

Zaaruka lands NCCI position

By Helvy Tueumuna

ONGWEDIVA - The Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Ongwediva Branch has appointed northern-based business tycoon, Ben Zaaruka, as its new regional chairperson.

Zaaruka will be deputised by another businessman, Joseph Endjala, who was the branch's acting chairman. First National Bank of Namibia's Thomas Indji was appointed the branch's treasurer.

The three were elected during the NCCI annual general meeting in Ongwediva last week.

The election came about after a long debate on the constitutionality of the existence of the Ongwediva branch as the sole representative of all business people in all four northern regions.

Some of the group members believed that the existence of NCCI Ongwediva branch, as the umbrella for all satellite branches for towns in Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions, was not in accordance with the NCCI constitution. The group argued that branches that are currently referred to as satellite offices were supposed to be fully fledged NCCI branches. It was, however, agreed that the constitution makes a provision for the establishment of the central regional office, which is supported by satellite branches. Therefore the Ongwediva branch remained as the NCCI northern regions' main branch. Another issue that came before the meeting was the 2008 financial report that was presented during the meeting.

Members said the financial report contained untruthful and unrealistic figures that needed explanations. Among them was the deficit for the branch, despite a profit of over N\$300 000 from the previous financial year. The fact that the branch leadership presented 2008 financial statement instead of 2009 financial statement also raised concern among members. However, Endjala explained that neither him, nor the Ongwediva Branch NCCI officials were able to explain the details of the financial statements.

"Everything is prepared in Windhoek, we only

Ondangwa poised to regain lost pride

By Francis Xoagub

ONDANGWA - Every renowned town around the world has at least one thing in common, that of being a hub of major commercial, cultural and historical activities. Ondangwa is no exception and has long borne the reputation of being the centre of all such activities in northern Namibia.

Ondangwa, the oldest town in the north central regions of the country, dates back to the 18 century as a trading centre in the north and the first settlement for missionaries. This status, however, was gradually overtaken

by towns such as Oshakati and Ongwediva in terms of development, prompting the town's council to embark on an economic drive to restore lost glory.

Officially launching the Local Economic Development (LED) committee, Mayor of Ondangwa, Naftal Andimba, stressed the urgent need to clean up the image and "reputation" of the town.

"Our own self-respect as a town with a well-earned reputation as a forward-looking creative and industrious people is just one of the imperatives which

dictate the task at hand, formidable though it is. We should grab this opportunity with both hands and restore the lost glory. Opportunity never returns," he said.

The launch was among others attended by representatives of the Finnish local and regional authorities who provide technical support to the town's council. Finnish cities of Lempäälä and Kangasala are cooperating with the towns of Keetmanshoop and Ondangwa. According to Timo Palander, Development Director of Lempäälä, although the economic challenges faced by the Finnish local

authorities are obviously different from those of Ondangwa, as local authorities, "we can join forces to tackle mutual problems, such as problems related to small business development".

According to Andimba, the LED committee will among others be tasked to come up with an economic development strategy and advise council accordingly on economic development investment issues.

"Economic development for job creation is not just the sole responsibility of the council but business and community; it is about build-

ing solid platforms and infrastructure to create community economic growth to the benefit of all residents. Our role as the town council is to facilitate, coordinate and regulate," said the town's chief executive officer. "We welcome the establishment of this multi-sectoral committee, especially the business sector and the non-governmental organisation."

Meanwhile, Palander announced that a bigger delegation from Finland arrives next month to work with the LED committee in order to finalise its programmes.

Opposition says judgment not fair

By Catherine Sasman

WINDHOEK - The High Court ruling on the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly elections challenge, said opposition parties, came as a shock and "utmost surprise", and "justice was not done".



it on time had the registrar not given them permission to do otherwise.

The parties further stated that they are in possession of a document issued by Judge President Petrus Damaseb to Minister of Justice and Secretary General of the Swapo Party, Pendukeni Iimke Iipena, in which