

Tools For The Opposition

THE demonstration by ex-combatants are not only a threat to peace and democracy but give a bad image to the country and is also a tool for opposition parties to campaign against Swapo in the local authority elections.

Some ex-combatants are given the opportunity to exercise their right in the workplace, but seem to be incapable of carrying out their duties and some are simply not reporting for work. Who is to pay for such unpatriotic behaviour?

Attempts by the government and Sipe to offer these ex-combatants jobs appear not to have been as successful as hoped. The ex-combatants are not the only people in Namibia who need jobs or have grievances. Many other Namibians have "not tasted the fruits of independence". The ex-combatants should be reasonable in their demands.

There are many people who sacrificed for the sake of independence. I

recall the school boycotts during 1988 when I was among those who marched from Dobra to Windhoek (by foot) at 04h00. The point is that it is not only the ex-combatants who are entitled to benefit from job creation efforts. Many students who have completed school are today without jobs. You do not see them demonstrating. Some who have been lucky enough to find jobs are adjusting to their situation, no matter their meagre earnings. They have proved their commitment to their work, unlike the ex-combatants, some of whom had opportunities and threw them away. These comrades are putting pressure on the government to create job opportunities for them and irrespective of how hard the government tries to satisfy them, they (ex-combatants) cannot adjust to the situation.

SICK AND TIRED, WINDHOEK