

NBC May Be Sued For Biased Reporting

RECENT reporting on the NBC has demonstrated biased information that does not reflect the ethics of good journalism. An organisation charged with such an important responsibility to inform (and not misinform) the nation is currently viewed as being more concerned with sensation rather than reporting the truth and substance in the news.

A couple of weeks ago, on the eight o'clock news bulletin, it was reported that seven people were caught at the Windhoek International Airport in possession of stolen air tickets and Kenyan passports. These people were reported to have tried to board Air Namibia to Europe. They were however caught in the process and their passports confiscated for screening having confirmed they possessed stolen tickets.

This story, sensational enough in my personal view, apparently lacked enough lustre in the NBC's newsroom. Therefore, to make it more thrilling, the Nigerian issue had to be brought in, even though the nationality of the culprit had not been confirmed.

It is my personal opinion that NBC lacks the necessary skilled personnel in carrying out its duty in an effective and professional manner. The organisation should be restructured to accommodate competent staff be it Namibian or foreign. This will save the establishment (NBC) and more particularly the government from embarrassment in the court of law.

The organisation has predictably displayed inconsistency in executing its duties by engaging in

biased reporting. This has undermined its critical role in furnishing the nation, and more importantly, NBC listeners with useful information.

Nigeria had always been the black sheep in its spectacular reporting on fraud-related news. Therefore, the question in my mind as a Namibian who lived for fifteen years in Nigeria is whether there is no good news to be reported about Nigeria? Every good skill I possess today, I learnt when I was in Nigeria and these have really helped me in the capacity in which I am presently serving my country (Namibia). I am quite sure many top government officials who were in Nigeria will agree with me.

It is my belief that most of these biased reporters have never visited Nigeria before neither do they have an in-depth picture of the situation in that country. They should therefore conduct critical investigations before engaging in such destructive reporting that has constantly undermined the integrity of the average Nigerian.

I must also take this opportunity to question the role of the Nigerian Embassy in Windhoek. They appear to have missing their purpose in promoting Nigeria's image and protecting its citizens. If they continue to be inert in exercising their duty, I suggest the embassy should be closed down to avoid unnecessary expenses that have eroded the tax payers money.

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