

Zimbabwe seek abortions for HIV moms

PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Pregnant mothers who have been diagnosed as HIV positive should have a choice of abortion or giving birth, says the Women and AIDS Support Network.

The network has prepared a document about the abortion issue and expects to gather the signature 30,000 women in Zimbabwe in support. Director Priscillah Misihairambi says her organization is not taking sides but realizes that pregnant women who are HIV positive have no clear choice under the current health legislation. Abortion is illegal in Zimbabwe except in cases of rape and incest and when pregnancy endangers the life of the mother and the fetus.

"We know that abortion is taking place in Zimbabwe," says Misihairambi. In 1993, local

Briefs

news reports revealed that several abortions were conducted on HIV-infected women by medical doctors who misinterpreted the law. Official statistics say that Zimbabwe has the second highest HIV infection rate in Africa after Zambia, with one person per 1,000. "All we are saying is that as far as the Act is concerned it must explicitly mention HIV and that women who want to carry out an abortion should have the choice to do so."

Bruce Dawu

Namibian ex-fighters press government for jobs

WINDHOEK, Namibia — Demonstrations by ex-fighters of the ruling South West Africa People's Organization demanding jobs from the government are

becoming the most pressing political problem. Despite government statements that the former fighters have to wait as they cannot be provided with jobs overnight, they continue to agitate. Since independence in 1990 most ex-combatants have been unemployed.

"We are not against our government. We just want to be given jobs. We are now tired. Seven years without a job is too much," says Petrus Josef, leader of about 700 SWAPO ex-fighters who have been camping at Parliament Gardens, a few meters from the residency of President Sam Nujoma. They marched to the gardens on Oct. 23 and vowed not to leave until they are provided with jobs. Nathaniel Mazuilili, a SWAPO member of parliament, says the government is "trying its best to identify jobs and training opportunities." President

Nujoma has, on numerous occasions, assured the former fighters that jobs will be found for them and that they will be recruited for the renovation of schools, building of canals, and road work. He said jobs will be assigned to those unemployed former fighters whose names have been compiled by the Social Integration Program of Ex-combatants.

Absalom Shigwedha

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Diversity good; means iffy

Poll: Most don't like race-based preferences

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Most Americans support racial diversity in schools and the workplace but are against some of the methods used to achieve it, according to a New York Times-CBS News poll released this week.

Of those surveyed, most were against ending affirmative action immediately but disapproved of using race as a factor in hiring and school admissions.

But Americans seemed to support affirmative action based on economic class, with the majority of blacks and whites saying they favored policies giving preferential treatment in college admissions and employment to poor

people over wealthier citizens. Asked whether affirmative action programs should be ended now, phased out or continued, just 12 percent of those polled — 13 percent of whites and less than 1 percent of blacks — said they should be ended now. Forty percent (45 percent of whites, 17 percent of blacks) favored phasing out the programs, and 41 percent (35 percent of whites, 80 percent of blacks) said they should be continued.

The poll focused on the attitudes of white and black Americans. Members of other minority groups were surveyed, but their numbers were not large enough to provide a statistically reliable snapshot of their attitudes, the Times said.

The poll showed that whites with college degrees were more likely to favor ending affirmative action by a margin of 57

percent to 34 percent) than those with high school degrees or less (31 percent favor abolishing, 51 percent oppose).

People with annual incomes above \$50,000 were more likely to support ending affirmative action than those who make \$30,000 a year or less.

When the Times-CBS survey first began asking about racial preferences in 1985, Americans were evenly divided. But opinion turned overwhelmingly against racial preferences in the late 1980s, was particularly hostile toward them in the recessionary years of the early 1990s and has remained negative ever since, the newspaper said.

The Times-CBS poll, a nationwide telephone survey of 1,258 adults, was conducted Dec. 6-9. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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1997 WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO. CONSOLIDATED AND THE COCA-COLA COMMUNITY CONNECTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS. THE STAFF IS LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING 1998, PROVIDING YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT EXCITING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES HAPPENING IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.

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Centipede Food Mart	Project Hope	The Minority Agenda
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Gold Star #1	Ron's Grocery	Two-Way Stop
Johnson Mini Mart	Saint Luke Baptist Church	Tyson's Grocery
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