

# Swanu on graft

**SWANU** of Namibia is very perturbed by the constant allegations of illegal transactions in which high-ranking Government officials, including Ministers and deputy ministers, are allegedly involved.

These allegations and accusations have been going on for quite a long time now and something should be done to resolve it in order to put the minds of the Namibian public at ease.

We were delighted when the Right Honourable Prime Minister revealed that the services of about 311 Government employees were terminated due to misconduct and other related issues. However we are disturbed that steps have not yet been taken publicly to clear up the serious allegations of illegal practises by some Ministers and deputy ministers. What we are noticing is the frequent visits to the office of the Prosecutor-General.

Swanu believes it will be in the interest of the Namibian public and the Government if the policy of transparency and accountability could be practised frankly. Action



taken against junior officials should also be evenly applied against senior Government officials, should they be found guilty of misconduct, or are they exalted above the Namibian Constitution and law?

The allegations levelled against some Government Ministers and deputies are considered by Swanu to be very serious and warrant a public investigation by two different bodies, a committee consisting of all political parties in parliament and by a commission headed by a judge from the Supreme Court of Namibia. Their findings should be made public and hence appropriate actions should be taken against those alleged to be involved if found guilty.

1. The allegations of illegal practises of obtaining and involvement of public funds in the provision of water and other services for private use by senior Government officials is disturbing to say the least. Some farmers in the communal areas did not get water, because there was no money. In the meantime, it is alleged that money was spent to provide water for two individuals, who are also accused of fencing off communal area for their own private use at the expense of the rural majority.

The latest ostrich case becomes serious if it is taken into account who is allegedly involved here. It is therefore imperative that justice ought to be seen to be done. Swanu therefore calls for public hearings on the issue, for the benefit of Namibians throughout the country.

2. Illegal fencing in Otjisene (Omaheke region): It was also reported that a deputy minister is ignoring standard practices in the region by bypassing traditional au-



The latest ostrich case becomes serious if it is taken into account who is allegedly involved here. It is therefore imperative that justice ought to be seen to be done. Swanu therefore calls for public hearings on the issue, for the benefit of Namibians throughout the country.

2. Illegal fencing in Otjinene (Omaheke resion): it was also reported that a deputy minister is ignoring standard practices in the region by bypassing traditional authorities in obtaining the right to settle in the disputed village. It is reported once again drought money was used to drill the boreholes. It is now alleged that the area has been fenced off for private use by the said deputy minister. If all these allegations are true, one is forced to question the sincerity of the ruling party when it comes to redistribution of land for the rural majority.

3. Misuse of Government vehicles. It is once again alleged that a deputy minister travelled to Cape Town in a GRN vehicle. It is also alleged that it was not the first time the same man travelled to Cape Town in his private capacity at the expense of the taxpayer.

It has also been alleged



that a deputy minister removed a GRN caravan which was used to house teachers in northern region for his own private use. However, upon public outcry this caravan was subsequently returned. The list of allegations about the misuse by public officials of their positions to enrich themselves is so long that it must have become an embarrassment to the Government. Hence serious actions ought to be taken by the Government to remedy what is appearing to be an increasing trend.

JOEY FRANSMAN  
PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION  
SWANU OF NAMIBIA