

# A Crazy Move By Ekandjo

PLEASE allow me space in your respected newspaper to comment on the article

placed in *The Namibian* on Thursday, May 2003 21 entitled 'The Police Prepared to Take Over Immigration Functions'.

It seems that Mr Jerry Ekandjo, the Minister of Home Affairs, has run out of constructive ideas. He plans to disband the Immigration Division, which was established since 1990 after Independence. Currently he is intending to abolish the Department of Immigration. According to reliable sources of information, about 400 Police officers are to be trained to replace and take over immigration duties.

Imagine the Department of Immigration now in existence for 13 years with dedicated and long-serving officials, but their experience is now being wasted.

Now he is going to abolish the whole Department of Immigration and start afresh and from the scratch to train new Police officers to take over the key functions

of the immigration officials.

It is very easy to destroy but very difficult to reconstruct again. It can take the Ministry about 13 years to reach the same level at which it is at today because the new Police officials will not have enough experience in the field of immigration.

What resources in terms of taxpayers' money are to be spent on training 400 new police officials and having a bill drafted to change the Immigration Act? That money could have been used on something else. Either to purchase new vehicles for the poorly equipped Police force or to install computerised systems at the main border posts like at Ariamsvlei and Noordoewer where the immigration officials are still operating on manual systems or to introduce new development plan within the department.

Inspector General Hangula, supreme commander of the Namibian Police, has also issued a confidential circular to all commanding officers of the Police to

identify suitable candidates to fill the immigration unit.

In the circular the general reminds the regional and commanding officers that the Cabinet has resolved that the immigration department currently resorting under the Ministry of Home Affairs be abolished and the functions be sourced out to the Namibian Police. Apparently this circular was issued as top secret and must not be released to current immigration officials because the Minister, Jerry Ekandjo, and the Cabinet wants to do away with them.

The communique ended by stating to all commanding officers that the nominations should reach his office by July 22 2003 and should be addressed for the attention of Inspector Kahihakumwa.

**Concerned Citizen  
Mariental**

*Note: Name and address provided and withheld because writer is an immigration official. - Ed*