

the Kavango Region yesterday began a specially convened two-day conference at Kamutjonga, 25km from Di-vundu, to deliberate on burning issues such as teenage pregnancies and malnutrition in the region.

Led by the Deputy Prime Minister Marco Hausiku the conference is taking place at the Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute.

Following a 2011 US-AID study, which revealed that the region's teenage



Hambukushu Chief Erwin Munika Mbambo

pregnancy rate (35 per-cent) is more than double the national average of 15 percent, national leaders assigned to the region

including Marco Hausiku the Deputy Prime Minister, John Mutorwa, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Ro-



The Deputy Prime Minister, Marco Hausiku

salia Nghidinwa the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Tjekero Tweya the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry,

and Petrina Haingura the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, are attending the high-profile conference to try and de-

White-collar crime widespread, increasing

By Edgar Brandt

WINDHOEK - With money-laundering and so-called 'white collar' crime becoming more prevalent in Namibia, a group of financial security experts recently attended the first-ever course in the country in order to qualify as certified fraud examiners (CFEs).

The course, which included modules on finance, law, investigation, prevention and ethics was presented by the Risk and Investigation Training Academy (RITA) and took place late last year.

Once these participants write their finals exams this year they will become part of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE),

which is an international organisation committed to fighting fraud and corruption. The ACFE provides training to its members in the prevention, detection and investigation of white-collar crime. These crimes include the now infamous 419 scam, also known as the Nigerian Letter Scam, as well as online fraud.

"There is a definite increase in

white-collar crime in Namibia and it is a very serious risk. Companies are losing big time if they do not have the people and procedures in place to deal with this sort of crime," commented Roman Bock, Head of Security and Investigations at Nam-Power, and one of the participants in the course.

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discussed include teenage pregnancies, malnutrition, street children and the role of traditional authorities in addressing these pressing social challenges in the region and the country at large.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Deputy Prime Minister said diseases such as malnutrition should not exist in the region due to its fertile soil, high rainfall and the presence of the perennial Kavango River. Recent statistics released by the Kavango Regional Council indicate that 3 775 cases of malnutrition were reported between January 2011 and September 2012, of which 1 734 were of children under five years of age.

Moreover, the Rundu State Hospital reported 73 deaths and 468 hospital admissions of children under the age of 12 years due to malnutrition, between the period January 2011 to June 2012.

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THE NEW ERA

anonymity, many of the people at the dumpsite are armed with knives and other weapons to defend their turf and a share of the spoils. According to him, last week Wednesday a fight broke out between two forag-

Minister of Education, Dr David Namwandi, last year urged all children of school-going age at the dumpsite to go and register at nearby schools, it seems the message has fallen on deaf ears. Yesterday, when

the first to rush towards them. Thursdays used to be the favourite day for these impoverished residents, when trucks laden with stale and rancid food would arrived to

for dumping discarded food has changed to Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Everyone at the dumpsite was reluctant to speak to this reporter, and eventually started shouting at

in unison, "What are you doing there angry faces. The drama was quite moving, as people ran to pick up tins of beef, yoghurt, chips, biscuits, juice and packets of tea and coffee.

with poverty and has assigned someone to carry out a study of the Brazilian social welfare system to find ways of dealing with the problem. The Prime Minister

sites for needy people. "The biggest problem is not only unemployment, but poverty and hunger in the midst of plenty," Geingob had said.

CRIME

Media reports last week indicated that Rossing Uranium Limited also fell victim to a white-collar crime scheme and ended up paying close to N\$3 million into a TransNamib bank account, which turned out to be a hoax South African account. The uranium mine reportedly received instructions on a TransNamib letterhead to settle its bill with the national carrier by making a deposit into a bank account for which the details were provided.

The fake letters were sent out by one 'Sandra Stuurman' to clients, according to a media statement issued by TransNamib last Friday. The letters were followed up by sending emails, as well as by follow-up

telephone calls to debtors. "Clients are warned to guard against falling victim to this scam, and are requested to alert their relevant units or departments, as TransNamib cannot be held liable for fraudulent payments resulting from this scam," the parastatal warned. TransNamib Holdings has since issued a cautionary statement to all its clients not to fall prey to such scams.

Meanwhile, Namibia's commercial banks warn that internet banking scams are on the increase particularly online fraud and phishing. Phishing is an email fraud method in which fraudsters send out legitimate looking emails to lure banking clients to fake websites where these clients are prompted to log in with their online bank-

ing username, password and mobile phone numbers. Typically, the message (and the fake website) appear trustworthy and appear to come from a known banking institution. If successful, the fraudster would assume the identity of the client and ultimately gain full control over the unsuspecting victim's bank accounts.

Phishing is therefore a form of identity theft that depends entirely on the victim's cooperation. Commercial banks have on numerous occasions said that they will under no circumstances communicate personal information with clients via email, nor will clients be requested to submit confidential information to the bank via email or by clicking on a link.

The Namibian Regional Committee for Certified Fraud Examiners was established during October 2011 and their official launch took place during February last year in Windhoek.

The CFE is represented in Namibia and delegates from the office of the Auditor General, parastatals, including NamPower and Telecom, and non-governmental organizations, banks and insurance companies attended the training.

The Namibian Regional Committee is planning more workshops this year, of which the first is scheduled for February 14. The first course is expected to deal with topics such as cellphone and cyber fraud.

Chief Erwin Mbandu, who is also attending the meeting lambasted the lack of discipline among youths for the high teenage pregnancy rate. "Culture is dead in the region, because young people are emulating the Western world. In the past you would not see any part of a woman's body, but today it's different," said Mbandu.

He also alluded to the fact that most social matters are being politicised instead of leaving them to traditional authorities.

In the region which is rated as one of the poorest in the country, factors contributing to the rise of teenage pregnancies include peer pressure, lack of discipline and lack of social and parental control. "Parents also contribute to the problem, because they go to the shebeens at night and then the children have to sleep on an empty stomach," observed Hausiku.

The region is home to seven ambitious green scheme projects established by the government - producing tonnes of fresh produce, which is readily accessible to locals and yet the country continues to experience unusually high levels of malnutrition.

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Rundu Office: Tel: 066 - 267 319/0811 500 388 • mmhaufiku@gmail.com
Walvis Bay Office: Telefax: 064 - 200349 • erongo@newera.com.na

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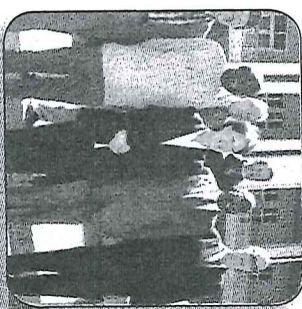
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By Mathias Haufiku

KAMUTJONGA - National and traditional leaders, as well as many



wise measures to mitigate what many consider a brewing social crisis of potentially catastrophic dimensions.