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NAMIBIA:

Namibians impatient for better conditions

Windhoek, January 16, 1995 (AIA/Joshua Amupadhi) — Many impoverished Namibians are demanding swifter change to better their lives following elections which restored the ruling SWAPO party to power for another five years.

SWAPO, the former guerrilla organisation which fought for the independence of Namibia from apartheid South African rulers, won an easy victory in the first post-independence elections in December.

Those interviewed say five years were enough for the former liberation movement to have made a good start on improving the standards of living of many previously disadvantaged Namibians and dismantle apartheid structures established during 75 years of South African colonialism.

One SWAPO supporter says independence has created only a black elite to join whites in the rich suburban areas but has not narrowed the gap between the rich and poor.

SWAPO came to power on March 21 1990, Independence Day, after winning the first multi-party elections.

The government has failed so far to attract the large amount of foreign investment needed to curb a 40 percent unemployment rate, and improve the lot of the majority of its people, most of whom earn less than US\$21 a month. Crime, particularly theft and mugging, has sky-rocketed, in a vast country with a population of just 1.5 million.

Nevertheless, Namibians entrusted the government of President Sam Nujoma with another five-year term of office, giving it a two-thirds majority which enables the party to amend the constitution.

They increased the dominance of SWAPO, which fought a 23-year guerilla war against successive South African governments until in 1989, to 72.72 percent of the vote from 57 percent. This represents 53 of the 72 seats in the upper house of parliament and 12 seats in the current National Assembly.

In the presidential race Nujoma beat his only challenger, Mishake Muyongo of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, by 76.3 percent compared to 23.6 percent of the vote.

Many Namibians whose lives have not changed since independence believe that SWAPO now has the mandate to set in motion the wheels of development.

The call comes mainly from war veterans and inhabitants of northern Namibia, who overwhelmingly supported SWAPO — as much as 99 percent backing in a number of constituencies.

Josef Petrus, 38, was a combatant in the People's Liberation Army of Namibia — the SWAPO military wing — for 15 years until he was repatriated to Namibia in 1989. He has since been jobless. Petrus says SWAPO should use its two-thirds majority to better the lives of blacks.

"What SWAPO has done for the past five years was to appease whites and create a small elite of black people," says Petrus, referring to blacks who gained top positions in government after independence.

Another SWAPO supporter, Nangula Amagulu, 51, says the party can only claim the creation of peace and stability in the country as its major achievement. Says Amagulu: "Our government is being praised for democracy and human rights, but we can't eat democracy. We want tangible results.

Michael Ndonga, who returned from exile in 1989, says the SWAPO government has improved the living standards of many, referring to electricity and telecommunication projects built in rural area since independence.

The government's policy of national reconciliation, which gained applause at independence, is under increasing

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fire. Maritjie Potjie, 28, says reconciliation has become a one-way process which whites interpret as the maintenance of their pre-independence status. She says many whites, especially farmers, continue to treat their black employees as slaves.

A leader of a women's party which failed to register for the elections, Ileneikelao Latvio, says SWAPO should use its two-thirds majority to raise the standard of living of women.

Latvio says SWAPO should not forget that women were in the forefront of the liberation fight. "SWAPO seems to have forgotten about all the female liberation fighters except for the few in parliament. Now I want to see more women in managerial positions and in foreign missions."

But SWAPO is still adamant that the first five years were to learn and formulate policy. The second term will be used for implementation, Nujoma told meetings during electioneering.

Last November parliament passed a law on land reform aimed at giving land to the landless. Many welcomed this move, but doubted whether the government would carry out the programme satisfactorily because the same law says expropriated land should be paid for according to market prices. Many blacks argue that land was stolen from their ancestors and should not be paid for when taken back.

Nujoma says the priorities of his government are the eradication of poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance. One of the major changes brought about by the SWAPO government is the implementation of the Cambridge University education system, replacing unpopular syllabus based on race.

Another is provision of housing in various rural centres, but the problem of housing is far from being solved as is evidenced by the rapid growth of squatter camps in towns such as the capital, Windhoek.

Nujoma also says his government will make investment more attractive in villages in order to thwart the migration of people to towns.

The second five-years of power for SWAPO begins on March 21 and it remains to be seen whether it can live up to its promises to better the lives of all Namibians.

950112.NAM (890 words)

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SOUTH AFRICA: Apartheid's aftermath still affects education

Johannesburg, January 17, 1995 (AIA/Alan Morris)
— In 1976 the Soweto uprising against "Bantu Education" precipitated a nation-wide revolt and South Africa was never to be the same.

The beacon of resistance had been ignited and — no matter how hard the regime tried in subsequent years — was not to be extinguished. The inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president in May 1994 was in many ways the culmination of the forces unleashed by the 1976 uprising.

It was sparked off by one of the most pernicious and crude features of the apartheid system — the racial inequality and compartmentalisation of the education system. White, African, coloured and Indian pupils were segregated and the respective educational departments were given different budgetary allocations for each child.

Inequalities have narrowed considerably over the last 18 years. In 1975/1976 the state budgeted an average of R41.80 (US\$18) for every African pupil and R644 (US\$280) for each white. Thus about 15 times more was spent on each white child. In the same budget R139.62 (US\$60.7) was allocated for every coloured pupil and R189.53 (US\$82.4) for every Indian pupil.

The most recent South African Institute of Race Relations figures are for the 1992/1993 budget. They indicate that, although the differences have narrowed significantly, there is still a considerable discrepancy on the amount spent per pupil: in 1992/93 R1,659 (US\$721) was spent on every African pupil, R4,572 (US\$1,987) on every white pupil, R3,702 (US\$1,609) on every Indian pupil and R2,902 (US\$1,261) on every coloured pupil.

The limited resourcing of African schooling, historically, has led to African schools being characterised by a dearth of resources. Many do not have a library, laboratory equipment, overhead projectors, television and video recorders or even an adequate amount of desks and textbooks. In contrast most white schools are well-equipped.

The budgetary allocation has also meant that the teacher-pupil ratio in African schools has been very high. In 1993 it was 44.4 pupils a teacher against 18 pupils a teacher in white schools, 21.9 in Indian schools and 22.2 in coloured schools.

The differences in resources available and the discrepancy in the teacher-pupil ratio has certainly contributed towards the enormous disparity in the results obtained by white versus African pupils. This disparity has been heightened by the pervasive rejection of the "Bantu Education" system over the years. Since 1976, the non-acceptance of the system has led to perennial protests and disruptions.

Even though apartheid has been abolished, 1994's matric results indicate that the legacy of apartheid will linger for many more years.

In the last year of separated educational systems, 97.3

percent of pupils who wrote the 1994 Transvaal Educational Department (TED) matric school-leaving examination passed and almost half obtained university entrance (a pass mark that will enable them to go to university). The 33,535 candidates obtained a total of 10,337 distinctions. Almost all TED pupils are white.

In contrast, the results of 1994 matriculants falling under the Department of Education and Training (DET), the African section of the educational system, were abysmal. Although there was some improvement over 1993, only 41.7 percent or 171,586 out of the 410,784 DET pupils registered passed, and 45,067, or 11 percent, obtained university entrance. A total of 4,014 distinctions were awarded. In other words the TED pupil had a 308 times greater chance of obtaining a distinction.

The matriculation results starkly reflect the different schooling and biographical circumstances of white versus African pupils. The latter have generally lived through 18 years of deprivation, resistance, disrupted schooling and oppression. In contrast, white pupils have, on the whole, been protected from the ravages of apartheid.

This year sees the beginning of a new educational system. All examinations will now be coordinated by the new Department of Education. However, it is unlikely that the end of separate and unequal education will bear immediate results.

As Mary Metcalfe, the minister responsible for education in the Gauteng region, has argued: "The effects of apartheid will be felt for at least a decade."

950013.SAF (656 words)

MALAWI: **Entrepreneurs benefit from foreign assistance**

Blantyre, January 18, 1995 (AIA/Angels Mtukulo) — The October sun is scorching as a tall, grey-haired man, a pair of scissors in his hands, walks to the doorway of a beautiful building and cuts the ribbon across the entrance. The Tamvana Enterprise Sock Factory is officially open.

October 25, 1994, will go down in the history of the Japanese non-Project Grant Aid Programme (JPNGA) as a memorable day, as its efforts to assist small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs in the private and public sector begin to pay dividends.

The aid, channelled through Crown Agents, has turned many small-scale Malawian entrepreneurs into successful and proud owners of multi-million kwacha business ventures.

Crown Agents was established in 1833 by a British act of parliament. Since 1980, it has been a self-supporting government-owned organisation "independent of any commercial or national interest...no subsidy from the British government...run on commercial lines".

"At present, Crown Agents are involved in various projects in Malawi. They are providing two procurement specialists, one at the Ministry of Agriculture and the other at the Ministry of Local Government, who are funded through the projects," says Davina Paverd, the representative in Malawi.

Paverd says the organisation also acts as a procurement agent for JPNGA to a number of companies in Malawi.

Of particular interest is Regina Chimera, one of the beneficiaries. At 42, she is the proud owner of a US\$300 000 sock manufacturing company 16 kilometres from Malawi's commercial city, Blantyre.

After being unceremoniously dismissed from a lucrative secretarial job with an international company, Chimera resolved "that the only way to avoid suffering such indignity was to be self-employed and be my own boss".

Fortunately she already had a modest sewing machine with which she started the project at her house. She then bought four more ordinary machines and three industrial machines with a loan of US\$1,971. She rented a building close to the factory until the new building was finished in 1993.

The small company then had to cope with an increased number of orders for overalls, dust coats and uniforms. In 1991, Chimera decided to enlarge the scope of production, but it was not until she attended a preliminary course in management for women entrepreneurs in Arusha, Tanzania, that she found the solution to her problem.

"During the course we made a study visit to Nairobi in Kenya where we saw small-scale industrial enterprises. We were told of sources of aid and how to acquire machines suitable for small-scale industries in our respective countries. That's how I came to know about the Japanese non-grant programme," she says, adding that she was amazed to see that so many opportunities exist in Malawi "about which people are never told".

After the course, she contacted the Development of Malawian Traders Trust which made a feasibility study of the potential of the stockings manufacturing business. The results were positive.

"I opted for Crown Agents because their loans are interest free," she says. The establishment of the factory has not only helped the government in diversifying manufacturing but also provided employment for 20 people.

The number of employees, small though it may be, is a positive contribution towards the eradication of unemployment. Official figures say less than 1.5 million of the 4.5 million workforce are engaged in gainful employment, and Malawi needs to create at least 400 jobs everyday.

Harry Thomson, Commerce and Industry Minister (the grey-haired man who inaugurated the factory), praises Chimera for the bold step she has taken as a businesswoman and hopes that this is only the beginning towards more investment by individuals and that it will help reduce the county's dependency on imports.

950114.MAL (615 words)

ZAMBIA: **Pollution increases dramatically**

Lusaka, January 19, 1995, (AIA/Moses Chitendwe and Darlene Rude) — Lives in Zambia are at risk because of increasing water and air pollution, the government has admitted.

However the country is unable to measure exactly how dirty it is because it does not have the equipment needed to assess the seriousness of the pollution, said a spokesperson for the environment ministry.

The last environmental tests were carried out in the late 1980s by the Zambia Council for Scientific Research, said the spokesperson, who declined to release the results.

But the Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ), a government body formed in 1989, has plans to buy its own pollution monitoring equipment, and the council has started filing law suits against offending companies, particularly in Zambia's mining heartland, the Copperbelt.

Copperbelt residents have long complained about emissions from various plants and the dumping of mining wastes and human effluent into the Kafue River, one of the main sources of drinking water for the Copperbelt and Lusaka. Some fish caught in the Kafue have had stomachs full of an unidentified sticky black substance.

In October, the ECZ sued the Indeni Oil Refinery in the Copperbelt town of Ndola for allegedly dumping highly toxic oil into a river and farmers' fish ponds. There has been no judgement yet but, at most, Indeni could be fined US\$150, and a regular monthly fine of US\$75 until the pollution is checked.

ECZ senior inspector for water pollution control Jacob Chishiba says the river into which the Indeni effluent was discharged is the drinking water source for a secondary school and for other people living along it.

Chishiba says Ndola residents have complained of chest pains and coughs allegedly caused by foul smelling gas coming from a pond at Indeni. Some have been medically treated.

The Indeni case at least sounds a warning to other companies, especially in Kafue, a town 60 kilometres from Lusaka which is home to the Textiles of Zambia company, Lee Yeast, and a tannery for Bata. There have been complaints of residents suffering from chest pains, coughs and skin irritations, with children under five the worst affected. Raw waste is being dumped directly into the Kafue because sewers and filter systems run by the town council do not work, according to the Kafue member of parliament, Yusuf Badat.

In Zambia's northern province, the Zambia-Tanzania Railway Authority (Tazara) has been identified by ECZ as the main culprit responsible for polluting the Lwitikila River and threatening the Bangweulu wetlands. The Tazara locomotive workshop at Mpika is the source of used diesel and oil discharges into the river.

However Tazara regional manager Morrison Banda has pledged to work with ECZ by spending US\$104 000 to buy chemicals to treat the effluent.

Apart from the dangers of industrial pollution, urban

Zambians face health risks as cash-strapped municipal councils struggle to provide rubbish collection, sewage treatment and clean water to growing populations.

The capital, Lusaka, once known as the Garden City, is now referred to as Garbage City. Rubbish trucks are a rare sight, even in wealthier neighbourhoods, while in poor areas mountains of garbage block roads.

The rainy season brings almost annual outbreaks of dysentery and cholera, which claim the lives of hundreds. In Ndola, residents often complain that slugs come out of their kitchen taps.

950115.ZAM (562 words)

ZIMBABWE: **Victoria Falls threatened by tourism**

Victoria Falls, January 20, 1995 (AIA/Anthony Sguazzin) — Zimbabwe's booming tourism industry has seen the expansion of this premier resort town alongside the falls — accompanied by an ominous environmental threat to the beautiful natural surroundings.

Visitors to the falls — a United Nations World Heritage Site — have almost quadrupled over the past decade.

However, the effects on the local people and the environment is anything but positive. It seems they are being sacrificed for the national good of an industry which, at a 10% annual increase rate, looks set to challenge mining and agriculture as the country's chief money spinners.

As recently as 1993, 8,000 of the town's approximately 20,000 residents were reported to be homeless and the lustre of foreign dollars has lured an alarming number of young women into the commercial sex trade, bringing about a high level of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.

To add to the woes, hordes of Zambians, who cross the border daily to peddle contraband, are accused by the locals of driving up the price of goods and services.

While some locals have found employment — courtesy of tourism — large numbers have resorted to making ends meet by selling wood and stone carvings and curios.

For their entrepreneurship, the wood carvers, who source their raw materials from large indigenous hardwoods, have been labelled "wood poachers" and have come under fire from the Natural Resources Board, environmentalists and the local police.

The problem of degradation through wood cutting is exacerbated by the lack of electricity in much of the Chinotimba high density suburb, which sees the chopping down of trees for firewood.

While local development is neglected in favour of the pursuit of the foreign exchange offered by tourism, the industry's expansion is being conducted in a self-defeating fashion, with little heed paid to the need to preserve the

resort's resource base upon which the trade feeds.

The formerly peaceful ambience is riven by the cacophony of helicopters and light planes plying the so-called "Flight of Angels" circuit of the falls, while the Zambezi is congested with power boats and adjacent roads are clogged with vehicles pursuing increasingly elusive game.

The net result of this development has been widespread erosion and the aesthetic degradation of the falls and its environs. Luxury establishments, with their electrified perimeter fences, have restricted wildlife's access to the river edge which has, anyway, seen a decline due to the explosion of access roads, shore facilities and jetties.

The volume of solid waste and sewage is increasing with the tourism explosion and its disposal leaves much to be desired.

While raw sewage is no longer discharged into the Zambezi from the Zimbabwean side of the river there are doubts as to whether the Zambians follow suit, as agreed.

Of greatest concern, however, is the degradation of the rain forest around to the falls. This small patch of forest, home to a number of rare plant species and the main viewing sites for the falls, is threatened by tourist congestion — well over the 2,000 a day recommended limit — and this is resulting in littering and erosion.

A more remote threat — which could sound the death knell for the economic viability of town — is the proposed construction of the Batoka gorge dam. If implemented, this hydro-electricity scheme will destroy the lucrative white-water rafting industry by flooding the Zambezi up to the fifth gorge below the falls as well as inundating the Somngwe gorge, which is the original site of the Victoria Falls, possibly transgressing the criteria under which the cataract was granted World Heritage Status.

At present it is undeniable that the exploitation of this resource, while doing little to enhance the living standard of the local people, is also steadily eroding the prime source of the falls' attraction — its unique beauty.

950116.ZIM (635 words)

SOUTH AFRICA: Slovo's death leaves a big gap

Johannesburg, January 23, 1995 (AIA/Alan Morris)

— The death of Joe Slovo, one of the prime architects of the South African government of national unity, leaves a big gap in South African politics.

Although historically depicted — as general secretary of the South African Communist Party and chief of staff of the ANC's armed wing — by the apartheid government as public enemy number one and a "ruthless terrorist", Slovo rapidly punctured that image after his return to South Africa in 1990 after 27 years in exile.

Even the former ruling National Party hierarchy soon realised that Slovo was an extremely avuncular individual. He was also a man of immense intellectual capacity, and served as minister of housing.

During exile he emerged as a key strategist and theoretician in the SACP and the ANC. In 1989 he wrote his famous article "Has Socialism Failed?" in which he unambiguously distanced himself from the state socialism of the old Eastern Bloc.

At the ANC's national conference last December President Mandela presented Slovo with the "Isitwalandwe Seaparankoe Award", the highest award the ANC can confer. Mandela emphasised the strategic acumen of Slovo, saying: "Your contributions to our struggle are many. But it is, I think, especially as a strategic thinker that you are held most dear by so many in our ranks."

In the negotiations preceding the formation of the government of national unity it was Slovo who broke the logjam. He made two brave and innovative suggestions. The first was the famous "sunset clause" which guaranteed all existing civil servants their jobs after the transition.

Slovo realised this was the only way the new government could ensure stability. He argued that the clause would evoke a degree of loyalty from the bureaucracy, including the army and police, which historically had faithfully served the apartheid government. What was required, argued Slovo, was to endeavour to take this immensely powerful grouping on board to ensure a smooth transition and governance once a new government was in place.

Slovo's second recommendation was that the ANC accept a government of national unity for a minimum of five years. This would involve giving every political party that gained more than five percent of the electoral vote a cabinet post. This arrangement was to give birth to the present government.

Slovo's underlying motivation was again to ensure a smooth transition and get the backing of the ruling National Party for a free and fair election. He was aware that although the ANC had the backing of the majority of the population, the National Party — because of its control of the army, police and bureaucracy — was in a position to put the brakes on any movement towards the creation of a genuinely non-racial and democratic society.

Although the idea of working with the ex-enemy evoked revulsion in the ANC leadership and subsequently the rank and file, Slovo's brilliant intervention won the day.

The National Party's changed perception of Slovo was signalled by the reading of messages of condolence from the party at a memorial service in Johannesburg and the presence of Pik Botha, a National Party cabinet minister in the government, at the funeral.

Slovo's other major contribution was more implicit. As a white South African and a brilliant lawyer he could have entered into a lucrative practice and led a comfortable existence. Instead, he committed himself totally to the anti-apartheid struggle and his high profile meant that he was in constant danger of assassination. His first wife, Ruth First, was killed by a parcel bomb in Mozambique in 1982.

His unstinting commitment was possibly the clearest indication to blacks that not all white South Africans are

supporters of apartheid and his example played an important role in the forging of a non-racial ANC.

His recent handling of the housing portfolio was praised by all sides and cleared the way for massive state and private intervention to provide homes for the impoverished.

With the burying of Joe Slovo, the ANC buried part of its history. As Mandela said at the state funeral: "Individuals do not make history, but in every period there emerge those rare individuals who because of their exceptional talent guide the course of history. Joe Slovo was one of those rare species."

950117.SAF (696 words)

NAMIBIA: A losing battle against seal culling

Windhoek, January 23, 1995 (AIA/Joshua Amupadhi) — An animal rights group is losing a battle against seal culling after causing an "artificial recession" at the start of its campaign.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) launched the campaign in 1989 in response to Namibia's methods of culling thousands of seals annually to keep their numbers under control.

The fund, which has regional offices in South Africa, says it campaigns against the killings because some of the methods used are cruel. Pups are clubbed to death, adults are shot.

The IFAW is also fighting to abolish markets for products made from the skins, oil and meat of seals.

The campaign seemed to work initially. However culling companies are making a steady recovery from what they call an "artificial recession" caused by the IFAW.

The government says applications for export licences for seal products have increased in the past year. Tourists visiting off-shore seal islands have more than doubled.

The government, which determines how many seals should be culled, enraged Namibian and international animal rights activists last October when it announced an increase in the quota, despite the mass deaths of seals due to adverse ocean conditions. The number was 55,000 — 12,000 adults and 43,000 pups. Namibia has a seal population of more than 700,000.

The IFAW called for a moratorium on culling for three years from 1994 after unfavourable weather caused the fish on which seals feed to move deeper into the ocean out of their reach. It is estimated that over 150,000 pups died of starvation.

A senior official in the Ministry of Fisheries, Dr Jan Jurgens, says last year's quota was for "seals that were going to die of hunger in any case".

"The harvest is not intended to reduce the population," says another official, "but to maintain the seals within the current eco-equilibrium confines. The (Cape Fur) seal is, beyond doubt, not an endangered species."

Aldert Brink, owner of Sea Lion Products, says that interest in seal leather items is picking up overseas. "Many people in Europe have realised that these so-called animal

lovers are not genuine with their campaigns."

Brink says South African and Spanish companies cancelled lucrative contracts in 1991, causing business losses of US\$150,000 annually.

"When IFAW started its campaign it destroyed the seal market outside Namibia," says Brink. "They sabotage every effort I make."

But now, he says, support for the IFAW in the northern hemisphere is dwindling and the organisation is shifting its efforts to the south.

Another seal industry businessman, Willem Burger, says: "At this stage I am marketing my products wherever I want." But he will not disclose the markets for fear that the IFAW will attempt to shut them down.

David Barritt, a representative of the IFAW in Johannesburg, South Africa, says there is no need to kill seals because they have little economic value. But he concedes that Asians want the genitals of bull seals for their alleged aphrodisiac qualities. He also argues that the seal industry provides few jobs and his organisation claims there is no proof that seals pose a threat to marine life in the Atlantic off Namibia.

The government says seals eat more fish than the total catch allowed each year. Government figures say seals ate 128,000 tonnes of pilchards in 1992 when the total permissible catch was only 80,000 tonnes. It also says the industry employs 2,100 Namibians and contributes about 0.4 percent to the Gross Domestic Product.

Both Burger and Brink say seal oil has special uses in medicine. Recent research found it can be used to treat heart disease, skin cancer and ulcers. Research is also being carried out to see if it can be used against AIDS.

The IFAW has threatened to ask donor countries and agencies to halt further loans and grants to Namibia unless it bans culling.

IFAW members have again been asked to send postcards to President Sam Nujoma requesting him to halt culling but Nujoma says the campaign is interference in the internal affairs of Namibia and, in any case, the well-being of the people is more important than that of seals.

The IFAW campaigned successfully against seal culling in Canada and is currently campaigning against the killing of donkeys in Spain, fox hunting in England and the eating of dog meat by South Koreans.

950118.NAM (703 words)

BOTSWANA: Government continues to discriminate against women

Gaborone, January 25, 1995 (AIA/Lekopanye Mooketsi) — Three years after the Appeal Court upheld a lower court ruling that the Citizenship Act discriminates against women, the government still enforces it.

In 1990, Unity Dow, a citizen, challenged two sections of the act. She is married to Peter Dow, a United States

citizen resident in Botswana for 14 years.

Dow's first daughter, Cheshe, was adopted by Peter after their marriage in 1984. Since then the couple has had two children, Tumisang in 1985 and Natasha in 1987. They live in Mochudi, a village north of Gaborone.

Her challenge rested said the act was discriminatory and unconstitutional because it denied Batswana women married to foreign men the right to pass on their citizenship to their children, who can only remain in the country if they get a residence permit. Batswana men married to foreign women automatically pass citizenship to their children.

In 1991 the High Court agreed with Dow but the government appealed, arguing that "discrimination on the ground of sex must be permitted in Botswana as the society is patrilineal and therefore male-oriented". Shortly afterwards the Appeal Court upheld the High Court decision, saying the act was inconsistent with international human rights standards.

Last year the government rejected Dow's application for citizenship for her children and ignored the applications of other women similarly affected.

Dow says she no longer applies for residence permits for the children as the immigration department automatically issues them. She says that, in accordance with the Appeal Court ruling, she applied for passports for her children last year.

To her dismay she did not get them and "when I checked with the immigration department I found that the names of my children have been obliterated on the register book for applications". She vowed to apply for a court order if the department does not issue the passports.

President Ketumile Masire told parliament in December that his government will this year address the issue raised by the court's decision. "The dimensions of the issue of women and development are broad and intricate and we need to address them seriously but with the greatest of care," he said.

A task force is to advise the government on all aspects of a new policy on women. But a member of parliament of the ruling Botswana Democratic Party, Joy Phumaphi, was sceptical about the government's stated intentions.

"Women in this country are tired of being treated as second class citizens. The government is well known for its tricks of saying it is still considering the women's case. Something must be done and be done immediately," she told parliament.

She also raised the issue of marriage laws which she says are discriminatory. "No matter whether one is married out of community of property or not the woman still remains a minor and is subjugated by the culture and the laws of the country."

The United States-based group, Human Rights Watch/Africa, has also attacked the government for continuing to enforce the act in defiance of the courts.

It called on the government to bring its administrative practices in line with the Appeal Court decision and to amend other discriminatory sections of the act. It said

Dow's challenge uncovered only the tip of the iceberg of statutory and customary laws biased against women.

Human Rights Watch says it wrote to the president urging him to enforce the court's decision. The government briefly acknowledged the letter but gave no hint that action would be taken.

950119.BOT (570 words)

ZAMBIA: **Specific tasks dished out to further women's rights**

Lusaka, Jan 26, 1995 (AIA/Pauline Banda) — They swarm about like bees in a honeycomb. They are trying to make their circumstances in Southern Africa more economically independent and to increase awareness of their human rights.

About 30 women from Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe met here to map strategies for the 1988-initiated Southern African Women's Initiative (SAWI) project which aims to strengthen women's development groups.

SAWI's major funders, Canadian non-governmental organisations Inter-Pares and Match International, attended the November SAWI phase four consultative meeting, which also drew observers from Zambian NGOs. Tanzania was unable to attend but was still given a role to play.

The meeting centred on improving networking between women's groups and their collaborators, Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), from which Inter-Pares and Match International get most of SAWI's funds.

Under SAWI Four, Namibia — through the Namibia Development Trust — was tasked to prepare a directory of women's development groups so they can link-up.

Zambia was tasked to use the Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD) to encourage the groups to write gender-sensitive articles. The underlying goal is to counter the negative attitude of women as "lesser beings".

Tanzania, through the Tanzania Media Women's Association, and Zimbabwe, using Women in Law and Development in Africa, were asked to research problems hampering development. Violence against women was identified as a major hurdle, hence the aim is to make women more aware of their rights. This project is to begin in Chitungwiza, part of Harare's urban sprawl, where violence against women is high.

The meeting also discussed fund-raising to allow SAWI to continue its work.

Inter-pares coordinator Bibiana Seabon deplored the "sluggish" attitude of some SAWI projects, particularly in fund-sourcing. She said there is little justification for projects that have been underway for five years to continue seeking finance from Canada.

The meeting, however, was told the Finish Development Agency has agreed to support Canadian NGOs to fund SAWI. The agency had already released about US\$2,900 for the networking project.

ZARD executive secretary Olive Munjanja said SAWI will be glad to see women in the region "stand on their own". "We want to help women help themselves. They have to learn to assert themselves first before they can take any serious development steps."

The next consultative meeting is scheduled for June. The question is "whither SAWI?"

950120.SAD (384 words)

for legitimacy among communities who were already playing cricket, such as the coloureds and Indians.

But Bacher persevered with the programme and it eventually became, in Patel's words, "a big, big catalyst" for the unification process between the SACU and the SACB.

Patel says there are now 25 schoolboy teams in Soweto, and there are active development programmes in schools and clubs in eight urban areas in the Transvaal, amounting to 65 teams across the province.

Underlining the depth of the board's commitment, not only does it arrange coaching and games but also provides a new ball, feeds, clothes and transports the teams to and from games at least once a week.

Not only are there a growing number of black teams but a new stadium was recently opened in Soweto by sports minister Steve Tshwete. Significantly for Patel — and along with the improvement of facilities and the increased number of players — there is widespread evidence of an African cricket culture emerging. Says Patel: "If you go to Soweto and the new stadium now, I promise you there are kids practicing there, on any day. In the past it used to be kids just coming when we had practice days; now they go there and they practice on their own."

The successes of the development programme continues to be impressive. Patel however is not blind to accusations of paternalism. He concedes that in an ideal situation the Transvaal Cricket Board would not be playing the role it plays today.

He also says he looks forward to a time when "development" will not be pursued with quite the current evangelical zeal. Until then, however, Patel and a cast of thousands will continue their good work.

950121.SAF (669 words)

SOUTH AFRICA: "Cricket culture" emerges among disadvantaged

Johannesburg, January 27, 1995 (AIA/Luke Alfred) — Unlike many other sports administrative bodies, the United Cricket Board of South Africa has a proud record of bringing the game to the nation's disadvantaged.

The roots of the current development programme are in the pre-unity mid-'80s, when cricket was administered by two rival bodies — the white South African Cricket Union (SACU) and the coloured and Indian South African Cricket Board (SACB).

The then managing director of SACU, Dr Ali Bacher, realised that if South African cricket was to convince the world that it was committed to non-racial sport, it would have to actively spread the game in the black townships. But how was this to be done, given the logistical difficulties involved, not to mention the history of mistrust between the races?

Bacher realised he would need black coaches. He also realised that, given the lack of facilities in the townships, he would need to find a cheap and mobile form of cricket.

The second problem was easily solved as Bakers, a South African biscuit manufacturer, had pioneered "mini-cricket" in the early '80s. Mini-cricket is a scaled-down version of the game which can be set up almost anywhere and, crucially, is played with a softish ball, thus allowing first-time players to gain confidence rather than lose it after being hit by the regular hard ball.

As far as coaches were concerned, Bacher looked no further than Lawrence Mvumvu, a Soweto teacher who had played cricket since 1946. Mvumvu takes up the story: "In 1986 I had gone to watch a cricket match at the Wanderers (the home of cricket in Johannesburg) and Ali sat next to me and told me there was this project he would like to start.

"He had seen me previously coaching high schools in Soweto, so he knew at least I had an idea about cricket. So he said he wanted someone like me because he realised that I have a way of dealing with the little ones. I agreed, and so I left teaching."

Despite the growth of cricket in the townships in the late '80s, the respective administrative bodies were still separate. Imtiaz Patel, manager of the Transvaal Cricket Union's Development Programme, believes that although the programme was accepted in the black areas, it had to struggle

