

# Letters to the Editor



an afford  
s.

r, people  
the Cabi-  
decisions  
at is hap-  
yet you  
people

ools for  
hostels,  
ent em-  
ses and  
severe  
ying of  
d people  
yet you  
a plane

ve lost  
have  
have

R80  
gov-  
ple  
om-  
ani-  
the  
ern-  
buy  
ide  
you  
are  
to

Comrade Sammy Lawrence,  
yours is not a union but an  
association forced upon the  
workers by the previous re-  
gimes and you cannot speak on  
behalf of the workers. You know  
that you are not representing  
the majority of the workers.

Last but not least, the Gov-  
ernment and the NUNW should  
look at what is happening in  
Zimbabwe with food shortages.  
I tend to agree with Comrade  
K R Sievers letter of Friday  
May 8, 1992.

CONCERNED FIGHTER  
KOMBAT

## Anger at purchase

BEING lucky enough to have a  
job, I cannot help thinking

in a plane worth R80 million.  
Who are we fooling?

Our government is trying to  
get aid from abroad, and we  
thought it was for the upliftment  
of our people who have suf-  
fered so much for so long, but  
it seems as if it is for a chosen  
few.

The point is to think about  
the masses and after that,  
yourselves.

Comrade Lilonga, your state-  
ment is not a statement as a  
trade unionist, but is a political  
statement. How you can wel-  
come the purchase of the plane  
is beyond reasonable imagina-  
tion. Workers of your union  
are hard-pressed. They are being  
paid under the living wage even  
after the announced salary hikes.

Leave those statements to poli-  
ticians and spend your undi-  
vided attention on the workers  
problems such as housing and  
low pay because most of your  
members, as well as those of  
Natau and Nantu are suffering.  
Do not be a stooge.

Comrade Sammy Lawrence,  
yours is not a union but an  
association forced upon the  
workers by the previous re-  
gimes and you cannot speak on  
behalf of the workers. You know  
that you are not representing  
the majority of the workers.

Last but not least, the Gov-  
ernment and the NUNW should  
look at what is happening in  
Zimbabwe with food shortages.  
I tend to agree with Comrade  
K R Sievers letter of Friday  
May 8, 1992.

CONCERNED FIGHTER  
KOMBAT

## Anger at purchase

BEING lucky enough to have a  
job, I cannot help thinking

(while driving to work every  
morning) of the many who sit  
on the city's street corners  
waiting for someone to give  
them a job. Against this back-  
ground, it is with anger that we  
learn that our political elite  
wants to purchase a jet for R80  
million.

From the outset, let me make  
one thing clear: our President  
and our Ministers have to travel.  
Equally, a responsible Gov-  
ernment would explore all  
possible avenues to cut trav-  
elling expenses. One of the op-  
tions to look into is the viabil-  
ity of purchasing a jet instead  
of having to charter one for  
every trip.

Let me make one thing clear:  
I am a member of the ruling  
party and humbly contributed  
to the struggle against colonial  
rule. I was in exile for many  
years and returned to my be-  
loved motherland convinced  
that the new Government would  
work towards development  
upliftment. However in the third  
year of independence I am  
utterly disappointed.

Instead of learning from the  
experiences and mistakes other  
African countries have made,  
the Government and the ruling  
party are steering Namibia in  
the same direction so many  
African people are sick and  
tired of: economic and finan-  
cial disaster, nepotism, cor-  
ruption, inefficiency etc.

Have we voted for a govern-  
ment which outrageously seeks  
exemption from General Sales  
Tax for ..... (name supplied)  
to bring into the country lux-  
ury goods for his own private  
household from a shopping  
spree overseas? Is it true whether  
..... (name supplied) ac-  
cepted cutlery worth more than  
R5 000 from a foreign consult-

ant as a gift? Please .... (names  
supplied), tell the nation whether  
you or someone else went to  
our international airport to  
collect the gift, or alternatively,  
made other arrangements to  
get hold of the cutlery as the  
consultant had difficulty clear-  
ing it with customs?

Is it true that (names sup-  
plied) ..... and ..... and .....  
were involved in some strange  
land deal in the north? Please,  
we the people who voted you  
into power want to know.

Is it surprising therefore, that  
highranking officials of the  
European Community circu-  
late reports about Namibia,  
stating that the country lives  
on borrowed time? Allow me  
one more question: Did the  
Honourable Ministers of Trade  
and Industry and Finance voice  
their strong objections against  
the purchase of the Presiden-  
tial plane for R80 million?

The question to be asked in  
this regard, and which has not  
been touched upon by either  
the press, the Prime Minister,  
State House or the Ministry of  
Works, is whether it is cheaper  
to buy a Presidential jet for  
R80 million instead of charter-  
ing planes? Why did State House  
not come up with facts and  
figures to silence the critics?  
The reason is simple: they  
cannot, because it is cheaper to  
charter planes than to buy one  
for R80 million and spend  
hundreds of thousands of Rands  
a year to operate and maintain  
it.

Honourable Ministers of  
Trade and Industry and Finance,  
please consider the following:  
those who are familiar with  
business operations know of  
the difficulties to obtain soft  
loans from financial institu-  
tions in order to start a venture.  
Furthermore, it is common  
knowledge that manufacturing  
for the export market is highly  
profitable, provided certain  
conditions, such as good man-  
agement, successful market-  
ing etc, are met. With R80  
million your Ministries could  
provide R1 million each to 80  
Namibian entrepreneurs in soft  
loans. In line with the Govern-  
ment's policy, we assume that  
they all produce for the export

market.

Against this background,  
annual profits (before tax) of  
R2 million for each of these 80  
companies are not out of reach.  
At a corporate tax rate of 42  
per cent, the taxman would  
collect R67,1 million from the  
80 ventures annually, and ad-  
ditional revenue from personal  
income tax. If every one of the  
80 companies creates 50 job  
opportunities, 4000 people  
would find work and income  
in order to support an addi-  
tional 12 000 to 16 000 people,  
such as family members.

Economic and industrial  
development is what this coun-  
try desperately needs. Honour-  
able Members of the Cabinet,  
not luxurious jets for the po-  
litical elite. And nobody should  
hide behind the statement, that  
the cost for the plane is met by  
French development aid. If this  
is the case, it is, indeed, strange  
what some people perceive to  
be development aid. Aid of this  
nature does not contribute  
towards the development of  
the nation, but contributes  
towards the creation of a new  
elite. As such, aid of this na-  
ture should be rejected with  
the contempt it deserves. By  
this way, I am sure that the  
French public would not con-  
done aid of this nature. After  
all, it is their tax money with  
which the jet is paid for.

In a bitter and protracted  
struggle we successfully fought  
against the old elite. However,  
thousands of brave Namibian  
patriots certainly did not pay  
the highest price to help a new  
elite establish itself to live in  
perpetual luxury and presump-  
tuously regard this country as  
a self-help shop, while at the  
same time many a Namibian  
feels the pain of an empty stom-  
ach.

Many of us who were in  
exile lived in Zambia. Have  
those in power forgotten the  
economic mess that country is  
in? Have you forgotten what  
the Zambian electorate did to  
President Kenneth Kaunda? Let  
me remind you: they have voted  
him out of power, decisively!

K SHILIAPO  
KATUTURA