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ing lies to the mass of our people.

Your observation that our decision to disaffiliate from Swapo was shortsighted, immature and irresponsible, is a dogmatic approach that is accompanied by a security phobia and a serious lack of analysis on the role of mass organisations in a post-colonial era. You seem not to be a democrat at all.

Nanso is opting for a disciplined working alliance with parties who share common programmes, objectives and campaigns. Nanso cannot be apolitical in a political environment.

Hence the need for striking a balance between the need for strengthening the organisation's independent base on the one hand, and the role Nanso will have to play in our country's restructuring of the economy and the formulation of policies on the other hand. Our impact on the situation will depend on our representation, unity and strength on the ground.

Our most immediate task is to mobilise and unite our students. Majority of our students are unorganised. White schools remain a challenge and some students are in undemocratic student bodies.

We want a Nanso that is independent, democratic, accountable and under control of its members, not a Nanso that is a conveyor belt for positions or decisions of other organisations. Lastly we want to develop our leadership and strengthen our organisational base.

SKUE K MARENGA
NANSO SECRETARY COMMUNITY
& POLITICAL AFFAIRS
WINDHOEK

Free or not

I WILL appreciate it if you will allow me to share my concern in your newspaper regarding housing and employment with my fellow Namibians who might have had the same experiences.

Everybody knows that Namibia is free and yes, free-

dom is here to stay, but sometimes it feels and looks as if we are not free at all. There are some stories circulation in our town (Rundu) that houses formerly inhabited by whites only will be handed over to the Ministry of Works while those houses in black areas will resort under the control of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing. This means that black people will not be given houses in the former white area and vice versa. Black families currently living in this area are subject to removal at any time to look for their own housing should the authority wish to do so. If this is true, I think that people are still being treated like trash in this region.

Benefits which were aimed to help whites and other foreigners to live a comfortable life, such as the north package for living in a war-torn area, are still being received by whites only. This package covers utilities like free water, free electricity, free gas, rent-free houses and even pay just for being a white person. Everyone in this area knows about this, including top government officials, but they are not doing anything about it.

Friends and relatives of the housing committee, of which the chairperson is always white, are enjoying prompt attention. No white has ever been given a house in the not-so-well-built black residential area and I have never seen whites suffer as blacks do when it comes to housing.

Any white who comes to the region is given a house, while blacks have to meet certain requirements. Some single whites live in big, rent-free government houses while black families are living in shanties and caravans.

I know that housing is a national problem, but it is bad to let families live in the kitchens of their relatives.

As far as employment is concerned, this goes hand-in-hand with the availability of houses. In Rundu houses are reserved in case a person of high rank is hired, while the others do not have housing at all. Whenever someone from

Windhoek or elsewhere is employed here, especially in service of the government, a house is automatically given to that person, which is not the case when someone from this area is employed in Windhoek.

I know that this is done to encourage people to accept employment in the sub-urban and rural areas, but it looks like people from Windhoek are deemed to be more important than us. High-ranking jobs are preferably given to those coming from the capital, who might not necessarily have applied for them, instead of people in the sub-urban and rural areas who did apply. This is an insult to our intelligence, leadership qualities and our ability to lead even on a regional level. I am not saying that we do not need people from Windhoek, but we should be considered on equal terms. I know that Windhoek is the centre of everything, but let us not undermine, neglect or ignore the potential and ability of people living in the sub-urban and rural areas as was done in the past.

My appeal to the government is:

- to look seriously into the matter of these unfair practices and continuous dehumanising treatment

- the government cannot, as we know, build houses for everyone, therefore it should give low interest loans to the people who build their own houses. I think this will alleviate the current housing problem while other alternatives are being explored.

- the Ministry concerned with housing should spend time, besides feeding street kids, raising funds for building low income houses all over Namibia. These houses would provide shelter and safe home environment to street kids once adopted by the low income families.

- the northern package should stop with immediate effect because there is no longer war in this area and we should all get a share. We fought to bring justice and eradicate unfair practices in this country. A quote from the late Martin Luther King, says it all: 'Peace does not mean the absence of war, but the presence of justice'.

SONGORA NAMWIRA
RUNDU

** Note: Hear hear to the suggestion to drop the 'compensation package' to white government officials - Ed.*