

## On Koevoet exodus

DURING the senseless war in which brother against brother killed one another, many lives were destroyed on both sides. As war veterans we are sick and tired of bloodshed and we thank the Lord for the peace he has brought to our country so far.

Most of us who fought against one another are now united as brothers and sisters in one single and mighty Defence Force. We thank the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, for his policy of reconciliation and nation-building.

We as ex fighters are also committed to reconciliation and nation building. We respect this Government as well as the constitution and laws of the land.

We also want to contribute towards nation-building, although certain problems have cropped up.

Some of our families and even ex-fighters in the rural areas of the north are threatened by certain undisciplined Swapo elements. Let me state clearly that they are not Plan fighters. There is a very good understanding among us as former fighters.

We as ex-fighters can defend ourselves if necessary but we want peace. This is the reason why many of our fellow fighters left for South Africa because they want to live in peace and harmony, and they believe they can get it there. We could also join them but we want to remain in Namibia. This is our country and we are proud sons and daughters of Namibia.

With the war in the past which was mostly run by the whites, there is nobody pointing a finger at them. While they live in peace in our beloved Namibia, we are being discriminated against.

We do not want reconciliation to collapse and we are fully aware of the faults of the past, but we are appealing to responsible Namibians to take this matter seriously.

We former soldiers also want to be treated as human beings. Namibia is still a young country, so let us all join hands and build a new Namibia to show the world what true democracy means - and our children will be proud of what has been achieved.

We are all hoping to celebrate the first anniversary of independence on March 21 next year without any conflict.

All Namibian compatriots should be vigilant for signs from the enemy which leads brother against brother to war again.

Alcohol abuse is another problem in our country and we hope that this will also be solved. Since alcohol was enemy number one in the past

through which the coloniser stole our country from our fathers, let us think and stay sober. We also hope to convince our fellow brothers and sisters who left the country to return to their motherland.

Let us all enter the Christmas season with peaceful hearts. Long live the people of Namibia and its President. May God give him the wisdom to rule the nation.

## EX FIGHTERS FAR NORTH

### Call for asylum

WE hope that your popular paper, which we have come to cherish as being the most truly objective in the country, will once again allow us a space to voice our continued suffering in detention. Seemingly any time news appears in your paper regarding our plight, there follows (albeit little) some tangible progress on our fate and freedom. We are obliged this time to direct our appeal to the President.

Mr President, any person fleeing his or her country for various reasons, political or otherwise, in any given part of this turbulent continent, is already 'mentally stressed'. We are not qualified to lecture either you or the Namibian people on this subject, the Namibian people themselves had practical experience of this.

Any amount of stress is likely to result in abnormal behavioural problems - such as psychiatric problems, internal ailments, and so on. The wishes of such a person are mainly threefold - the need for protection, the need to be supported (materially and spiritually) and the need for a reasonable amount of liberty and freedom.

Freedom (the same which our Namibian comrades fought for for many years) is of paramount value to any well-meaning citizen and is one of the main reasons why people (ourselves included) rebel, once denied it.

We are asylum seekers registered, and therefore recognised by, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees as refugees. We are obliged to thank the Namibian Government which undertook to bring us to Windhoek Prison for protection.

We were informed that the Namibian Government is still young, and unprepared to host refugees, and that the relevant bodies for catering for refugees, such as the UNHCR, do not have either offices or funds in Namibia.

The government, in collaboration with the UNHCR, deemed it appropriate to assist us in finding other