

Cleary replies

Dear Ms Lister

YOUR 'Political Perspective' published on August 1 was a remarkable piece of writing. There are many points on which one could comment; only one is, however, of sufficient importance to require a response.

Neither I nor any part of the consultancy service 'favour' one Minister over another. This would be wholly inconsistent with our charge from the Cabinet. The consultancy's task is to make the goals, aspirations and achievements of the Transitional Government known in circles of influence abroad. We do this to the best of our ability, with, I believe, some degree of success.

As to your admonition to market the truth, we do, I assure you, try to do just that. You would make a greater contribution to peace, independence and social progress in this country if The Namibian were to do the same.

SEAN CLEARY

Director

Transcontinental Consultancy

WINDHOEK

Dear Mr Cleary

YOU too have done some 'remarkable' pieces of writing, most recently in Leadership (Volume 5 1986 Number 2), in which you measure the success of the interim government by means of the vague generalisation of 'inclusivity'. This 'government', you say, seeks to involve all parties and also to draw to these same parties, the support previously enjoyed by those outside it.

May we remind you that there are six parties (some in name only) which enjoy membership of the interim government. Membership of 'other parties', however minor their support, who have shown interest in the interim government, has been turned down, and I refer in particular to the recent HNP request for membership of the 'Constitutional Council'.

'Inclusivity', therefore, hardly seems to be the goal of this interim government.

You have not explained why the DTA prefers to operate outside your consultancy service, and it has been widely reported (not only in The Namibian) that there has been a breakdown in communication between yourself and Mr Dirk Mudge, an interim government minister you claim to represent.

What is perhaps of note, is your reference to the 'Transitional Government', rather than the 'Government of National Unity'. Even you can no longer claim that there is 'unity' in their ranks, any more than you can claim that there is 'consensus' on the question of AG 8 despite 'so-called unanimous resolutions concerning the removal of ethnic and racial discrimination.

As to 'marketing the truth', I believe that The Namibian does just that, whereas you are spending a lot of taxpayer's money on marketing what I believe is a myth - namely, that an interim government such as we have at present, can never engender the support of the people of this country as a whole.

We will continue to 'market' what we believe is the true situation in this country: that the majority of people want to elect their own representatives in free and fair elections. - Gwen Lister.