

## Please pay us

THE Plan pay-out problem needs to be solved, and the Government should by all means try to do this. We know there is not enough money for all the people, but something can be done. People are confused when the Minister of Information and Broadcasting emphasises that those who were not registered in September, October and November last year will not get paid.

I personally did not register at that time, but it was not my fault. I was in a Swapo mission at that time, and I arrived in Namibia from Zambia in December 1990 while the registration count had stopped in November.

When we arrived in Namibia, we were taken to the Grootfontein army base and we stayed there for a few days and were later taken to Windhoek for an induction. But the programme failed and we were told to go back to our families and wait to be called. Up to now none of us has been called. We want to ask the Minister whether we are to be blamed for late registration in these circumstances? We stayed behind (in Zambia) because we were ordered to and not because we chose to.

Please, Minister Hidipo, try to understand our problems. We appreciate the programme set up by the Government for some of the former fighters to be integrated into the development brigades, but it will not accommodate all of us. Then if we are trained, we are still not assured of jobs. Look at all the people trained in former GDR, India, Angola and Zambia, they are on the streets looking for jobs but cannot find them. It may be the same story for us after we have finished in the development brigades.

While the money for the payouts is small, at least it is better than nothing, and when we receive the R1 400 at least we



can do something with it. All the ex-Koevoets and SWATF members received their pay-outs with no problems - at least let this apply to Plan fighters too.

In other countries, people make special programmes for special problems. Like what happened in Zimbabwe a few years ago when they faced a problem of schools. There were many children in schools but not enough to pay the teachers, and so they increased tax for those civil servants who were getting high salaries and employed teachers to add to their total number.

Now we have businessmen and churches and other organisations in our country - why can't some of them contribute to the development brigades so that people can get something. Also all ex-Plan members must get paid out. What is causing conflict is those people who know that they do not qualify for this money because they did not register for one or another reason. They are worried because they feel discriminated against and have all sorts of social problems.

Please will the Government understand our suffering.

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