

QUARTERLY REVIEW

JULY

Farewell

1 July was scorned with the passing of legendary Otilie Abrahams (80). She was a politician, gender and social activist. Mrs Otilie is also the founder of the Jacob Marengo Secondary School.

Sentencing

Killer of the pregnant teen Sara van der Westhuizen (16), Charles Michael Swartz on 16 July was sentenced to a 20 year prison term with extra 6 years for assault. He killed her during an attack in September of 2012. Somalia

A 10 year old Somali girl died on the 16 July after undergoing female genital mutilation (FGM), prompting calls from campaigners to criminalise the internationally condemned practice in a country with the world's highest rates.

Sport

Carane van Zyl won 2 gold medals for Namibia in the trampoline and tumbling categories. She was among 6 other Namibian gymnasts who took part in the African Youth games in Algiers that took place during 18-28 July. Namibia finished 9th overall in the 50 participating countries and 3rd in Southern Africa.

Leadership

The largest regional economic organisation in Africa, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), elected Chileshe Kapwepwe as its first woman secretary-general on 18 July.

AUGUST

Women's March

1 August women across SADC, respectively Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa took to the streets under the #TotalShutdown hashtag. The campaign spearheaded by various women's rights organ-

isations was aimed at raising awareness on gender based violence. The theme was "My body, not your crime scene".

Sentencing

Zenobia Seas who in September of 2016 murdered her two year old daughter (Ava Owooses) in a revenge act against her ex received a prison term of 25 years on the 1 August.

Arrests

On 27 August four police officers were among 10 men arrested in eleven cases of GBV, as gender activists urge more women to come forth. Another police inspector was also arrested and charged on a separate case with assault after threatening to kill his wife at a club.

Crime

Dismembered body of 9 year old Avihe Cheryl was found in a riverbed near Staanvas-Katutura on August 28. Her body was discovered two days after she was reported missing.

SEPTEMBER

Sport

20 year old Naomi Osaka, beat Serena Williams in straight sets 6-2 6-4 to win her first Grand Slam title at the US Open Women's singles final.

Science

On 6 September Anastacia de Klerk kick started Namibia's first ever girls science fair in Walvis Bay. The first of its kind fair is aimed at encouraging young girls to participate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Self-defense

The 5th rural women's parliament session (held on 12 September) ended with eight resolutions, one of which calls for self-defense classes for women in light of the increasing gender-based violence. Chairperson of the resolutions committee Petrina Khom-Oabes said the defense was vital in an increasingly violent society.

