

Sheyapo's Apology OK But ...

IT IS worth noting that it has taken Mr Sheyapo some ten days of solid silence to apologise for his public remarks on Namibian womenfolk vis-a-vis their relationships with foreigners and the 'kiss and tell' remarks.

Whichever side of the divide you took on the ensuing sequel to the remarks, one fundamental issue remains clear and that is: it is enough to say 'I am sorry' while the substance of the apology remains in the heart. The recent appointment of only two women to Swapo's Central Committee (by the President) is a clear indication of the double-standards and the dichotomy between deeds and words from the political class.

Namibia is indeed a very nice and peaceful country (as has been manifested by the short-term experience in democracy) but it is certainly not immune from 'political correctness' that even the world's most powerful democracy often falls prey to. Even President Bush goofed when he asked his countrymen to read his lips (when interviewed on tax issues in the pre-election campaign).

For issues such as family choice and other matters of the heart to become a target issue for domestic politics are only diversionary tactics from redressing more pressing issues. Mr. Sheyapo is entitled to his speech as enshrined in the country's Constitution (mindful of how others are affected) so also are all of us who have reacted one way or another subsequently. But if he had not made that remark, then his heart would not have been bared to the realisation. Since the Bill under consideration at the time of this remarks, the Namibian Central Intelligence Bill, calls for utmost secrecy, am I then wrong to presuppose that Mr Sheyapo is feeling uncomfortable for verbalising an already proposed *modus operandi* internus.

As a foreigner married to a Namibian, suffice to say that this remark affected me too and now I know only too well how to read their lips and fend for my children.

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