

While we were in Cape Town, we were not allowed to discuss our problems. The coach did not allow us to raise our opinions. He wanted to be the only one to speak.

There was a time when I played and didn't receive a single ball. I complained that the ball should be well distributed. The coach said since I was not the best spiker I should not expect to get the ball.

In 1991 I went to a sport school in Denmark where I studied ball games. My experience with a Danish team was that the ball was distributed equally in the court. It did not matter whether you were a short

player, or an inexperienced player, all players were equally important.

As to my team players I have this to say: If you have a favourite person in the team to whom you pass your balls, forget it. You will never win a single match outside this country.

There is something else that we as Namibians don't talk about. We must forget about skin colour and favouritism and think about each and every person as a human being.

There should be no discrimination between the German-speakers and the Afrikaans-speaking

Namibians. After a good talk with one of my team mates, I discovered that the German-people speaking didn't like the Afrikaners and vice versa.

This could also be seen in the way we were divided at the residential place in Cape Town. I was put into my own room alone as a black person, the German speakers in their own room and Afrikaners in another. These groupings remained the same wherever we went. We didn't mix freely at all.

I know that the truth hurts but I am tired of ignoring things that matter in my life. There's got to be a melting point. ■

## Paid maternity leave on the table

Working women will soon be entitled to maternity leave if parliament approves the Social Security Bill tabled in the National Assembly last October.

The bill seeks to compel employers to make available maternity leave benefits to every female employee.

Motivating the bill in parliament, Labour and Human Resources Development Minister, Hendrik Witbooi said subject to the provisions of the Social Security Bill, maternity leave benefits shall be paid four weeks before the expected date of the employee's confinement, and eight weeks after the actual date of delivery.

"If the baby dies within two weeks after the date of delivery, maternity leave benefits shall be payable in respect of a further period of four weeks only, from the date of death."

If the employee dies while receiving or being entitled to receive maternity leave benefits, such benefits shall be payable to the person in whose care the baby of the employee is placed, said Witbooi.

No maternity leave benefits shall be payable to a female member who takes up any other employment during, before or after delivery.

