

Happy About Fourth Term Campaign

THE lingering debate and posturing by political pundits, traditional leadership, the ordinary citizens and 'outsiders' about the need or not for President Nujoma to run for another term, the so called 'Fourth Term' as Head of State, can be likened to a rhinoceros, which looks different depending on where the observer is standing and what portion of its anatomy he/she is concentrating on. Each perspective has some particular insights and each is only a part of the whole!

As an ordinary Namibian citizen from the Caprivi Region, I am therefore delighted to hear of yet another concerted and well-orchestrated campaign to convince and/or urge our President to seek another term.

There is an American saying, "if it ain't broken, don't fix it". My position is simple and goes something like this: the inconclusive leadership transition (no domestic pun intended since most of the senior leaders in the Party and Government are seasoned, tested and competent) that the recently held Swapo Congress produced, raises important questions about who will **really be in command** should President Nujoma step down after the expiry of his current term.

While I am a great believer in 'collective leadership' (it's easy if you are one of the chosen ones), I suppose I've become disillusioned with politics - and I think most Namibians have become disillusioned with politicians too.

An intellectual friend of mine once commented, "Namibians don't want to accept excuses any more - if there's money to be stolen, why isn't there money for the people?" It would appear we still don't have our priorities right.

Once upon a time I was always fixing everyone else's problems, but not my own and guess where it landed me? What has all this to do with the Fourth Term, you may ask?

Despite a mosaic of tribulations and misplaced priorities, every day I ask the question: 'Can President Sam Nujoma do no wrong?' The answer is an emphatic NO.

Namibians love him above all other Ministers and even the feeble and weak opposition grudgingly admires his

political talent. At his age, President Nujoma has lost none of his charisma he had in exile and is a man of all seasons liked by all Namibians from any corner of this great nation of ours.

Perhaps the greatest asset credited to President Nujoma is good governance.

Since independence on 21 March 1990 delivered high levels of security, provided quality education and health services, respected political freedoms and human rights, framed a strong rule of law, bolstered an economic framework conducive to growth and has provided an environment in which civil society can flourish.

Hence, there is a direct correlation between good national

governance and economic prosperity.

Ordinary Namibians have a right to expect a better life after all the sacrifices they endured during the liberation struggle. People do not fight for ideas but for peace, material benefits and a better future for their children.

The majority of Namibians' expectations of independence, namely, their sincere hope that freedom from colonial rule would usher in a new era of basic rights and freedoms long denied by settler rule. This is what the liberation struggle meant for ordinary Namibians. President Sam Nujoma is therefore an embodiment of the aforementioned ideals.

The big question for President Nujoma, therefore, is not

as much opposition from arm-chair critics from the West, amateur politicians or 'opposition parties' but the envy of his own colleagues, some of whom have bowed out due to their political naivete.

President Nujoma has one rule: he says something each day and in such a manner that it becomes the talk of the nation. He is therefore in the spotlight most of the time - all of which impresses the Namibian voters and makes his fellow politicians seethe with jealousy.

How debilitating then to critics with hidden agendas, that it is President Nujoma who is getting the good headlines.

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