

Women in peace

WE have been women in war. Now we are women in peace. Let us have our chance to fulfil our aspirations to help our country to emerge from the 'darkness' of conflict, inequality and grinding poverty. The dreams of a developed Namibia will be doomed in the absence of women's participation. On top of that, the idea that all people, the youth, the women and the elderly should be involved in the development process is an extremely important one, particularly at this time when Namibia needs to marshall all its available resources for development. Effective utilisation of human resources at all levels and all dimensions, is key to the promotion of real development in Namibia.

The time has come that a change of attitude must take place. Women have now for some time realised that we have the potential (social, economic and political) and wisdom to shape the future of this country. We therefore rightfully demand the opportunity to have this valuable potential fully tapped for the development of Namibia. Machinery to enable women of Namibia to fully participate in the development of our motherland must be put in place.

Women's participation will change society and liberate women. Women's struggle must not be seen in one dimension, as simply a struggle against men. See the many aspects of the structural dimension (social, political, cultural and economic).

Struggle means awareness. Struggle means organisation and unity. Struggle means courage, struggle means faith and hope. We must begin to build these up in our small circles and link up with one another. Nobody can help in this process more than women ourselves. Let us mobilise and organise ourselves for systematic involvement in change. Let us support ourselves in organising at the workplace, at home and in society.

There are signs of resistance all around us as men try desperately to cling to the power that will fast slip through their fingers. We have to accept the fact that society has a dynamic nature, and as such, changes have to occur periodically. Others are so drastic that they appear to shake the very foundation on which society rests. Once a foundation of a building is shaken, its occupants begin to panic because they fear the unknown.

In conclusion, it is my wish that what I write must not become another theoretical and

philosophical forum which cannot be put to practical use.

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Undeserving project

I WAS shocked to read in The Namibian (25 July 1991) of the Ministry of Transport and Works' intention to start widening the road to the airport within the next few weeks. I was under the impression that the government didn't have money to throw around!

The report states that "the road improvements will knock time off the tedious journey to the airport". Are we, as a developing country, with a desperate shortage of fundamental facilities such as schools and hospitals, really able to justify spending millions of Rands merely to relieve a few privileged people of a little frustration?

It is interesting to look carefully at exactly the sort of time that is going to be saved by the road improvements. For the forty kilometres from the Windhoek city limits to the airport, the journey takes 30 minutes at an average speed of 80km/hr. Were improvements to make it possible to drive at an average speed of 100km/hr the journey would be reduced to 24 minutes.

A much cheaper solution to the problem of getting to the airport on time would be to leave home six minutes earlier than usual.

I am sure that the argument will be raised that a widened road will also be a safer road; that in the long run there will be fewer fatalities. Although I don't believe that this is even necessarily going to be the case (three lane roads have in many cases been shown to be the most dangerous of them all) I feel that improved safety is not a good enough justification in any case. At the risk of sounding callous, I would say that the number of lives that could be saved through improved educational and medical facilities is much higher than that which will result from the safer road.

I would appreciate hearing the Ministry's views on the subject as well as exactly how much of the taxpayer's money is being spend on this, in my opinion, undeserving project.

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Too much sex

Open letter to Hannes Smith
Editor Windhoek Advertiser

WE in Namibia are indeed privileged to have so many newspapers