

## NANTU's 20th Anniversary 11<sup>th</sup> March 1989 - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Due to other commitments, the day was scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to coincide with the National Teachers' Council (NTC) meeting. No big celebration was planned due to schools in the northern, and far north eastern regions that were flooded and which led to the closure of some schools.



*Cde. Basilius GM Haingura.*

*Photo: PW Kazimbu*

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, former leaders were given for the first time in the history of NANTU a token of appreciation in recognition for their contributions towards the union since its formation according to Basilius GM Haingura, NANTU Secretary General. These leaders are the biological parents of NANTU.

He further said that, there was a steering committee who worked tirelessly day and night and under difficult times to make plans, good goals of having a National Teachers Union which is non-sexiest, non-racial and to unite all teachers in Namibia.

This steering committee travelled to regions with the full support of the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW), Namibia National Students' Organization (NANSO) and the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN).

In his concluding remarks he said that this is the beginning of the National celebration and the aim was to reward the first category of leadership. He further urged the current leadership to emulate the footprints of the former leaders and that the respected former leaders to avail themselves and be of guidance whenever they are needed. In the absence of the Founding President of NANTU Hon. Marco Hausiku who attended a Ministerial Summit in Swaziland, Cde. Josef Konjore second Deputy President agreed to stand in and give the keynote speech. Cde. Konjore informed the gathering that NANTU was formed the time when Namibia as a colonized country was at the end of its long struggle for freedom, peace, justice and democracy. NANTU's formation was also necessary to make a real contribution towards nation-building and the reconstruction of the socio-economic systems of our nation and beloved country, Namibia. The former second Deputy President strongly emphasized and said that: "NANTU was set to break ethnic and tribal barriers in order to organize teachers into one cohesive force which will safeguard their interests and those of the nation that's why NANTU was formed to stay and work in the interest of its members and the teachers of Namibia".

The launching of NANTU was on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1989 at A. Shipena Secondary School in Windhoek with a scripture reading and prayer by the late Rev. Jackey Basson of the Roman Catholic Church and welcoming remarks by Hon. Marco Hausiku. Altogether 450 people including guests attended the launching, while the official delegates representing the different schools from all over the country numbered 170. A lot of national and international guests were in real support of the launch of the Union of national interest.



*Josef Konjore former 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy President of NANTU delivering the keynote speech as the Founding President of NANTU Hon. Marco Hausiku had to travel to Swaziland for the Ministerial Summit.*

*Photo: PW Kazimbu*

Before the actual formation of NANTU, a Steering Committee was formed to hold discussions in all parts of the country. This committee faced a daunting task because they all were full-time teachers and could only meet teachers in the evenings or on weekends. They used their own cars and money for fuel and food, slept

anywhere during their trips and their lives were in danger due to the extreme danger and tense political situation. A big applaud and thank you should go to National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW), Namibia National Students' Organization (NANSO) and Council of Churches in Namibia and CCN who assisted the steering Committee with money or petrol.

Many teachers were being intimidated by the then school principals and education authorities who felt threatened by the formation of a progressive national teachers' union. Some of the ethnic teachers associations in fact warned their members to stay away from the Steering Committee but despite all these problems they laboured on and the rest is the glorious history of NANTU.

In his closing remarks, Konjore touched on the Collective Agreement of NANTU with Government of the Republic of Namibia as the only recognized union in the sense of NANTU structures which are all in full existence. At school level the NANTU School Committees (NSC) which represents members at their



Members of the National Teachers' Council (NTC) listening attentively to the keynote speech.

*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



Six of the ten members of the steering committee. From left to right: Jacobus van der Westhuizen, Marius Kudumo, Joseph Konjore, Rusten Mogane, Herbert Jauch and Markus Kampungu. The other four members were; Doufi Namalambo, Levi Namaseb, Marco Hausiku and the late Aron Kasingo. *Photo: PW Kazimbu*

workplaces while at town level the Branch Executive Committees (BEC) handle issues pertaining teachers in that specific town and schools. In each one of the thirteen regions there are Regional Executive Committees (REC) who takes up issues with the educational regional offices. All chairpersons from the regions are represented on the National Teachers' Council (NTC), the union's highest decision making structure between congresses. He summed up by encouraging members to actively participate in union activities and they must be willing to sacrifice their time.

Members of the Steering Committee Received a token of appreciation.



On the left. Hon. Marco Hausiku.  
Founding NANTU President and now Minister of  
Foreign Affairs. *Photo: PW Kazimbu*



On the right. Markus Kampungu.  
First Secretary General with four consecutive terms  
and now Public Service Commissioner.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



On the right. Herbert Jauch.  
Second National Secretary Former Director of LaRRI  
and now Senior Researcher at LaRRI.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



On the right. Marius Kudumo.  
First National Project Co-ordinator and now Co-  
Ordinator for UNESCO, MoE.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



On the right. Josef Konjore.  
Second Deputy President and now a teacher at Ernst  
Jagger Secondary School in Karasburg.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



On the right. Doufi Namalambo. First National  
Secretary, Fourth Deputy President and now a  
consultant.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



*On the right, Rusten Mogane.  
Former successful Brave Warriors coach and now  
Chief Sport Administrator. Photo: PW Kazimbu*



*On the left, Levi Namaseb.  
Now lecturer at UNAM.  
Photo: PW Kazimbu*



*On the right, Jacobus van der Westhuizen.  
First Treasurer of NANTU. Now employed at the  
Ministry of Home Affairs. Photo: PW Kazimbu*

*Still searching for the picture of the late Aron  
Kasingo. It will be filled as soon as the picture is  
available and the specific role he played.*



Other former leaders who also received a token of appreciation.



On the right. Cde. Redemptus Kamari.  
Second President and now a businessman.

Photo: PW Kazimbu



On the right. Cde. Tjekero Tweya. The One and Only  
National Chairperson for NANTU.

Photo: PW Kazimbu



On the left. Cde. Eta Mbuye.  
Third Deputy President. Now Deputy Director:  
National Council for Higher Education.

Photo: PW Kazimbu



On the right. Cde. Vilbard Usiku  
Fifth President. Now Employment Equity  
Commissioner.

Photo: PW Kazimbu



On the right. Cde. Elias Manga.  
Sixth President. Now Deputy Director: Library  
Services.

Photo: PW Kazimbu



On the right. Cde. Raymond Simanga. Fifth President.  
Now Education Officer at NIED.

Photo: PW Kazimbu



*On the right.* Cde. John Nakuta.  
Third Secretary General. *Photo: PW Kazimbu*



*On the right.* Cde. Erago Thaddeus Erago.  
First Deputy Secretary General.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



Cde. Ausiku Ausiku  
Sixth Deputy President.  
Now Principal.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*



Cde. Christine /Gontes  
Second Secretary General.  
Now HOD.  
*Photo: PW Kazimbu*