

Petrol Price Hike A Big Concern

KINDLY allow us space in your newspaper to air some concerns about matter that are of vital importance to most Namibians.

The Namibia People's Social Movement with member organisations in the building, manufacturing, wholesale, retail, motor car, fishing and banking sectors in Namibia wish to denounce and reject the current increase in the fuel price.

The exorbitant increases in the price of fuel that was announced on September 14 2000 has caused strikes and hardships everywhere.

We wish to register our concerns that these increases that were announced are not budgeted for in most of the companies that have just allowed increases for workers. These increases also are not calculated in the inflation rate which employers are so keen to use to determine increases.

It is extremely difficult to create opportunities to redress this in balance that is now created by drastically increased petrol and rates hikes. The City Council as bulk consumer should also negotiate a warning period with the bulk suppliers that are in most cases also parastals.

The situation that is now going to prevail is that workers will only notice that they have actually become poorer after two or three months. That is not fair and it might even cause serious trouble in this country. We have seen that in certain African countries riots broke out because of the sharp increase in the price of bread. We do not want to create situations like that. All people and organisations must act very responsibly.

We are issuing this preemptive warning because most employers wrongly take it that trade unions are pushing prices up and causing inflation to rise. Hopefully they will now see and understand why and from where the problem originates.

We wish to request all parastals and Government organs to devise other means of income and to keep prices stable. Maybe it is also time that higher technology be employed to mine the Kudu Gas Field as an alternative fuel source. Gas should also be used in commercial vehicles. Unnecessary taxes should be removed from the petrol price.

**Namibia People's Social Movement
WINDHOEK**