line with the envisaged mission and vision statements," he said.

At the age of 21, Air Force Commander has been a member of the Air Force, sharing common sense with the elders across the ranks and files while observing leadership styles and characters of the men and women. "Leadership is relatively subjective, thereby bringing an end to the argument whether leaders are born or made.



CDF (2nd right) charges Air Vice Marshal Shaende (right) with command at the change of command parade

“In The book of Leviathan, chapter 1, Thomas Hobbs said ‘without security there is no place for industry, no art, no letters, no society; and worst of all, continuous fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of a man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short’. With all that said, there is of course an elephant in the room, the matter around my age, I am here now,” he said.

Air Vice Marshal Shaende took over the Air Force with confidence, knowing that he acquired necessary leadership skills from the leaders before him and expanded his knowledge through various military and academic courses. Moreover, he pledged to uphold the constitutional mandate of the NDF and execute his duties within the powers prescribed in the Defence Act (Act No. 1 of 2002) and all existing national and international laws applicable to the Republic of Namibia and the NDF in particular.

As Air Force Commander, his focus would be to continue leading the men and women in blue and developing the

Air Force in line with the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs’ strategic plans, working towards the attainment of the Air Force’s vision along its mission statement. “To achieve this, I shall continue working with the extraordinary team of capable officers and men at the Air Force,” stating the Air Force Commander while explaining that the Air Force is the catalyst for the growth of the entire NDF, pivotal in creating synergy among the arms of service that comes to the fore when the army requires air support or when the navy requires protection from airborne and seaborne threats.

After he completed the basic military training at the Military School in 1999, he continued to broaden his aviation knowledge through various course among others: the Conversion and Operation Flying course and Qualified Flying Instructor Course both offered by the Zambian Air Force; FT7&7 Aircraft Ground course, China and FT & F7 Flying, K8 K8 Instructor and the Strike Operational Conversion courses

in Namibia. He is a qualified pilot in possession of Private Pilots Licence and the pilot’s wings received from the West Air Flying Training Centre.

In academic domain, he holds various qualifications such as: Diploma Defence & Security Management - Defence Academy of the United Kingdom; Diploma in Defence and Security Management Course - Command and Staff College, Zambia; Diploma in Security and Strategic Studies - Tanzania National Defence College.

He worked his way to the top echelon of the Air Force, starting as Second in Command of 23 Squadron; Air Defence Wing Commanding Officer; Chief of Staff Air Operations & Training and in 2016 was appointed as Deputy Air Force Commander taking over from Air Commodore Paavo Kamanya.

“I want to congratulate my two young brothers, the Air Force Commander and his Deputy for the honour bestowed upon you to command the Air Force. I equally urges all members of the Air Force as well as those from other arms of service to render your necessary support and cooperation to my successor as was the case during the tenure, said the Chief of the Defence, adding that Air Force Commander and his deputy are expected to carry out your duties and responsibilities with vigour, determination, dedication, commitment and be exemplary leaders to those placed under their commands. ■

Air Force first female base commander

Sqn Ldr S. Shindongo: Air Force

Group Captain (GP Capt) Ester Fillemon (56) who was appointed as the Commander of Karibib Air Base in July 2020, has urged the NDF young female soldiers to focus on their dreams instead of hanging on a gender stereotype that block their attempt to break-in the traditionally male-dominated occupations.

This day, will go down in the history of the Air Force and indeed a significant day in the life of Group Capt Fillemon who became the first woman to occupy a command position in the Air Force. She took over from Gp Capt Hillary

Lilungwe Sisasu who was appointed Grootfontein Air Base Commander.

The Air Force will count on her distinctive military background that transcended over a 3-decade, hence her military credential would indeed

influence her new responsibilities - to oversee the welfare of the soldiers under her command, and ensure that they are steadfastly observing the concept of air operations. “It lies in my capability to make sure that troops under my



Group Capt Ester Fillemon
Karibib Air Base Commander

her military career, which she said have been the motivational factors throughout.

She was inducted in the NDF in 1990 as a private and deployed to the military police battalion where she served for nine (9) years.

At the age of 26, she had to make a life changing choice to join the force, be her own hero - to develop her own values and stay true to any commitments she set herself. "I am encouraging young female soldiers to stand the test of the time, focus and carry out their duties with vigour and determination to inspire confidence in their seniors and make significant differences in their lives endeavours," she said.

Moreover, her progress in the force has been inspired by a specific soldier whom she regarded as a lady on her own race "I drew inspiration from Brig Gen Fiina Amupolo, the women whose positive attitude and work ethic matter most in my military career. She is one of the few NDF women to hold a command position [Commander of Composite Depot] and served in diplomacy as defence attaché to the Federal Republic of Germany", said Gp Capt Fillemon adding that she hold Brig Gen Amupolo empathy in high regard, and wished that many female soldiers bear resemblance to her military ethics. "I regard her as a go-getter and an exemplary leader of our time," she reflected.

command are mentally and physically fit to face any security challenges and maintain the highest standard of professionalism at all times," said the new base commander at the change of command ceremony.

According to her, joining the NDF was a will to serve the nation and to eliminate gender disparities that labelled women not fit for military operations, thus her military career reflected well on her personal goal and philosophy. "I believe in confidence, reactions to orders, smartness, absorbing pressure and competing with the best as well as to be grateful for what I possess," she said.

What made her a an outstanding soldier was the love and passion for

She started her military career as a military police officer and after completing the Quartermaster course in 2009, was deployed to the Air Force where she carried out various responsibilities. She served as Air Force Adjutant and subsequently became Second-In-Command of the Air Force Regiment. In 2018, she was elevated to a Wing Commander and took over the Command of the Regiment, the post she held only for two years before being promoted to Group Captain and appointed Commanding Officer, Karibib Air Base.

One of her memorable career turnaround is when she successfully completed the Anti Aircraft Artillery training (AAAT) in Zimbabwe, which

was portrayed to be men's no-go-area. "This training has changed who I thought I was, because I rubbed shoulders with men and came through unscathed despite the intensity and intensiveness of the training," she said.

Through her military etiquette characterised by integrity, passion, and leadership skills, she beat the gender stereotype that associates women with staff responsibilities in the military. "I see my new position as a stepping stone to greater heights and an exemplary gesture to my gender. Gone are days when female opinions did not matter and where female soldiers were regarded as staff officers only. I am standing tall and proud to be a symbol of gender equality in the Air Force," said Gp Capt Fillemon, while encouraging young female soldiers to build their military career without fear and favour, and remember that soldiering profession is not about the uniform but it all based on confidence and the will to achieve their goals. "As young as they are, they should focus on military ethics, tactical aspects and refrain from dogging deployment and training opportunities. Those are areas that build confidence and the determination to live up to their expectations in the military," she said.

Her military prowess also rewarded her with international and local accolades – one of those is the Operation Atlantic medal she was awarded for participating in the Democratic Republic of Congo conflict from 1999 to 2000 as a military police officer. "Participating in such dreadful operations in the war-torn country has reminded me that there is nothing like men's working environment, all areas are penetrable and what is needed is to have self-confidence and be assertive," she said.

For her steady military career, she was awarded among others: 10 Years NDF medal, 20 Years NDF medal, CDF Exemplary Commander medal, Air Force Air Cadre medal, VIP Escort (Canada) medal, Hatchet Troops (USA) medal, UNMIL (Liberia) medal, UAMID (Darfur) medal and Combat Power (RSA) medal. ■

Commander Naval Operation appointed Navy Commander

Lt Cdr S Lotto: Navy

On 30th August 2020, a platoon was standing at attention at the entrance of the Navy Headquarters awaiting to give Rear Admiral Sinsy Nghipandua a last honour as the Navy Commander. Other sailors were also standing afar at attention, gracing the outgoing commander as he entered the ship-like Navy Headquarters' building to hand-over the reign to Rear Admiral Alweendo Paulus Amungulu who previously served as the Commander of the Naval Operations.



Rear Admiral Amungulu
Namibian Navy Commander

The parade was held indoors in the Navy Headquarters as a response to the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chief of the Defence Force (CDF), Air Marshal Martin Pinehas who officiated the event, conferred insignias and passed the sword on to the new Navy Commander as a symbol of accepting the command role. "I am certain that the Namibian Navy is in a very good hands. With the vast experience, knowledge and leadership, Rear Admiral Amungulu will be able to lead the Navy forward," said the CDF.

He took over from Rear Admiral Nghipandua who wielded the sceptre for three (3) years and was pleased to hand over the reign to someone erudite in naval operations and whom he had been working with over the years. "I worked with a dedicated and trustworthy team and it was an honour serving as the navy commander," the retired commander said while urging his successor to work hard and set a good example to the navy personnel.

On his part, the newly appointed Navy Commander said he would deliver to the best of his ability and further thanked those who rally behind his military career. I appreciate the people who invested in me, took a personal interest in my professional development, challenged and helped me grow to be the man I am today," he said.



Rear Admiral Nghipandua (left) hands over the Navy symbol of authority to Rear Admiral Amungulu

That specific day marked a historical moment signifying the continual development of the Navy and indeed a special day to Rear Admiral Amungulu

as he was bracing to steel the Navy and build on the notable foundation laid by the forerunners.



He was born on 16 December 1963 at Okafitu ka Kahala in Omusati Region and went into exile to join the liberation struggle, thereafter, he joined the People's Liberation Army of Namibia in 1987 where he served as a combatant.

From exile, he joined the NDF in 1990 to become one of the force's pioneers and among the first core group to complete a four-year Naval Officers' course in 1995, focusing on headquarters staff interests and ship captains at the Admiral Wandenkolk Instruction Center, Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil. While there, he also studied towards a Diploma in Naval Science, which became central in his role at the navy.

In 2002, he was appointed as Commanding Officer of Namibian Ship (NS) Lieutenant General Dimo Hamaambo, the first Namibian Navy War Ship. At the establishment of the Maritime Wing in 1998, he became the Wing's Chief of Staff Intelligence until 2004. Later, he was appointed the Commander Naval Support responsible for Administration and Logistics of the Navy and in 2017 was appointed as the Commander Naval Operations.

Over the years in the Navy, Rear Admiral Amungulu took interests in the fundamentals of naval operations and leadership, hence opted for further study while in the meantime sent to various military courses. He attended the International Maritime Officers Course in the United States of America,



CDF flanked by outgoing and incoming Navy Commanders

SADC Staff Method and Instructors Course and Advanced International Intelligence Advisor course, the Quality Assurance course on Fibre Technology and Inspections in South Africa as well as completed an Executive Programme on Defence Decision Making and Command and Operation - United States of America.

Other qualifications include: a certificate in Civil-Military Relations, Rule of Law Disciplined Military Operations Course for Naval Officers, Leadership and Management, Instructor Development, WATC99's Maritime Safety, Male Norms and Gender Equity.

Furthermore, he obtained a National Diploma in Joint and Multinational Operations at the Joint Senior Command

and Staff College at the South African National War College in Pretoria and graduated from the International College of Defence Studies of the National Defence University in the People's Republic of China.

Rear Admiral Amungulu is a recipient of the NDF 10 year's service medal, Meritorious Medal 'First Class', Southern Cross Medal, Captain (Navy) Sacharia medal, Namibian Navy Pioneers medal, 250 Sea Days medal, Gold Star Medal, Silver Star medal, Namibian Navy Achievement medal, Tamandare medal (Brazilian Navy), Naval Merit Order medal (Brazilian Navy) and Army Pioneer medal. ■



Senior Command & Staff Course inaugural intake graduation

Staff writer: DHQ



Service Chiefs, NDF Generals, senior officers and students salute during a rendition of National Anthem at the graduation ceremony

The graduation of senior officers from the Senior Command and Staff Course (SCSC) on 17 September 2020 is a testimony that the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs is certain about the future of the NDF and optimistic that the force would be spearheaded by officers who not only understand international military concepts but also take cognizance of the national geo-political and cultural dynamics.

Twenty-four Senior Officers including 4 females) received certificates and a Symbol 'psc' after they have completed a one-year SCSC at the

Namibia Command and Staff College (NCSC). The successful completion of this course guaranteed the graduates a further study at the high educational institutions including the National Defence Colleges. The Namibia's military college is an important military training package that produces officers through two programs. Over the years, it has been producing the junior officers through the Junior Staff Course, focusing among others on the history and Namibia's heritage, the role of the NDF, staff duties, command and control, leadership, geo-political studies, conventional warfare, low intensity operations, peace support operations and training. Prior to its inauguration in October 2019, the college opened its doors for the senior course, designed to prepare the senior military officers with military strategic leadership. It focuses on the national security, military strategy, joint planning processes, intergovernmental and multinational capability for the officers to function at the highest levels of security to optimise national power in maintaining national strategic interests and objectives.

Since the inception of the NDF, Namibia has relied on generous training

offers, from friendly countries all over the world, for the development of NDF officers in the area of command and other military specialisations. "This state of affairs compelled the defence leadership to come up with a strategy to develop the NDF capacity to run an advanced and specialised course. Today, we are consequently witnessing the coming into fruition of that strategy and must therefore pride ourselves for this achievement," Hon. Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs said this at the first ever graduation ceremony of the senior course.

The college is intending to enrol officers and officials from strategic offices, ministries and agencies in order to enhance interoperability and convergence amongst key government institutions in the provision of security. Minister stated that: "The national security can only be maintained and further enhanced if the security agencies and key OMA's interface and harness their different capacities for a common purpose," further revealing that the college seeks to allocate slots to friendly countries that over the years assisted with the development of NDF officers.

"When I look back at the activities undertaken by the college since its establishment in 2009, I am convinced that the college has been true to its mandate, hence this graduation which preceded over by 13 intakes of the JSC is a testimony that the college has matured and is on a growth path to becoming one of the best in the region," said Rear Admiral (rtd) Vilho, while commending the College Board, the past and serving commandant and the staff for their remarkable achievement. "I assure you that the government will continue to support the college in its development in order to ensure that our officers and officials are prepared to be able to effectively deliver on their mandate," the minister said. ■



Hon. Rear Admiral (Rtd) Peter Vilho (center), CDF (left) and NCSC Commandant, Brig Gen Mathew Shipulwa at the graduation ceremony



Minister presenting best academic award to Lt Col A. M. Kudumo

Maiden Potential Officers' Course pass-out parade

Staff writer: DHQ

The Staff complement of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) increased with 74 officers who completed the first [year-long] Potential Officers' Course (POC) at the Military School and Hon. Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs was upbeat that what the graduates gained from the course would assist them to perform their duties efficiently and affectively as military leaders and commanders.

Through the intensive training, the cadets were awarded with the 'Acts of Commission', as an evident that their 12-month constant commitment to training bore fruits. "After 12-month we are witnessing the graduation of seventy-four potential officers who exalted through thirty-nine weeks of intensive training," said Hon. Rear Admiral (rtd) Vilho during the pass-out parade at the Military School on 17 September 2020, pointing out that the graduates have proven their worth and fully developed to serve the nation as commissioned officers in the NDF.

The potential officers' course is designed to equip potential officers with military strategic perspective, professional knowledge and the necessary war fighting skills in order to become future military leaders. "With a deeper understanding of the acquired concepts, these potential officers should be able to perform their duties easily as military leaders and commanders," minister said.

The Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) has a policy to recruit young Namibians in two streams. One stream produces

ordinary soldiers who after successfully completed the basic military training become non-commissioned officers. The other stream produces the Junior Officers who upon completion of the commissioning course qualify to become commissioned officers in the NDF.

Apart from recruiting potential officers' course candidates directly from the job market, the NDF can also identify NCOs who posses requisite quality to become commissioned officers and train them for that role. "This is the reason we are here today witnessing the graduation ceremony of the POC," said the minister while stressing that they need to raise and train leaders who not only adapt to new system and practices, "but who also can nurture others to do the same. Today's commissioning parade represent our continued shared commitment to ensuring that we will have the right leaders, both in values and aptitude to lead the NDF for the next generation and beyond."

Cadet J Isak received Overall Best Officer Cadet award, seconded by Cadet DN Angula while Cadet SS Shilepa received third best overall award. ■



Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, presenting overall best officer cadet award to Cadet J Isak



Military School Commandant, Brig Gen Kashindi Eusebius Kashindi presenting 3rd best student award to Cadet SS Shilepa



Lt Rauna Johannes speaking on-behalf of graduates

Graduates cheer on their graduation



Air Force 8th Cadre Course graduation

Sqn Ldr S. Sindongo: Air Force

The Namibian Air Force (NAF) continues to plough necessary skills and knowledge into the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) through training and affirms its commitment to enhance leadership standards that offer quality service delivery. This followed the graduation of 58 Junior Non-Commissioned Officers who completed a 3-month Potential Cadre Course at the School of Air Power Studies (SOAPS).

The 8th graduation ceremony took place on 24 July 2020, and it was the first of its kind under the reign of Air Vice Marshal Teofilus Shaende who assumed the office of the Air Force Commander in June 2020.

The purpose of the Course was to acquaint the selected non-commissioned officers with appropriate leadership skills and knowledge to enable them to lead their subordinates and assist seniors in the execution of their duties. “The Cadre course is fundamental to continuous production of best quality and guarantees a positive future with improved service delivery and innovation,” said Air Vice Marshal Shaende during the graduation ceremony at the Air Base Grootfontein Hangar.

Air Force Commander commended the graduates’ commitment and dedication to training, and encouraged them to maintain a high standard of discipline, esprit de corps and to always be loyal to the service. “You can only succeed in areas of responsibilities when you remain disciplined and abiding by the norms of military conduct,” he said,

stressing that the nation expects soldiers to be patriotic and exemplary servants.

While commending the SOAPS’ staff for the hard work and dedication in ensuring the completion of the course, Air Force Commander further urged

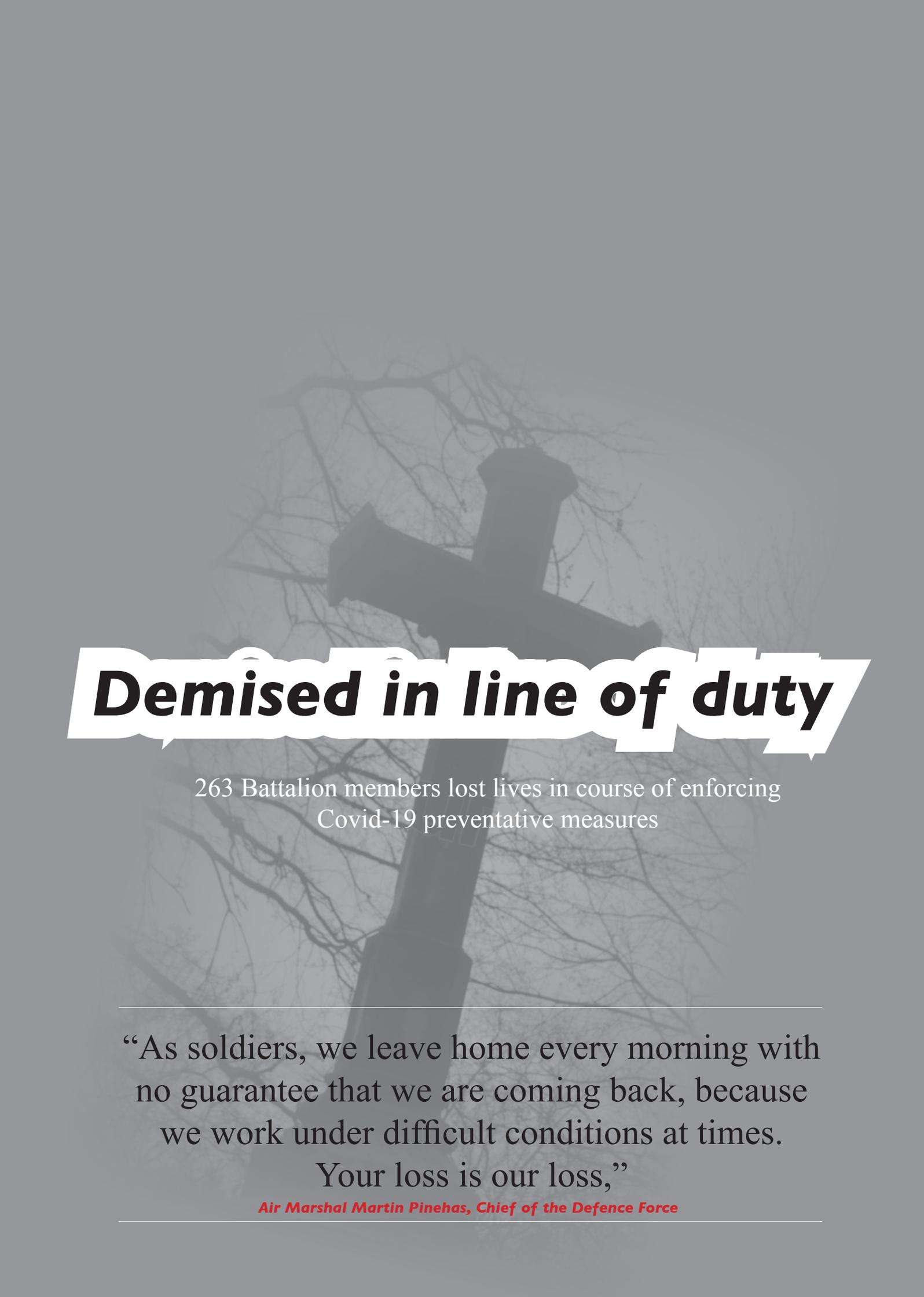
the students to emulate the instructors’ instrumental work in order to excel in their areas of responsibilities and make a meaningful contribution to the national security. ■



Grootfontein Air Base Commander, Gp Capt Hillary Sisasu presenting best female fitness commendation certificate to Sgt N Sheyanena

Air Vice Marshal Shaende (front row - 6th left) with some Air Force officers as well as the graduates pose for a group picture at Air Base parade ground





Demised in line of duty

263 Battalion members lost lives in course of enforcing
Covid-19 preventative measures

“As soldiers, we leave home every morning with
no guarantee that we are coming back, because
we work under difficult conditions at times.

Your loss is our loss,”

Air Marshal Martin Pinehas, Chief of the Defence Force

Staff writer: DHQ

The Namibian Defence Force will forever cherish and reminisced the lives of the two soldiers who lost their lives in a horrific car accident while on Operation Curb Covid-19.

Cpl Anna Kapweya (49) and Pte Musindikizi Luseso (29), hailing from 263 Battalion in Oshakati passed-on in a car accident on 22 April 2020 while on duty enforcing compliance to the Covid-19 lockdown measures within their area of responsibility in Omusati Region. Their death has saddened the NDF fraternity and indeed the entire nation, which expected the security cluster members to fulfil their entrusted duty in the realisation of the government responses to the spread of Covid-19.

They lost their lives at a crucial time when the defence force looked upon them to play an active role in the fight against the pandemic and to the development of the NDF in a way that they improve their professionalism standard and raise a sense of responsibility in the cause of building a strong force and defend the motherland.

On that fateful day, the two and other four colleagues were travelling from a checkpoint in Omusati Region where they worked through the night shift. Just few kilometres from Oshikuku to Oshakati, the driver of the



Late Cpl Kapweya



Late Pte Luseso

official pick-up where they were traveling in, lost control over the vehicle, causing it to overturn. Cpl Kapweya and Pte Luseso died instantly, while the driver and other passengers transported to hospital with

various degrees of injuries.

The accident happened at a time when CDF and Army Commander were on countrywide

operational visits to assess the Covid-19 situation and to boost the morale of the security cluster members in response to the pandemic.

“As soldiers, we leave home every morning with no guarantee that we are coming back, because we work

“The untimely death of our colleagues left us in pain. They will be missed immensely by all those who had the pleasure of knowing them.”

Lt Col Wesleyan Luchen Muruko, Commanding Officer 263 Bn



Para-bearers removing the National Flag before the grave consecration and lowering the coffin of late Cpl Kapweya at the Omungwelume cemetery

under difficult conditions at times. Your loss is our loss,” Air Marshal Martin Pinehas expressed this in his condolences message to the family of the late Cpl Kapweya’s homestead at Omungwelume village, Ohangwena Region and conveyed H.E. Dr. Geingob, the President of Namibia and the Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force’s heartfelt condolences to the two bereaved families. “Our country’s president is saddened by the death of our soldiers,” CDF said.

Maj Gen Mateus Alueendo, also conveyed his deep-felt condolences to the two family when he paid a condolence visit to the family of Pte Luseso at Mawila village in Zambezi Region. In his message, General Alueendo consoled with the bereaved family and

expressed his deep sorrow at the loss of the two soldiers who he said had a lot to offer in terms of soldiering responsibility. “They were professionals and committed to serve the nation, and it is their service and sacrifices that define the army. The Namibian Army in its entirety shall forever cherish their dedication to serving the nation especially during the novel coronavirus outbreak. On behalf of the Namibia Army, I wish to express our heartfelt condolences and deep sorrow to the families, relatives, friends and colleagues of the two demised colleagues,” Army Commander expressed.

The late Cpl Kapweya joined the NDF in June 2002 and received basic military training at Rooikop Military Base in Erongo Region. Served at various NDF

establishments under the 26 Infantry Brigade such as 262 Motorised Infantry Bn in Zambezi, 261 Motorised Infantry Bn in Kavango East and 263 Motorised Infantry Bn in Oshana Region where she served until her death. Despite her commitment to the soldiering profession, she also actively participated in sport activities.

Meanwhile, Pte Luseso who was at the prime of his military career underwent a military training at Osona Military School in 2014, thereafter deployed at 263 Motorised Infantry Bn where he served until his death. He was the goalkeeper for the battalion’s soccer team.

Lt Col Wesleyan Luchen Muruko, the Commanding Officer of 263 Bn in his condolence message to the bereaved family said the battalion found it hard to deal

with the loss of the colleagues whom they had been working with for a period of time. His condolences message delivered during the memorial services read: “The untimely death of our colleagues left us in pain. They will be missed immensely by all those who had the pleasure of knowing them.

Over the years, they demonstrated commitment through the execution of their duties and played significant roles in the upliftment of our battalion in terms of military and social aspects. It is hard to take it, but God said, ‘people are temporary on this planet and our home is heaven.... Those who believed in Him shall not die but will live forever,’” the 263 Bn Commander said. ■

Message of peace, hope for Easter

“The Word of God In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace:” Ephesians 1: 7



Col A Hamwaama, NDF Chief Chaplain (unedited) *Passover and Easter message to NDF members and their families. His message has been trimmed to fit this format.*

“Dear soldiers of God, it is once again a time to reflect on the Way of the Cross, the moment our Lord Jesus Christ faced with courage in order to save the world from sin.

In the Armed Forces and NDF in particular, we are indeed a family in Christ, therefore we cannot isolate ourselves from this precious moment. According to Apostle Paul, when the Lord Jesus died on the cross, He fulfilled all kinds offerings, a payment for our sins. He offered Himself to God as an all-inclusive sacrifice on the cross. He shed His blood which is for our redemption, and for our forgiveness, and so much more. For we were lost and sold ourselves under the dominion of Satan and even under the law, but through His death on the cross and based on His blood, Christ redeemed us back to God. It is only through Jesus we have the way to redemption (from death to life).

For the redemption to be suitable or acceptable, Christ had to be the perfect sacrifice through His life and death on earth. He fulfilled all the righteous holy, and glorious requirements of God, and He then paid the ransom for us. Through His blood we have been redeemed. As the Lamb of God, He died on our behalf and shed His blood so that we may be forgiven. His blood is the perfect blood that washes away our sin and trespasses. We have the blood of Christ applied to us, not only that we received the Lord, but whenever we come to the Lord and He shines on us, we collaborate with Him and confess our sins (1 John 1: 9).

In the New Testament, when the Lord Jesus died on the cross, he choose to die because of love. God wants to give us a new covenant - He, gave Himself to us (all He is, all He has accomplished, all He has obtained and attained - everything) as a covenant, He gave us a new heart and a

new Spirit to seek Him and to love Him. Now we can appreciate the love of God and through the blood of the covenant, we are now entitled to come to Christ, and claim Him as our Lord and Saviour of our life. His grace has made us sons and daughters of God. We can come now with boldness to the throne of grace and be infused with Him and behold His beauty. (Hebrew 4: 16). Jesus knew what His mission on earth was: to give His life as the final sacrifice so that His blood could set us free from any form of trouble of any pain in life.

As He knew that His disciples would have a hard time accepting this, so understanding what lay ahead, Jesus prepared them with these words: 'I am leaving you with peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid'. Jesus knew that the only way we could have peace and hope is through Him again,

Jesus reminds His followers to endure hardship like Him. He also said, 'I have told you these things so you may have peace in me. In the world you will have much trouble. But take hope! I have overcome the world!'

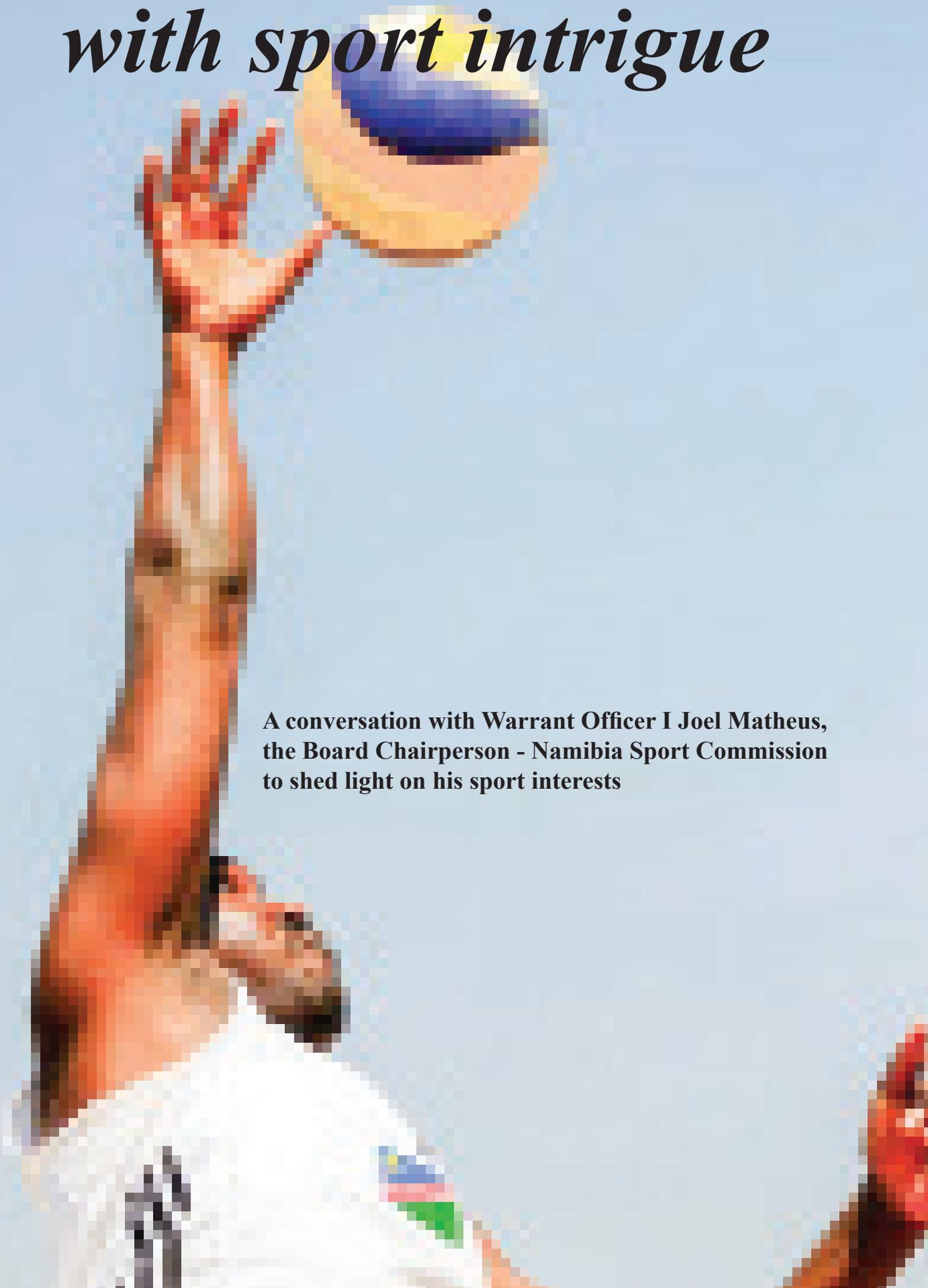
Brothers and sisters, we observe the Holy Week during the global challenge of Covid-19. This is the historic experience which never happened before whereby churches and worship places are completely closed because of the disease. While the buildings are closed, the body of Christ - Christians and believers continue to proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that guarantee our salvation. Our hope is in God Almighty that soon and very soon, the Lord will perform.

Let us keep faith in the Lord and pray that the peace of God covers our mind as we wait upon his Grace. In Jesus Christ we have peace; in the world we have trouble. Let us trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, because He has power over the world and through him we overcome the world's challenges.”■

“Passover and Easter is the time of humility and dedication to all believers to praise the Lord.”

WARRANT OFFICER ***with sport intrigue***

**A conversation with Warrant Officer I Joel Matheus,
the Board Chairperson - Namibia Sport Commission
to shed light on his sport interests**



Staff writer: DHQ

Warrant Officer I, Joel Matheus is a sport fanatic, an NDF soldier and the Board Chairperson for the Namibia Sport Commission. He was born at Onheleiwa Village in Omusati Region but grew up in Windhoek where he attended all the school levels. He played volleyball at both club and national levels as well as coached the NDF, Nampol and the men's national volleyball teams.



WOI Joel Matheus

How did you become interested in sport

My sport interest started at school where I participated in high jump and athletic but my volleyball expedition started in 1996 when with Sparta Volleyball Club in Windhoek.

Most soldiers, if not all, know you as WO Matheu - the NDF volleyball player/coach, what more that they don't know about you?

Yes it's true, many soldiers don't know much about me. I am a sport enthusiastic and a leader in my own right. I served sport at various levels both local and international. I played for the

national team in countless international tournaments. During my era, I was Namibia's most decorated player in volleyball and had been Namibia's beach volleyball champion for over 5 years. I coached various national volleyball teams at different levels; Boys Junior National team, Universities National teams and Senior Men's National team. I served at Namibia Volleyball Federation as vice president for 15 years and in 2014 I took over the helm of the federation (President), a position I served for 2 years.

Currently, I occupy a number of positions: Board Chairperson - Namibia Sport Commission, a body that regulates all sport codes in Namibia; Instructor and Development Project Inspector for the Confederation of African Volleyball (CAVB); CAVB Coaches Commission Member; Continental Competitions Games Delegate; Federation of International Volleyball Coaches Instructors; Country Representative for Global Observation of Physical Activities and the Executive Member of the African Union Sport Council Region.

What was your motive to join the NDF?

I joined NDF in 2002 but it all started in 2001, when the NDF through the volleyball federation requested to be assigned with a coach for their men volleyball team that was due to participate in the ESALO Volleyball Championship in Bloemfontein, South Africa. I was fortunate to be assigned. During that period, I was coaching the Namibian Police Force's (Nampol) team for SAPCO games, and at that point Nampol was also interested in bringing me on board. Being exposed to the two institutions, I realised that the NDF system was a perfect environment for sport development especially volleyball. I saw the potential for growth through proper planning. We started the negotiation for my recruitment and henceforth offered a rank of a sergeant.

You and other renowned personalities have pioneered the NDF volleyball team at a time when this sport code was not popular in Namibia. What was the aim to establish the volleyball in the military environment and the response in terms of management interests?

The aim was to establish a dominant force both locally and internationally and to ensure that NDF becomes a household name in local competitions. The other aim was also to create an environment where young soldiers could get opportunities and display their talents. We wanted to keep them engaged in sport divert them from activities that could destroy their future. The support from the management at the time was overwhelming. We received the necessary resources which ensured that we reach our goals.

It seems volleyball is the common sport in NDF today, how did it earn popularity in the force?

When I started coaching, I noticed that the majority of the players at that time were aging even though the Defence was recruiting almost every year. I noticed that the youth in the system were idled in the bases. That motivated me to set up a program that will attract the new recruits to volleyball. A training centre was established at Luiperds valley sport ground and we invited all interested players to join our initiative. The response was overwhelming because members from all corners of NDF came to experience the beauty of volleyball. With the number at hand we decided to register 2 men's teams in the Volleyball National League. This was a turning point for volleyball in NDF and started to spread like wildfire. With all experience gained by members who attended the training sessions, they decided to take the initiative to their respective units. That is how we came to see teams like Eleven Warriors Volleyball Club, Special Forces, Cheaters, 21 Bde, AD Bde and the Navy.

You were appointed Chairman of the Sport Commission, what an achievement!

Thank you, it is indeed my honour and privilege to be appointed to a high level responsibility.

Being a soldier and Board Chairman of the Sport Commission simultaneously should be a daunting task - how do you grapple the two responsibilities?

I am very fortunate because it is through sport that I became a soldier. Therefore, these two positions leverage skills, knowledge as well as time from each other. NDF being a public institution with great interest in promoting national building, my role as chairperson of NSC is fitting well to address this issue and therefore the necessary support is received to fulfil my soldiering profession. By saying so, I believe the defence leadership appreciated the role I played and therefore has allowed me to continue without any difficulties.

On several occasions you are seen at volleyball matches, do you still have something to offer to this sport code?

Of course, my contribution to the volleyball and sport in general will never dry up because over the years I gained a lot. Sport to me is not a hobby but a lifestyle and we have a spiritual connection that is difficult to explain. My family is deeply involved in volleyball, an indication that even if I come to a point where I can no longer be physically viable, emotionally and morally I will still present.

What are your duties as the Board Chairperson for Sport Commission and what makes it more interesting to your personality?

My primary duties are to lead a board of well-experienced individuals in various fields of their professions and also to ensure that the board is effective in introducing and implementing the NSC directions and strategies. What is interesting is that my personality is sharpened by sport. I am much familiar with the sector, my character is of sport nature and I play my role with love and passion

You have groomed a number of best volleyball players in the country, who comes in your mind and why do you regard them as the most great players?

What come to my minds is the likes of Donald Doeseb who was Namibia best setter, Jason Nangolo the fastest quick attacker Namibia ever produced, Sergeant Eddy Uyepa one of the best outside hitters for the national team, Inspector Rehabeam Hengari national team's diagonal hitter. Ladies, I have the likes of Capt Sylvia Nampala, Capt Lea Angula, L/Cpl Ndinelago Kasheeta, and L/cpl Wendelina Nailonga. These are individuals that I have trained from scratch to become the finest players in the country.

What more can you offer to the NDF sport

If opportunity presents itself, I am available to offer my expertise in sport. If you look at my experience I have an extended knowledge in sport leadership and governance. Being an international instructor I can still help build capacity in sport management and training science. I can offer solutions in developing programs that address social issues and health related challenges within the force to mention just a few.

What is your message to the volleyball fanatics?

Volleyball is a fun and exciting sport. It is a teacher of values, teamwork, respect, adhering to rules and many more. It's a sport suitable for all ages. This is my message to those who want to play volleyball. To those who want to become elite players, follow your dream. With the right attitude and motivation nothing is impossible. Just always remember, hard work will shove you to the top and character will ensure your stay there.

What strategy should NDF use to ensure that sport remains one of key factors to the well-being of the soldiers?

We must first define what sport means to the force, only then can a strategy be developed. It must be explicitly featured in the NDF strategic plan and then empower the sport office to implement the directives.

Anything else you want to share with us?

Like legendary Nelson Mandela said and I quote "sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way what little else does". This is true for soldiers participating in sport. Sport produces soldiers who build and lead the teams by habit and reflex. It generates and maintains cohesion. It nurtures pride and that essential corollary - humility. It encourages leaders to think clearly, confidently and positively when under pressure.

As for me, sport has contributed positively to my life and has changed my world exponentially. As a result, today I have many friends almost in every corner of the world. I travelled the world more than I could ever imagine. I am more confident and believe in myself and I am highly motivated to achieve my dreams. Sport gave me an opportunity to serve in a high profiled leadership position both locally and internationally.

In conclusion, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all soldiers regardless of rank parameter to actively participate in sport or physical activities. Not necessary to become active in sport, but rather improving fitness, building confidence, courage, teamwork, integrity and adherence to rules. ■



Namibia was one of the countries that participated in International Military Games-2020 (Airborne Platoon competition) in Russian Federation. Cpl Gideon Hidipo was Namibia's flag-bearer

Namibia finishes second at International Army Games

Ms. E. Shaakuka: DHQ

Namibian soldiers studying in Russia have made the NDF proud and flew Namibia flag high after a grand performance at the seven-day International Army Games 2020 hosted by the Russian Federation at Patriot Centre and Expo, Kubinka District in Moscow Region.

The International Army Games “Army Games” is an annual Russian military sport event organised and supported by the Russian Defence Force with the purpose to strengthening ties between friendly countries in the defence sphere, to build trust-base relationships in the area of security and technical cooperations as well as to search for solutions to new challenges together.

This year, two members of the NDF's Special Forces: Sgt Gervatius M Shimwanga and Cpl Gideon Hidipo who are studying in Russia at the Airborne Academy in the city of Ryzan competed in this year's event and finished second overall in Airborne Platoon competition with silver medals and Certificates of Participation. Namibia also participated last year with three members from Engineer Regiment.

Twenty-four contests took place on Russian territory. Belarus hosted two competitions - Polar Star and Sniper Frontier. Uzbekistan hosted the Military Medical Relay and Road Patrol while Azerbaijan hosted Sea Cup, and Armenia.

The Namibian duo participated in four stages of Airborne Platoon competition with Russia, Belarus, China, Algeria, Sudan, Namibia, Congo (Brazzaville), Mali, Equatorial Guinea-Bissau, Tajikistan and Cambodia.

Airborne Platoon stages consisted of Parachute Jump within Platoon (assembling at the drop zone and 10Km battle march), Individual



Colonel General Andrey Serdyukov, Commander of the Russian Airborne Forces confers silver medals on Cpl Hidipo during the award ceremony in Moscow

Combat Vehicle Race, Combat Vehicle Pursuit Race with firing and Combat Vehicle Relay Race.

Parachute Jump

This exercise required participants to land and run with a parachute for 1Km and thereafter run for 10km fully equipped with combat kit. In this category Namibian took second place in 55 minutes, losing the lead to an experienced team of Tajikistan within 52 minutes.

Individual Combat Vehicle Race

This stage involved shooting after running for 10Km with Compartment Bag Test kits where Namibia finished second after running for 1 hour and 20 seconds with 12/15 shots trailing Tajikistan with 13/15 shots.

Combat Vehicle Pursuit Race

Namibia came second in a stage that required participants to use the map and information provided to locate items and route, and report back to the initial point. Namibia came second behind Tajikistan.

Combat Vehicle Relay Race

In this exercise (the battle march relay race), participants were required to overcome obstacles with small arms and grenade launcher shootings over 5.0km route. Namibia managed the second position in group two (2) after Tajikistan.

The International Army Games was this year co-held with the International Military Technical Army Games Forum “Army 2020” aims at demonstrating dynamic military equipment capabilities with extensive congress programme and strong participation of International audiences.

The first Army games was held in 2015 and it has been proven to be one of the world’s leading exhibition events in Russia in the field of advanced technologies of armament and military equipment. ■



Namibian participants receiving instruction from the game official



Sgt Shimwanga (left) and Cpl Hidipo displaying their awards



Colonel General Andrey Serdyukov, flanked by Namibian participants



*I mask
because it is the right thing
to do.*

*It protects the most vulnerable in our society.
The science behind mask-wearing is clear: we can
get some part of normal life back sooner if we
protect ourselves and others from potentially
spreading the virus*

Rear Admiral AP Amungulu
Namibian Navy Commander

Covid-19 is real

