

On education

ALLOW us this opportunity to air our views about the Minister of Education, Nahas Angula, with reference to his speech to Nantu delegates at a congress recently.

It seems to me that our Minister is under the illusion that all is well in his Ministry. I personally feel he should become more involved with the problems besetting the teaching profession, such as the lack of facilities and accommodation, rather than just criticising the teaching corps.

We all know that he was in exile for 30 years and that the situation in Namibia is new to him. We do not blame him for that, but in order to get his priorities right he should at least listen with an objective attitude.

The past colonial occupation was known for its injustice and discrimination (where large amounts of money was spent on education for whites) and the imbalance is still in existence. Irreparable damage has been done and nothing has been done yet to restore the balance.

Comparing our meagre salaries to those of the secretaries in his offices one comes to the conclusion that their attitude is the same as the former DTA government.

The status of teachers is definitely affected by their working conditions, low sala-

balance

Comparing our meagre salaries to those of the secretaries in his offices one comes to the conclusion that their attitude is the same as the former DTA government.

The status of teachers is definitely affected by their working conditions, low salaries, inadequacy of the government to provide sufficient teaching aids, books, proper schools and libraries.

Most of the teachers are also parents - they also need clothing, food, have to pay for their children at high schools and hostels, and fees. As government employees they get no reduction in their school or hostel fees and don't even have the privilege of getting a certain amount of money tax free.

I think the Minister, when he said that "humankind does not respect beggars", should look at himself: for years he was a person in exile, a non-person, a terrorist in the eyes of the South African Government and now he is a very respected and honourable member of society and Minister, thanks to the dedication, fieldwork, organisation of the teachers he tries to humiliate, and who helped to ensure Swapo's victory in the November 1989 election.

I think the Minister should reckon with the strength of the teachers.

POWER TO TEACHERS
LUDERITZ