

# THE “WEAKER” SEX

## AN AFRICAN VIEW

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NAMIBIA DEFENCE FORCE



# HISTORY

- ◆ Weaker sex due to physical abilities.
- ◆ Yet, God entrusted the woman with giving birth.



**AND**





- ◆ TODAY, WOMEN ARE FOUND AS PRESIDENTS, CABINET MINISTERS, NASA TEAMS ETC
- ◆ SINCE INDEPENDENCE, WOMEN ARE DEPLOYED IN ALL SECTORS OF THE NDF.



Captain, Reverent Amelia Mouton was appointed NDF Chaplain with effect from 1st November 2005

# PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE

- ◆ UNTIL 1974. NO BLACK WOMEN
- ◆ VOLUNTARY WORK FOR WHITE WOMAN IN SUPPORT SERVICES
- ◆ WOMEN JOINED THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE VOLUNTARY IN ALL FIELDS
- ◆ IN THE 23 YEARS OF WAR, SPORT WAS NOT A PRIORITY

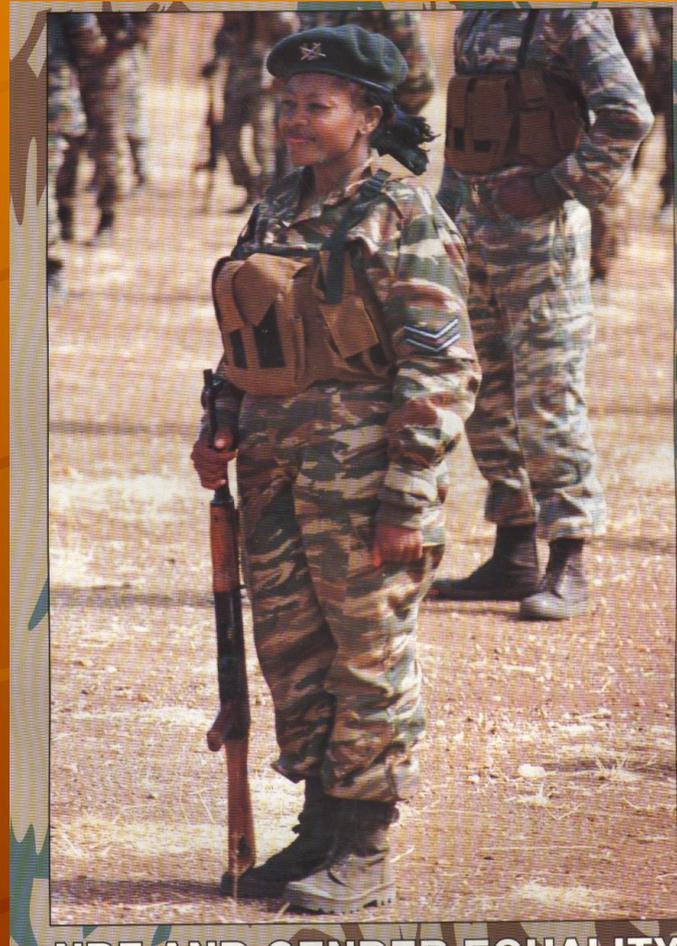


# JUNGLE GYM



# POST INDEPENDENCE

- ◆ WOMEN BECAME PART OF THE NDF AND MADE A CAREER FROM IT



# RESTRICTIONS AFTER INDEPENDENCE

- ◆ RESISTANCE TO CHANGE
- ◆ TRADITIONAL MISCONCEPTIONS
- ◆ INCREASED WORK LOAD
- ◆ SINGLE PARENTHOOD
- ◆ DEPLOYMENT AWAY FROM HOME
- ◆ FOREIGN MISSION DEPLOYMENT
- ◆ SPORT CAREER VS MOTHERHOOD
- ◆ SEXUAL HARASSMENT

# RESISTANCE TO CHANGE DUE TO TRADITIONS

- ◆ 13 ETHNIC GROUPS WITH OWN TRADITIONS
- ◆ WOMEN EXPECTED TO STAY HOME
- ◆ INCREASED DEMANDS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS ARE CHANGING THE PICTURE
- ◆ CHANGES HAVE NOT LIFTED THE BURDEN



# MISCONCEPTIONS BY TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES

- ◆ TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES ARE WELL RESPECTED
- ◆ VERY INFLUENTIAL
- ◆ NEGATIVE WESTERN INFLUENCE ON TRADITIONS
- ◆ SEE DAY CARE AS A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE
- ◆ COMMUNITY MUST UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF WORKING MOTHERS - CONTRIBUTING



# INCREASED WORK LOAD AT WORK AND HOME

- ◆ TRADITIONAL MEN SELDOM ASSIST AT HOME
- ◆ WORKING WOMEN DO HOME WORK AFTER WORK



# SINGLE PARENTHOOD

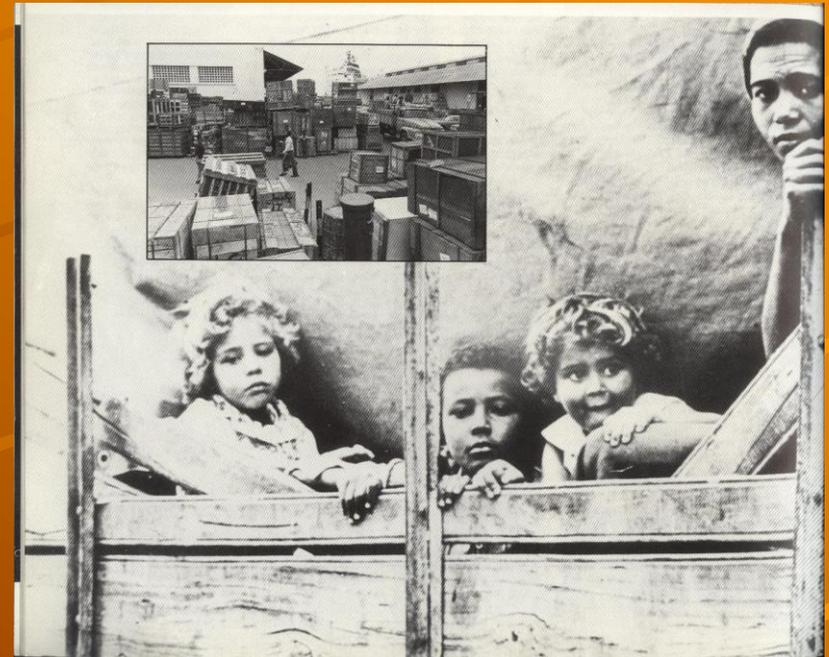
- ◆ MANY NAMIBIAN HOUSEHOLDS HAVE A SINGLE PARENT DUE TO:
  - DIVORCE
  - UNPLANNED PREGNANCY
  - LOSS OF A PARENT
  - HUSBAND DEPLOYED AWAY FROM HOME



WOMEN HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WORK

# DEPLOYMENT AWAY FROM HOME

- ◆ NDF WOMEN MOSTLY DEPLOYED AWAY FROM FAMILIES
- ◆ CHILDREN'S DILEMMA
  - WITHOUT PARENTS
  - RAISED DIFFERENTLY



# DEPLOYMENT IN FOREIGN MISSIONS

◆ FOREIGN MISSIONS, TRAINING, PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS

– SAME DILEMMAS



# SPORT CAREER VS MOTHERHOOD

◆ FEW WOMEN WITH HIGH LEVEL SPORT CAREER AND BEING A MOTHER

– WAIT FOR SPORT CAREER TO FADE

– REASON : CANNOT COPE WITH ALL THE DEMANDS



# SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

- ◆ TRADITIONALLY A MAN'S WORLD
- ◆ ACCEPTANCE OF WOMEN IS GROWING
- ◆ PERCEPTIONS OF WOMEN FOR SEXUAL PLEASURE
- ◆ SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE FORCE IS INTERNATIONAL
- ◆ OUR DUTY TO ROOT OUT THIS HARASSMENT



◆ **WOMEN ACCEPTED THE  
CHALLENGE OF EQUAL  
RIGHTS AND ARE  
DETERMINED TO MAKE A  
SUCCESS OF IT**



# THIS SITUATION CAN CHANGE WITH

◆ **TIME** : NEEDED FOR COMMUNITIES TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF SPORT AND MOTHER

◆ **UNDERSTANDING** : WHY WOMEN WANT A CAREER AND BE A MOTHER AND WIFE

◆ **SUPPORT** : FROM ALL ROLE PLAYERS TO CREATE NORMAL HAPPY FAMILY UNITS

# THANK YOU

Step-out uniform - Office and ceremonial dress.



◆ Presentation  
compiled by

**V**  **SIBILITY**  
**Be seen**

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