

Allen complaints

I WOULD like to reply to the letter 'Unfair to aliens' of October 2, by 'Fed-up Alien'. It is clear from the letter that the anonymous writer suffers from racism. My concern here, however, is to put the matter right.

First and foremost, I hope the writer is aware that every country has a law relating to 'aliens', 'foreigners' and 'illegal immigrants' or whatever one prefers to call them. Such laws serve a number of purposes. First, they protect the security of the country. Second, to keep a record of aliens in the event of a population census. Thirdly, to enable law enforcement machinery to effectively control border traffic.

In response to your letter, it is my opinion that many foreigners who came to Namibia in the past five years did not do so because they loved Namibia. Neither did people from South Africa come here because they did not agree what was happening there. After all, at that time the same things were happening in both countries.

If they thought what was happening in South Africa was wrong, they should have stayed and applied their 'skills and experience' to exert pressure for change. However, these 'skilled' people preferred to come and take advantage of the peace brought about by the 'unskilled labour' of Namibia.

The government must adhere to the constitution, which is the supreme law of the land. It applies to everyone, whether government employee or not, or whether black, white, Asian, or African.

The government cannot give citizenship to any foreigner claiming to love this country. Many different

Letter Editor

foreigners arrived here for different reasons. Many of them were not genuine. Is it not surprising to you that most people involved in diamond smuggling, rhino and ivory are foreigners?

You claim that 'aliens' and 'South Africans' are the only people with skills. Many South Africans here came because they could not be absorbed in the South African economy. They did not all come here with skills and experience - the colonial policy was to provide job opportunities here for those people at the expense of the Namibians. Namibia has been used as a laboratory for upgrading and training South African unskilled labour.

The people who came back from exile are Namibian citizens. They were born here and their parents and relatives are here.

They were fighting for the independence of this country and are fully qualified as citizens.

We do not see many signs of the 'skilled' teaching the 'unskilled' here. I hope you will take the lead.

You cannot claim to be patriotic to one country while carrying dual citizenship. 'Fed-up Alien', the southern borders are open.

JOHN SMITH
KHOMASDAL