

# Ministers, take note

IT SEEMS the Ministers of our newly-independent country have forgotten who has put them in government.

As reported in The Namibian (Friday April 6 1990) they will receive huge salaries of around R12 500 a month.

Our country has gone through a long struggle. The people have struggled together; workers and students have really sacrificed; our PLAN combatants have given up their education and lives to serve (for no salary) the motherland - but it seems our Ministers have forgotten.

Some ex-combatants have not yet acquired jobs. Many have lost their families and have no one to support them. Our education system has to continue to support racists and autocrats who now pretend to have changed so as to retain their jobs, all for the sake of reconciliation. Is "reconciliation" the reason for these high salaries?

It seems that we are not only "reconciling" with ex-colonial masters, we have a government which wants to mould itself according to them. Our leaders preached equality, not elitism prior to independence. Socialism was compromised to mixed economy. Does compromise mean "throw equality on the rubbish heap"?

Even the colonial masters and its stooges were never paid such incredible salaries. The foundation for a new Namibia cannot be laid thus. Before you raise your salaries, Ministers, raise those of the workers. Remember that you pay for no taxes, housing, transport etc. Are our taxes based on underpaid salaries to pay for you to get rich?

We cannot grant you the right to forget the struggling masses.

Workers and trade unions should voice their grievances as we did against the Pretoria regime and its stooges. Are we to remain silent due to affiliations?

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