

# If Hubschle Resigns So Should President

WE, the Catholic Students Association of Namibia, are writing in response to a letter from Mr John Johannes, published in your newspaper on September 17, which called for Hon. Michaela Hubschle to resign.

Before we respond, we would like to give you a brief history of the association. Our Association was formed in 1998 by students of UNAM and the Polytechnic. During the year this was extended to other educational institutions. We are also affiliated member of International Movement of Catholic Students Pax Romana and member of the International Catholic Organisation recognised by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

According to our constitution "whereas we Catholic students in keeping with our faith and morals based on the love of God and humanity, (we are) ambassadors of Christ totally committed to justice and peace".

In light of above, we organise a national assembly every year that will enhance moral and acceptable behaviour among Catholic students contributing to good interaction in society and in communicating the gospel and our church teachings. This year the theme of our assembly held at Dobra from 27-29 August was 'Building a culture of peace and justice in society' and we invited guest speakers to address us on this theme. The Hon Michaela Hubschle, Deputy Minister of Prisons and Correctional Services, was one of the speakers and was asked to talk on tolerance in society. Mr Uhuru Dempers of Nangof was asked to speak about peace and justice in

our society.

With the background knowledge about our association, and a clear picture of Namibian tertiary students of today, the Deputy Minister was directed to the point. We would like Mr John Johannes to know that Namibia is a democratic country. There are fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the constitution and there is nothing wrong for her to give a vision of how a just society should function.

What she said was in line with our theme, and the Namibian constitution.

We would like to tell Mr Johannes that the two quotations he referred to are in no way comparable, for the simple fact is the

Deputy Minister was addressing the students on the theme she was asked to speak on.

We think it is a laudable idea to promote and coordinate the activities of Catholic students and the youth as a whole on social justice and cultivate meaningful interaction on all levels. In our pursuit of a culture of peace, we Namibians joined the global community in signing manifesto 2000 at which the President of Namibia was present. What the Hon Minister talked about, was a vision for a just society and we feel she has that obligation as a high ranking government official to address students on themes of such importance.

Even the President made

statements similar to those of the Deputy Minister.

For example he said: "Peace in the world must start with individuals. It must start in the hearts and minds of each man, woman and child... it is a duty and responsibility of each and every one of us to put into practice the values, attitudes and forms of behaviour which inspire and promote the culture of peace so that humankind could live in peace without the threat of war and violence".

Given this understanding it is hard for us to comprehend how an individual like Mr Johannes, whatever his intention might be, can call on the Hon Deputy Minister to resign.

Is it because she is devoted in promoting peace, justice, non-violence, and tolerance in society?

Is Mr John Johannes going to call for the resignation of the President and his Cabinet, because the President signed the manifesto 2000 for peace, justice and a non-violent society?

Whatever the answers, we thank Mr Johannes for opportunity to clarify this

important issue. However in the future, it is better to get the relevant information needed before going to the media to mislead the Namibian population and make baseless recommendations.

We encourage him and others to feel free to contact us at the address below so that we can inform them. As we are at the threshold of a new millennium, we call upon all

Namibians and the world at large to pray that God will be with us in keeping our Christian commitments to human rights.

CSAN members

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