

## Proud of police

I WAS so confident that you and I have agreed to be honest and serious in our relationship with each other. I had no reason to doubt your intentions to communicate with me in a mature manner. I however intend to keep to our bargain and refrain from being personal and cynical.

1. You can stop being presumptuous. My promotion had nothing whatsoever to do with our relationship or with my correspondence with The Namibian.

2. I am not the Security Police, but I am proud to be a member of that Branch.

3. You will be surprised to learn that my colleagues and I have had an avid interest in the compound system for more than 12 years. We have been deliberating and negotiating with numerous instances and governments to abolish this system. The main reasons, amongst others, were to ensure that those people who worked and lived far from their home and their families should be given the chance to live in peace and tranquility and should not be controlled by Swapo's henchmen through intimidation and victimisation. Secondly, we were convinced that the majority of those workers were honest people who desired to be employed and to earn enough money to support their families, but that they inevitably became, directly or indirectly, involved in the conflict between criminals and the police.

4. If you or anybody else is seriously interested to find out what it means to live in a compound, I will be glad to arrange a meeting with people who knew the situation and who can inform you of the truth. I will ensure that you will not be lied to or mislead by people who profess to know the situation, but who were never interested in the people living in the compound.

5. The TGNU has declared more than once in the past few months, and you have reported these statements, that the Katutura compound is the first to go and that all similar systems of housing people will be disposed with. My colleagues and I do maintain an avid interest in these projects too.

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6. I do agree with you that there is understanding for the argument concerning practical implications of destroying such a structure, as the compound, built at such a cost. Contrary to you and a few others who started making noises only a few days ago about the destiny of the compound, I was involved in and am aware of many, many options which were considered to maintain the structures of the Katutura compound, but none seemed feasible. The TGNU and other responsible institutions and bodies have repeatedly requested contributions to ensure an acceptable future for the structure.

7. The most important aspect which you and other people want only forget when criticising the government is that thousands of people are involved. My colleagues in the SWA Police are aware of the plight of those who lived in compounds. That is why we did not criticise or protest in public, but we became actively involved in finding a solution. A solution not to our own problems, but a solution for those honest and law-abiding citizens who could not escape being intimidated by terrorists and victimised by criminals while living in a compound.

8. In the last edition of The Namibian you reported extensively of the complaints of two men who voluntarily bought houses. You will be unjust to your readers if you do not interview one or more of those hundreds of men who are overjoyed with the opportunity to



have their own homes which they can afford and in which they can stay with their families without any interference. You will not regret a visit to Hakahana and you will experience something beautiful in the joy of those workers who are united with their families.

I am proud to have made a concrete contribution, no matter how small it was, to the destruction of the Katutura compound and to allow my countrymen to occupy an own home together with their families. I know that these men and their families will eventually have the peace they desired and that they will grasp the opportunity to contribute to mutual respect and understanding in our country.

I have never before experienced so much affirmation for my beliefs as on Friday afternoon when thousands of my fellow countrymen witnessed the destruction of the compound with joy and satisfaction. The small demonstration by insecure people who were deserted by the organisers, helped to emphasise the majority of the people who want positive changes which contribute to a stable future for our country and its people.

Please publish this letter.

I am writing to you as an honest and sincere citizen of this country.

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