

Peace at last

PEACE has descended upon Windhoek West once again. The students celebrated their 'cultural' festival and residents were powerless to defend themselves from the onslaught.

In case one is accused of exaggeration, I am talking about four nights (I fell asleep by 3am) of disco music blasting over the entire area - every syllable of every song trespassed closed windows, locked doors, earplugs - right into the furthest crevice of one's bedroom.

The police were also powerless to restore peace because Vice-Chancellor Peter Katjavivi and Dean Kandetu "had given their permission". A comment from the Minister of Home Affairs would be appreciated on this point. Since when can two individuals muzzle the police force from defending peace-abiding citizens?

A strange state of affairs - Vice Chancellor Katjavivi and Dean Kandetu held control over the police and the Windhoek West taxpayers, rate-payers, rent-payers - those mere mortals who have to work for a living.

The two University chiefs were indifferent to residents' direct appeals as well as police warnings after the first night's assault. This could be due to several reasons, all worrying:

- perhaps they had in fact lost control;

- or perhaps they were trying to ingratiate themselves with the students? Very cheap!

- perhaps they considered it an important lesson in democracy for the future leaders of our country. Those privileged students are more entitled to rights than workers.

Considering this was not the first rowdy campus rumpus and thanks to the two liberal university heads, it will obviously not be the last, perhaps Windhoek West rate-payers should demand a reduction in rates due to a consequent depreciation of property in the area.

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