

Swapo Not Meeting All Our Expectations

(Open letter to President Sam Nujoma)

I AM your loyal supporter as well as an ardent supporter of your Government. I am also a Swapo supporter.

Over the years I have observed the management of the affairs of the country by Government. I am impressed by the confidence the people of Namibia have reposed in you - personally and in Swapo. The confidence was renewed in 1999 when the people gave you and Swapo a huge election victory - with more than a two-thirds majority.

Having given you and the party such massive support, the people expect the Government to pay attention to the issues that concern their daily lives - employment, education and land redistribution to list just a few.

Clearly the election campaign of 1999 has great influence on the present attitudes of the people of Namibia, especially Swapo members.

Swapo's emphasis on issues of development, unity and defence of the country created among the people certain expectations. Swapo campaigned for job creation; the people

now expect jobs. The party campaigned against corruption and self-aggrandizement by the leaders; the people are now critical that the leaders are not honouring their campaign promises. Is it the expectations of the people which I think the Government is failing to meet and this is what I wish to address.

Namibia has now completed 10 years of independence. I take cognisance and appreciate the fact that the Swapo Government has done a lot for the people, in terms of roads and highways, rural electrification and water

distribution, investment in education and health.

However, some of the things done by the Government are quite foolish and could have been avoided. These include frequent travel by the Prime Minister. Everyone knows that Namibia is a poor country and the only way to defeat poverty is to accept the fact that it exists, to live within our means as poor people and to spend every cent that we have on our priorities, the things that will make us richer, healthier and more educated and better trained. We should be more realistic and frugal.

The Prime Minister's globe-trotting will contribute towards ruining Government's finances and erode Government and Swapo credibility.

Most Namibians know that the Prime Minister is a sports fan, especially of football. He is the patron of the NFA and is always present wherever our 'boys' play to give them moral encouragement. What I do not understand is why the Prime Minister has to spend Government money by going to attend sports events outside Namibia to satisfy his personal curiosity and love of sports. For example, in

1992, the Prime Minister went to Spain to attend the Barcelona Olympics, at the taxpayers' expense. In 1998, the PM spent 16 days in Burkina Faso attending the All Africa Games, again at the taxpayers' expense. He was the only prime Minister to attend the games and stayed far more than two weeks. Last month, the PM went to Australia uninvited to attend the Sydney Olympics. As a result of him having imposed himself, he was refused entry to the village where the Namibian team was staying because no official arrangements were made for him.

Rumour has it that from Australia he went to New Zealand, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Brunei. Can the PM tell the nation how much it cost the taxpayers? Can he tell the nation whether the taxpayers paid for his delegation to the Sydney Olympics and to the countries mentioned above?

As an ordinary Namibian

citizen and a faithful Swapo supporter I would like to know whether the PM's travels are authorised by you, Mr President.

I also wish to express grave concern over the manner in which the PM employed Mr Mathew Gowaseb as 'Knowledge Management Expert' at a whopping salary of N\$400 000 per annum. Was this job ever advertised? What transparency?

Sometimes the Prime Minister makes encouraging pronouncements about corruption. The PM is fond of saying: "Red lights are starting to flicker" on corruption. But if the actions of the PM are not red enough than I don't what would be! Mr President I think it is incumbent on you to stop the PM before he bleeds the Government dry.

I appeal to you to stop the PM from endless globe-trotting with no result for the country.

Johanna David
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