

Swawec accused

AS an electrical engineer, a former military man, and a Namibian patriot who has worked for Swawec for two years, I am not surprised that Mr Imker Hooggenhout, the General Manager of Technical Services of Swawec, has allegedly refused to disclose either the sum of money, said to be millions of Rands, or the name of the tenderer to remove numerous anti-personnel mines planted on the Ruacana-Omburu powerline.

These mines, which were allegedly planted there to "protect the powerline from sabotage by Plan" guerrillas, has already inflicted casualties in terms of lives and property of the innocent local civilian population for several years.

Having intimate knowledge of the discriminatory practices of Swawec, I am not at all surprised about the reported wide discrepancies in the price for removing such deadly anti-personnel mines.

But since Swawec is a parastatal corporation, I would recommend that the Minister of Mines and Energy, Andimba Toivo ya Toivo, institute a thorough investigation into the alleged discrepancies concerning the mine-removing tenderers and what appears to be a veil of secrecy surrounding this issue.

I am also not surprised by Imker Hooggenhout's claims that the removal of such mines is a "very high priority" several months after two years of peace in Namibia. Why was it not a "very high priority" for Hooggenhout to ask the SADF mine-defuser engineers to remove those devices during the implementation of Resolution 435?

I fail to understand how on earth a non-military, suppos-

edly politically neutral engineering company, or a responsible electrical or electronics engineer, could ask the SADF to plant those mines around power pylons. As a 'skilled, proficient and knowledgeable' electronics engineer from Stellenbosch University, Imker Hooggenhout, should have designed an electronic surveillance system to protect the powerline. Alternatively, if he, for some reason, was unable to design such a system, only then should he have asked the SADF or Koevoet to regularly patrol such powerline.

The steel pylons are extremely expensive and each power pylon costs at least R10 000. And 400 would cost R4-million. Also it is extremely expensive and dangerous to remove those mines. Can you, as an engineer, guarantee that no human life or pylon will be destroyed in the process of removing the mines, Mr Hooggenhout? How much did Swawec pay the SADF to remove such mines?

If they had not been your mines, Sir, then such R3 400 00 could have been used in the training and re-training of 'non-white' Namibians in order to meet the letter and spirit of Article 23 (1) of the constitution.

PHIL YA NANGOLOH
WINDHOEK

Note: This letter has been shortened. - Ed.

Hunted by police

I WOULD like clarity from the Prime Minister, the CCN, the Government, the United Nations and all those instances who were involved in the repatriation of refugees. Before we were repatriated in 1989 we were promised that everybody would be brought back to the