

Taxpayer's Point Of View

IT is disappointing to note that government officials are disrespectful of society's concerns. My major reason for responding to Mr Hamufungu's riposte and the implications of this intervention is based on the assumption that lack of resources impedes effective operation of the Namibian Police Force. If this is the case it is imperative that this action and any future endeavour [not limited to Nampol] be carefully appraised. Let us be objective and look at things in perspective for once, this is our country it is our future.

Zimbabwe is currently politically unstable and the most unstable economically in the region if not on the continent. What quality practices and examples can Namibia adopt from Zimbabwe? I am convinced that Namibia's young democracy is extremely vulnerable to Zim's governance style, certainly the latter precedent is no good example for any peace loving and developing nation such as Namibia.

The timing of this training venture is politically unacceptable, economically not feasible and administratively impossible. If you argue to the contrary you are welcome to please prove your point.

In response to Mr Hamufungu's question on cost

and a better deal elsewhere, my answer would be:

1. Training of Trainers - this can be a cost cutting exercise, the same course can be offered either at the Police Training College or any other training institution in Namibia. This is what I call a longterm cost-effective investment.

2. How about redesigning the curriculum for the Diploma course offered by the Polytechnic to include your training needs?

3. Instructors could be flown into Namibia—should not cost a taxpayer more than N\$100 000.

If you are still convinced that the initial decision is the best, present the taxpayers and this nation which hopes to benefit, with an investment appraisal report clearly indicating real cost and benefits.

The interest in this case is sparked because I'm a taxpayer financing government expenditure programmes, and I have a right to benefit from any rational, rather than irrational government action, and lastly I fear that illustrious sons and daughters of our police force will copy disrespect for human rights and the rule of law from Zimbabwe.

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