

## SWAPO Dissidents Expelled

The Central Committee of SWAPO, meeting in extraordinary session in Angola during July, expelled its acting vice-president and eight other members of the organization. The nine were charged with "advocating and organizing for the breaking away of our Eastern region—Caprivi—from the rest of the country." The Caprivi strip is a small section of Namibian territory that juts between Angola and Zambia to the north and Botswana to the south.

Having reviewed "concrete and documentary evidence," the Central Committee charged that the expelled individuals had "engaged themselves in activities aimed at undermining the territorial integrity of our country, at disrupting the unity of our organization and at retarding the progress of the liberation struggle of the Namibia people."

In addition to Acting Vice-President Mishake Albert Muyongo, those expelled are: Lemmy Matengu, Jackson Mazazi, Ignatius Matengu, David Mutabelezi, Denis Kachilombwa, Ernest Likando, Ben Mabuku, and Calvin Songa.

Immediately following the expulsions, Muyongo announced the re-forming of the

Caprivi National Union, a Caprivi based organization that had merged with SWAPO sixteen years ago. Muyongo's charges that fighting was taking place between Caprivi secessionists and SWAPO members at refugee camps in Zambia, were sharply denied by SWAPO, the Zambian government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Zambian denial came after a government investigation into the situation in the camps.

The last major expulsion of leadership members occurred in 1976 when SWAPO Information Secretary Andreas Shipanga was expelled, and later formed a small political grouping inside Namibia, the SWAPO-Democrats.

South African Administrator General Gerrit Viljoen immediately attempted to portray the expulsions as a split in the SWAPO leadership based on "tribal" conflicts. Theo Ben Gurirab, SWAPO representative to the UN said in response, "The South Africans are greatly mistaken if they think that SWAPO has split. We are dealing with the actions of one man who abused his position. He bribed certain people of the Eastern Caprivi, and he used these poor people for his own ends."

"I am in SWAPO because it is the only movement with a nationalistic base," Ben Gurirab continued. He pointed out that a number of top SWAPO officials are of Caprivan origin. □