

Veripi under fire

ALLOW ME to respond to the letter published in The Namibia of July 10, entitled 'Coward Lister'.

First I would like to inform Mr Mungunda and his Union that Lister is a fair and honest editor. The weekly paper, The Namibian, is presenting the true facts of what is happening in this country. The Namibian is the only real newspaper in Namibia which prints the truth about the country.

Lister did not berate and insult the Hereros as you alleged. The paper revealed to the public the ungodly work of the Nudo members. It is self-evident that Nudo members and their 'bishops' are South African proxies, who are used by the colonial government to disrupt meetings of progressive forces and character-assassinate Swapo members and supporters.

Do not misjudge Lister or accuse her falsely. We the public know of your dirty tricks.

Worst of all, you claimed that your Union (Namibian Churches Union) is a 'truly Christian body'. Your letter had nice terminology but lacked reality and is confronted with countless dilemmas.

Your letter covered the true core

nature of the Union and smeared the true Christian churches and peace-loving people by depicting them as comic characters of political puppet shows. Mr Mungunda, you failed to check your facts before you picked up a pen.

You can't call your Union a 'truly Christian body' when it stated that "we have no political prisoners, no state of emergency. We have the right of assembly and freedom of speech".

Against this background your Union proved itself anti-Christian and anti-humaneness.

Today we live under the ungodly system of apartheid, which is devouring the Namibian children, but your 'truly Christian body' stated that "human rights are being carried out through the government on the basis of our Bill of Rights". On the contrary, on July 5, Swapo supporters were beaten up on their way to a Swapo rally and an eight-year-old girl allegedly beaten by police. Is this what your Union refer to as 'freedom of speech and the right of assembly'.

In the north our people live under the agony of horror and death. Church properties are destroyed daily. Is this how human rights are guaranteed by the Bill of Rights? Here again your Union proved clearly to be the mouthpiece of the interim government. All the so-called 'bishops' appear to be DTA members.

The 'truly Christian body' also stated that Swapo is not banned, but today Swapo supporters and sympathisers are the victims of Koevoet, police and Nudo vigilantes, who are in the pay of the colonial government. Then again you stated that Swapo should not hire political priests to negotiate surrender.

Swapo is a Namibian liberation movement formed by the oppressed Namibians as a result of colonial, racist, draconian laws imposed on them.

Swapo is the oppressed people and the oppressed people are Swapo. And the CCN Bishops are part and parcel of the oppressed Namibians. They are committed Christians who are proclaiming the true gospel of peace and justice. They are not money-mongers. They are doing their duty as Christians in a society which is torn by the evil of apartheid and colonial oppression.

Then your Church Union called on

Then your Church Union called on the international community to influence Swapo to free the so-called prisoners kept 'in holes in the ground by Swapo in Angola'. It may be true, but why do you also not appeal to South Africa to release all the prisoners held under Proclamations AG 9 and 26? In the north civilians are dying at the hands of Koevoet and others. Where are you in this regard?

Dear priests of NCU, don't turn a holy church into a business game. Don't mislead your Christian congregations. The time has come for you to join the real struggle.

Lastly, Mungunda pointed out that Swapo should surrender. I wish to point out to him that the Namibian struggle is a just struggle, precipitated by South African colonial oppression. Resistance will be there as long as the Namibian people are oppressed and exploited. We will continue to resist until SA comes to its senses and meets our demands.

I think your statements would be more wisely directed to the colonial power and its unelected MPC government to relinquish their window-dressing colonial rule and announce free and democratic elections under UN Resolution 435.

**MBEUMUNA MUHUKA
ARANDIS**