

Defending gains

ALLOW me to air my views on behalf of many. I feel disappointed when I see fellow former combatants who are wandering around the streets of Namibia's cities and towns.

Being a former combatant myself, I feel that we are all neglected and forgotten by the Government that we have fought for. We had no time to earn a living in the past years, simply because we were engaged in the armed struggle for the liberation of Namibia. The struggle has been long and bitter, many of our brothers and sisters have sacrificed their precious lives for the liberation of our motherland, others are crippled for life.

Now that the struggle for political independence is won, why is it still continuing in cases like ours? We suffered during the years of armed struggle in the bush, but we still continue to suffer, even after independence, even worse than was the case in the bush. We have no jobs and if one manages to get work, then there is no roof over his or her head.

Our qualifications, which some of us obtained abroad, are disregarded by employers, yet most of us have learned at institutions in independent countries where there is no segregation or racial discrimination.

In Namibia we are asked to provide the employers with Bantu Education certificates which in my view is nonsense.

It is really disappointing to learn that most of the civil servants in our Government offices are former Koevoet members who were deliberately put in certain positions by the colonial regime. Many of these people do not possess a Standard 10 or college certificate like many of us do. These people were merely employed because of the colour of their skin and they dominate in every workplace.

Letter Editor

We have no chance anywhere. The Government should seriously look into our problem and do something about it. We read in newspapers daily that the enemy of peace, Unita, and their collaborators are trying to create conditions conducive for another war in our country. Yet the Government does not want to allow all those who are able-bodied former Plan combatants to join the national army. Are we ignoring the realities?

The enemy want destabilization and poverty to take root here as has occurred in Angola and Mozambique. It is time to think twice and make sure that the heroes and heroines who fought for the liberation of this country should be at least fully integrated into the police and national army in order to defend the gains of the revolution against enemy encroachment.

We want to see the changes for peace and independence of our people maintained by the loyal men and women we now see wandering around without jobs. Reconciliation must make things balance.

The Government must see to it that these brave men and women are assisted by the state, even if it means creating a demobilization fund so that they can make ends meet.

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