

Women and youth exhorted to unite against apartheid

AS WE usher in this year of peace and harmony, Swapo must assist the women to take an active role in the political life of our country. No country in which women do not have equality with men, can be truly democratic.

Women of our country and all the whites who identify themselves as true and sincere citizens of Namibia, who are yearning for a change, should be accommodated in higher offices and responsibilities in the party.

We must continue tenaciously with the struggle, consistently demanding the principles of one man one vote to be applied.

The first step is to give every adult, irrespective of race or creed, the right to vote. When citizens enjoy equality of status with others, then the barriers of race and colour will disappear and people will mix freely together and will work for the common good of society.

Our people are the masters of their

own lives, designers of their own future, and dictators of their own destiny. The illegal rule in Namibia must be brought to an immediate end.

No government can continue to impose its rule coercively in the face of the conscious defiance of the overwhelming majority of its people.

I appeal to all progressive forces which are fighting to establish genuine and democratic institutions in the country to unite and form a strong bloc. No minorities, whether they be black or white, can fear a united people.

While Swapo and all progressive parties and institutions in this country are intensifying the struggle for emancipation and human dignity, Swapo must not turn down honest and authentic talks which could lead to a ceasefire. Swapo must talk to the apartheid regime and not to the self-proclaimed government of national unity.

Women of Namibia! The hour has passed when women were made to be mere spectators of events. Your husbands are not paid adequate wages. Your children are walking around with empty stomachs and they do not receive a proper education. They are taught in segregated schools and you do not have decent houses and recreational facilities.

You do not have equality with men. The yoke of oppression is hurting you and you should now demand your rights.

Youth of the country! Do not give in to intimidation. We do not have a legal administration in this country. Those who proclaim power do not have the mandate. You are the citizens of today and tomorrow and the salt of this nation. It is to you we are looking for new values. Come out resolutely. Stand up for justice to

prevail in Namibia.

Remember apartheid is like cancer in the body politic of the country. It is repugnant with the symptoms of hatred, fear and relentless violence.

To draw up a constitution at this juncture without the participation of all the parts concerned, is fraudulent and an indignity to our very existence. Regard it as null and void.

Close your ranks in the spirit of peace and harmony. Surmount your problems with vigour and determined efforts, discharge your duties with honour and fulfill your obligations promptly. Eradicate the abominable policy of apartheid from the face of our country.

The State President of South Africa is not sincere in his proposal for the implementation of Resolution 435, and he has no right to link the independence of Namibia with the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola.

The Cubans are in Angola at the invitation of the Angolan Govern-

ment, and ever since they went to that country in 1975 to date, they have not attempted to violate the territorial boundaries of Namibia or South Africa.

I see no logic in the proposal of the State President. One would have expected Mr Botha to be more realistic and practical on this desperate issue of Namibia. An issue which took so many years to discuss in the international forum.

Angola is a sovereign member state of the United Nations and under the present Charter of the United Nations. No government or individual has the right to impose dictates on that government.

JPW Botha, as the leader of South Africa, can only have the Cubans withdrawn from Angola through peaceful negotiations and not critical and empty proposals based on malicious intrigues.

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