

Scandalous accusation

MY attention is drawn to the letter entitled 'Foreigner's woes' by a certain Mrs Cox of Olympia which appeared in The Namibian of November 19.

Mrs Cox claims to have come to Namibia six months ago with "the intention of establishing a legitimate business". She was however, surprised to have been told to call back after three months for the work permit which she is yet to receive.

Mrs Cox also put several questions to the readers, such as:

- she does not know the reason for the duration required for the processing of passport/citizenship documents. According to her three months is too long and extensions if necessary, are not acceptable to her;

- Mrs Cox does not feel officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs have the right to satisfy themselves in accordance with their job description, whether such information is contained in the application forms or not;

- she felt the Ministry is practising delaying tactics and wants the Minister of Home Affairs to 'call his officials to order'.

According to her, Namibians were not treated in the same way in her country which she has not named.

These scandalous accusations directed against our Government and our law enforcement agency cannot go unchallenged.

First of all, the so-called Mrs Cox failed to state her full name and address, her country of origin and the type of business she wants to undertake in Namibia.

Secondly, official documents are not just dished out anyhow, especially to foreigners, whether it be passport, identity card, citizenship, residential and work permits (that may be done in the country Mrs Cox comes from).

While foreigners are welcome to stay in Namibia and even to take up permanent residence or citizenship, it is a legal and internationally recognised right of governments such as ours to satisfy themselves in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations, before granting such facilities.

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comes from).

While foreigners are welcome to stay in Namibia and even to take up permanent residence or citizenship, it is a legal and internationally recognised right of governments such as ours to satisfy themselves in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations, before granting such facilities.

These foreigners who do not accept that it is the prerogative and right of our government to conduct the affairs of the country the way they see fit, are free to leave or not to come here at all.

I wonder if there is no more space or change for the 'establishment of a legitimate business' in the country Mrs Cox comes from.

The occupation of our country lasted 105 years, while the war lasted about 23 years. With our independence we have inherited a lot of problems which our government is working day and night to resolve.

Our people are patient enough; who is Mrs Cox not to be patient and wait as required. Does she know that not all Namibians have passports, identity cards or birth certificates?

Or does she think the officials are only employed to issue her work permit. Please cool down Mrs Cox.

The other item of misleading information presented by her is the allegations that Namibians were not treated like that in the country she comes from.

Which country is that? It must be stated that Namibians were badly treated in many countries; they were treated as refugees and put in camps where they were also expected to behave in accordance with the laws of those countries.

Here in Namibia, foreigners are all over the place without residence or work permits; while some even have passports and ID cards. Certain foreigners run shops, for instance in the Wernhil shopping complex.

Who gave them permits and export licences? Do they pay taxes? Do the owners and workers there have

the correct papers? Others are witch-doctors cheating our people.

Some are thieves and crooks and fortune seekers who failed to make it in their own countries and think we are fools who do not know what we are doing, and anyone who wants to make a fortune can come to Namibia.

I want to warn these foreigners who want to stay in our country to behave accordingly. They should respect our laws; stop interfering in our politics and bear with us: we have difficulties and they should help us to build the country and not to destroy it.

I am also calling on the Ministry of Home Affairs to tighten our border controls to prevent people who do not want to respect our laws from coming here.

It is also important to review work permits, residence documents and to control the issuing of identity cards and passports which are already in the possession of foreigners.

The Ministry must also make a distinction between the genuine political refugees who should be assisted; genuine businessmen who want to invest; and fortune seekers and other refugees should be repatriated to their own countries.

We fought for this country and no one should insult us or tell us how to conduct our affairs. Mrs Cox must be shown the way and go and do what she wants in her own country.

Here is is the Namibian people who must decide and not uninvited guests who do not know how to behave.

KATONDOKA JOHN
P O BOX 1071
WINDHOEK