

Were The Elections Free And Fair?

ELECTIONS would be fair if those who vote elected their representatives freely without any pressure or any form of intimidation or character assassination? I strongly feel that (the Swapo Congress) elections were not free and fair.

The sacking of our visionary, capable Hamutenya just before elections and smear campaigns against him by Nujoma on several occasions will never make this election free and fair.

I would not expect any rational person to believe what has been said about Hamutenya by those who did so, including the President.

We expected the President to tell the nation and the Congress in particular that these are tested comrades and the everybody should make his/her own choice accordingly.

He is now claiming that the Congress has voted in the interest of the whole nation. This is totally wrong. The congress has voted for Nujoma's unknown interests.

If the entire nation was afforded a chance to elect, I think the results could have been different. The fact that Pohamba came with a pre-prepared speech for the victory shows us that the results were predetermined and the transparency used in the counting processes is questionable.

We considered Sam Nujoma as the great founding father of our nation and indeed a visionary leader

of Africa but this was not so. Nujoma is increasingly becoming a hardcore despot. He thinks he can turn things around, *ceteris paribus*. Firing senior ministers and indeed cabinet members who served for decades is a big embarrassment to him and to the public.

Does this mean Swapo party does not have internal disciplinary procedures to deal with unfounded defaming allegations? He keeps on referring to others as imperialists and forgets that he went to the same imperialists to negotiate for Namibia's independence.

His prerogative is being seriously misused. Some ministers are so much preferred that firing them would destabilise the country's peace and stability and dissolve the gains of our hard-won independence. This is also a sign that Swapo is slowly but surely disintegrating.

I think this was the wrong decision at the wrong time. All the peace loving Namibians (perhaps excluding despots, opportunists, presidential remote controls, political armatures, and power-hungry hereby sympathise with Hamutenya and his deputy. We are already missing his intellectual leadership which we always admired.

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