

Nam Needs To Develop National Consciousness

NATIONAL consciousness transforms the present political, societal and cultural system and we have the power and right to make of it what we wish. Such a major understanding can only be realised in an atmosphere where people are convinced of the truth and it is inherent in their stand.

The exploitative attitude of colonisers has throughout history resulted in nothing more sinister than mere cultural or geographical fusion at worst, or language bastardisation at best. It is true that the history of weaker nations are shaped by those of larger nations. On the other hand, these weaker nations continue to be exploited and subsequently many independent African nations fail to attain real independence. The most important weapon for this is our mind. People are becoming more and more conscious of the self.

National Consciousness and its spread in Namibia has to work against a number of factors. Firstly, there are the traditional complexities and then the emptiness of the native's past.

As Fanon puts it, "The consciousness of the self is not the closing of a door to communication". National consciousness, which is not nationalism, is the only thing that will give us an international dimension.

Namibia must unite to foster peace and harmony in our country. We should not divide because of our differences, but appreciate them and build on the diversity of our culture. Our youth especially should accept their responsibility towards each other and our society as a whole and not dwell on the wrongs of the colonial era. This will only prove a hindrance to our progress towards peace, prosperity and a sane society. We need to give democracy and reconciliation a chance. If we do not reorientate ourselves the idea of reconciliation will surely fail.

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