

Peace Is Precious!

ALLOW me to say something about the situation in Caprivi. The people from Caprivi, I take it, understand the situation better than other Namibians. Onlookers see the situation in many different ways including Chief Riruako, the NHR and the Opposition's views.

But all these are partially right or wrong and the truth of the matter is that if you harbour bad feelings about others you end up getting hated yourself!

The tribal animosity that the Linyanti tribal authority has been nurturing.

The amalgamation of tribes into a single Mafwe tribe, the conflict that raged on between the Masubia and the Mafwe which later spilled over to the Mayeyi and saw a spat of roadblocks, beatings, shootings and the killings of two teachers, one at Sachona and one at Linyanti, the resistance against the government, threats of death and finally the flight to Botswana are all signs of the times and a bad outcome.

The security forces were prompt otherwise we would have seen worse. The whole source of the matter is power, both tribal and political, with empty promises made by Muyongo to his cohorts.

He thought fighting for it would be the easiest way, but he underestimated the government, and the poor followers out of despair just followed blindly. Who is then to blame? Of course not the security forces nor the government, but Muyongo

himself. I have strong beliefs that human rights are universal.

Both the dying and living have rights that need to be recognised equally. We know lawyers are making money out of the situation, but this should not undermine the rights of others. It is interesting to hear from a certain lawyer that he condemns the activities of the rebels but at the same time he is the one pocketing money from the same people for their defence - what a double standard. Would it therefore not be interesting to find out how those photos got to the media if there was money involved and if this is so to what degree is this professional? Namibians should put the blame where it is due.

This was a very unfortunate self-sought situation, the security forces therefore performed their national duties as expected of them. One wonders what national role rebels were fulfilling apart from committing abominations.

If you put your hand in a hole where a snake is you should face the consequences of the outcome. Let the government carry out its constitutional responsibility which is the protection of the sovereignty and democracy of this country.

Peace is a precious commodity and cannot be allowed to be messed up by those who think they can take out their frustrations on innocent citizens. I call on all peace loving Namibians to stand with government to defend the peace this country has dearly earned.

B B Maloboka



ONLINE ACTION... The Namibian's internet site now includes discussion forums on the Caprivi aftermath and the Brave Warriors as well as a

Soap Box for any other points you want to make. Check it all out at:

<http://www.namibian.com.na>

Note: As a matter of fact, no money changed hands when the media published photographs of the Mwilima beatings. This allegation is devoid of any truth whatsoever. Further, the lawyer made the photographs available to the media on the instructions of his client. - Ed