

Not starving

I WOULD like to respond to a report in the interim government propaganda mouthpiece of November 3, which criticised church-run schools in the territory.

Mr Andrew Matjila, Education Minister, said that we were disadvantaged because we were undernourished.

Church schools are contributing much to our country, and our eyes and minds are kept open in these schools. We have a fair system of education, and we feel at home.

Coming to Mr Matjila's point that we are locked into our hostels: this is not true. Everyone has the right to go home with the permission of staff members, and this is a sign of order. We are protected by the church as future leaders of this country.

Truly speaking, we are thankful for the good we are getting. We eat in order to survive and not to get fat as he is doing. If he wants to make us fat, then they have to implement a system of equal education in this country.

Mr Matjila should also not confuse himself about Swapo and the Council of Churches. They are using the money for peaceful means, while he and his colleagues have grabbed possession of the country, including the education system.

He and his colleagues spent a fortune on military training, while people are dying. Leave church schools in peace, for they are working for peace and justice and humanism in the country.

The things mentioned in that report are occurrences at schools resorting under National Education. Many of them are undernourished, and they are also locked up, like at the Augustineum, where students are afraid of the Koevoet security guards.

When I look at what happens at State schools, I do not feel bad about the situation in which myself and my colleagues at church schools find ourselves. What happened at the Augustineum, Mr Matjila? There they are locked up and are forbidden from participating in student organisations, such as Nanso.

This is a sign that their rights have been taken away. We are happy to be at church schools, because our minds are free, and we have the opportunity to air our political views.

Mr Matjila, think before you speak. Leave the church schools in peace.

Myself and fellow Namibian students dream of the day when equal and fair education will be granted to all. Education without liberation is worthless.

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