

# **To the dissidents**

**AN open letter to Nanso dissidents: (Katjiua, Rukoro, Makari, Zauana, Karamata, Tjimune and Siririka):**

I would like to reply to your long letter which appeared in The Namibian of July 15 in which you shamelessly revealed your anti-Swapo sentiments (or fears of Swapo).

I am responding to your letter in my capacity as a Swapo member and I am in no way stating Swapo's policy on political rivals, however, I believe that the overwhelming majority of Swapo supporters would agree with me.

No doubt you belong to the ethnic party which is trying to unfairly be called an equal of Swapo in the liberation struggle. I myself, initially, and until very recently, wrongly believed that Swapo should join hands with what is referred to (sometimes wrongly) progressive groupings against the common enemy.

But after your letter and your party Secretary General's (properly termed) 'thinly-veiled attack on Swapo' at Okahandja, I have changed my mind and suggest that this idea be relinquished.

You mentioned in your letter that students who are not Swapo members eg. Damara Council and Swanu 'P', would be alienated by the political and ideological direction Nanso has adopted. You are here, no doubt, referring once again to Nanso policy towards Swapo.

Brothers, if you mention groupings like the Damara Council, the name of the Council makes it clear what it is all about. You know better than I do, and so you know the truth. Here, the name of the game is to serve the national interest rather than satisfy the needs



and serve the interests of the rival groups which failed to get political support in the national political market.

If you want competition with Swapo, the movement is not worried by that, and will not participate in the competition because it is too busy with the struggle for independence at this critical stage. You have plenty of time to do that, I guess. However your competition will only be meaningful if you join hands with South Africa and its allies, but Swapo is determined to fight South Africa and its allies at all costs. You give the impression that you agree with Mr P W Botha who said he would not tolerate a Swapo government in Windhoek. But I must remind you that a Swapo government is inevitable despite this remark by the South African State President, because he is in no position to prevent this and neither are you. Would you opt for banditry (Unita style)? I would leave this patriotic question to you and your conscience.

In conclusion I would like to refer you to what Mr Emil Appolus had to say when interviewed by Rajah Munamava, and I quote: "I am no great admirer of Swapo but it is a fact that only Swapo and South Africa can bring about peace by signing a ceasefire. Facts are facts".

What a wise man at last!

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