

▷▷ In Denmark pornography is the third biggest income generator of the GNP (Gross National Product) after agriculture and furniture making. Proportionately it is not a problem in Namibia yet. But, whereas pornography was curbed in our recent past by the police and censorship, Prof Heywood said that the new state has abolished censorship in principle. "The walls in Namibia are down," she said. She, however, did not propagate censorship, but continued to outline that pornogra-

phy was an issue of power, of domination.

"Pornography is violent and degrading. It is death loving and it has a cold heart. It exploits the submission of women by men, for men. The woman turns herself into object; awaiting male appraisal," she said.

"Women can deconstruct (break down and replace with something better) the giant that pornography is through the following ways: Gaining power over language, the naming and

defining of things; voicing our own experiences of our own sexuality through our own eyes and not through the eyes of an exploiter," she said.

Prof Heywood stressed the need for literature by women celebrating women's experiences of sexuality and erotica, which is much vaster and more dimensional than any second hand representation. She concluded that the fight was not against men but against patriarchy.

## A BASKET CAN HOLD MANY THINGS

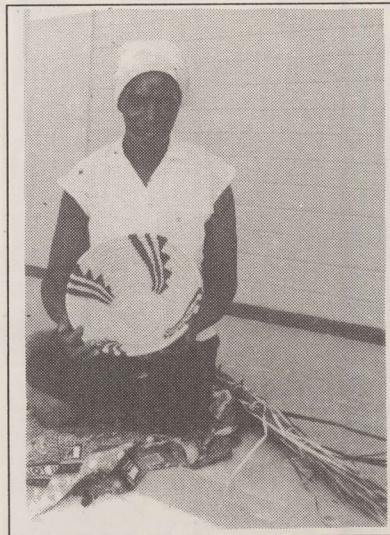
Patricia Muniango from Ibbu in the Caprivi has been making and selling baskets for a long time. When she participated in a basket weaving workshop in Katima Mulilo in May, **Sister** was able to ask her about her craft.

**Sister:** Can you remember your first baskets?

**Patricia:** Yes, I started to get seriously involved in basket making in 1973. I was riding on the back of a bakkie together with a woman from Maun, Botswana, who had a beautiful basket with her. I looked at it carefully and afterwards made one of my own. Mine came out even more beautiful! Of course I had already learned the craft of basket weaving from my mother by that time.

**Sister:** Who buys your baskets?

**Patricia:** I sell them mainly to women who have no time to make their own, like teachers and nurses. My daughters are



*Patricia Muniango of Caprivi*

also too busy in their work; one is a teacher and the other is a tailor.

If I was in Windhoek I could sell to the tourists and earn more money for my work. I went there in 1989 for the election campaign and took three big baskets with me. I got three hundred rands for them easily.

**Sister:** How do you prepare your materials for weaving?

**Patricia:** It is a long process to prepare the reeds. First you have to select them in the veld and cut them. Then you boil the reeds in water mixed with mealie meal. For the dark brown colour you pound the bark of a certain tree and mix the powder with black charcoal. For the lighter brown you use only the bark.

**Sister:** Did you learn anything new at this workshop?

**Patricia:** I got some new ideas for patterns which I want to try out. For most of us it was a new thing to weave with more than two colours.

We also learnt to make more shades of brown.

**Sister:** Do you think the time will come when people will stop buying baskets because plastic bowls and plates will be more readily available?

**Patricia:** No. Baskets are much stronger than plastic. Baskets last much longer.

**Sister:** And they are much more beautiful. ●