

Let The Government Feel The Heat

TO my surprise I heard that the Namibian Government has again given cash to the ANC amounting to more than a million and more shockingly, the PAC, I've heard, had a share ...

Why can't the people in governing live up to the reality of our Namibian situation? Every now and then they are repeating very silly mistakes one after another.

There was the original one million dished out to the ANC (probably to buy a political stand on Walvis Bay from them). This was followed by the

controversial purchase of the plane and now again big cash was dished out to the ANC .. what for? After all the ANC is not a poor organisation. It is probably the richest liberation organisation in Africa and maybe even in the world. American, European and even local (SA) multinational companies have filled the ANC's coffers already.

What is most strange and absurd about this so called donation is the fact that the dollars were popped out just days before the elections when the campaign had already

been concluded.

Thus if the ANC (now the majority party in the transitional government) has to spend the money of mostly poor and unemployed Namibian taxpayers, it will be for development programmes such as housing, education and health, while we Namibian taxpayers continue to live in poverty with few housing facilities,

not enough schools.

I am not really making a big fuss about this money, but no matter how little it may appear to those in government this money could have been quite enough to buy six months supply of antibiotics for rural hospitals, or build 100 standard houses in Katutura or elsewhere or provide work for ex soldiers etc.

But this kind of squandering of our money happens because:

- * those in government are too comfortable (despite their rapidly diminishing accountability to masses) almost to the point of arrogance and total irresponsibility;

- * they don't seem to feel enough pressure by the people who elected them to power;

- * there is no viable, effective opposition in parliament;

- * almost no one within the party, whether in government or not, seems to have the will, let alone the commitment, to inform the party leaders they could lose their jobs.

As a result of this and many other reasons, mismanagement of government funds and other malpractices are likely to continue in the future unless something is done.

And we can almost rest assured that change will not be initiated by the government itself, but

only if we subject them to an increase in political pressure. Workers, students and everyone else should unite and form a strong leadership to challenge these politicians. They must feel the temperature and react appropriately. Lastly, in the next election I hope we will lend our vote to them and not give them a power base so that at any time the taxpayers must be able to demand accountability in return.

**BERNARD HAUFIKU
WITS UNIVERSITY
JOHANNESBURG**

Letters to the Editor

