

Okahandja 'Racial Slurs' Saga Continues ...

RE the report in *The Namibian* of 8 February 2001 "Racial Slurs Traded over The Garden Fence....." We have been consulted by Mr Bennie Jiranek of 581 Fourth Avenue, Okahandja, with reference to a report which appeared in *The Namibian* of 8 February 2001, and in which it is stated that Mr Jiranek (our client) and Ms Mushelenga "have been embroiled in a row over racial slurs and anti-social behaviour for the past 10 years".

Our instructions are that the version of Ms Mushelenga contains several untruths and we hereby request you to publish this letter in order to state the correct facts. 1. Our client has never called Ms Mushelenga and her family "kaffirs" and "blacks" as reported. In fact we have it on good authority that it might be some of her other neighbours who used words to that effect. 2. Our client denies that he has after the date on which Ms Mushelenga has built her house (July 1991) created a large wall or extended that wall. The wall in question was in fact built before 1991. 3. Our client has in the past phoned the police with regard to noises coming from the house of Ms Mushelenga and which were disturbing the peace. We however wish to state that the police have in each particular case investigated the complaint concerned and have found the complaint concerned to be substantial. 4. Our client denies that he has ever intimidated the children of Ms Mushelenga to the extent that they are confined to the house and cannot even play in the yard. The children concerned are in fact

playing outside in their yard and are even playing in the street in front of our client house. Our client has on occasion requested the children to stop when they were pounding *omahangu* in the afternoon between 14h00 and 16h00. There is in fact an oral agreement between Mr Samuel Mushelenga (the husband of Ms Mushelenga) and our client that the children will be quiet between 14h00 and 16h00 in the afternoon. 5. Our client denies that he has ever laid a charge with the police regarding the slaughtering of a goat in the yard of Ms Mushelenga. Our client has on one occasion phoned the police regarding a goat or sheep which were tied to a tree in the yard of Ms Mushelenga and which were bleating the whole night. The police in fact came during the late hours of the night and requested them to remove the animal from their yard, which they did. 6. Our client denies that he is responsible for or has anything to do with the poisoning of the dogs of Ms Mushelenga. 7. Our client denies that he is responsible for or has anything to do with the poisoning of the doves of Ms Mushelenga. Our client further doubts whether Ms Mushelenga ever had 30 doves. 8. Our client denies that he has ever fired a shot in the direction of a child of Ms Mushelenga and labels this allegation to be totally untrue. Our client acknowledges that he has shot a dove of Ms Mushelenga sitting on the wall and that he has killed the dove. The daughter of Ms Mushelenga was never near the shooting. The Police have correctly amended the charge to

one of using a firearm the municipal area, because the child of Ms Mushelenga was never near the incident concerned. 9. Our client denies that he is still (sic) phoning the house of Ms Mushelenga. He acknowledges that he has phoned her house on the night of 4 January 2001 when her dog was apparently tangled in her fence and could not get loose. Ms Mushelenga was however apparently more interested to know who was talking than to help her dog, and ended the conversation by putting the receiver back on the phone. It was in fact agreed in the presence of the Police that our client will never call Ms Mushelenga when he has a problem, and that he will call the police, and he has up to now kept his promise. 10. Our client denies that he has ever stands in front of the gate of Ms Mushelenga at night. 11. Our client denies that he is harassing the family of Ms

Mushelenga or that he is busy with racial discrimination or that he wants her family to be out of their house. He has in fact publicly stated that he does not have a problem with her husband and that her husband is a very good neighbour who was always willing to sit down and talk it out. Our client has further stated that he is willing to reach out to his neighbours.

The actions of Ms Mushelenga by repeatedly calling our client a "boer" in front of the Police and the allegation by Ms Mushelenga that our client is harassing her family and is practising racial discrimination and that our client can do anything to her children and the lady looking after them while she is in the north are no contribution to the building of a good relations and reconciliation between neighbours and co-Namibians.

P J HARMSE
Legal Practitioners
Okahandja



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Minister of Trade and Industry Hon. Hamutenya will be launching two training manual booklets on Business Plan Formulation and Project Planning and Management.

Date: 19th February 2001

Time: 10:00

Venue: National Planning Commission Auditorium Hall, Government Park