

# Why Do Namibians Suffer?

"I DON'T see a reason why Namibians should be suffering like this at all. With only a population of 1.8 million people I personally think that Namibia should at least be the most productive, peaceful and prosperous country in Southern Africa if not in the whole of Africa.

The current social and economic problems facing the country cannot and will not be solved by the private sector but by the political will and policies of government in seriously ensuring that the life of its people is uplifted. The private sector (especially banks) does not seriously understand the real issues facing the majority of Namibians (blacks) and therefore will not directly assist in this regard. They do in fact assist indirectly. The private sector has a legitimate reason why they do not assist directly and that is because they are already paying the government taxes (their social contribution) for that responsibility and therefore do not see a reason why they should take care of somebody else's responsibility. In a way it makes sense.

Why should government receive money (taxes) and then give the responsibility to somebody else? It doesn't make sense.

The issues facing the country are mainly social and are therefore not the direct responsibility of the private sector but the direct responsibility of the government.

Government only realise their true responsibilities when it comes to elections and that is when they start running around selling their social recovery plans to the current and potential electorate. The purpose of elections in any society is to install a leadership team (party) that meets the needs and aspiration of its citizens which include employment creation, provision of quality education, adequate housing, security, health, a conducive business and social environment, as well as many other issues related to the upliftment of our society.

In a democratic society anything is possible and no leadership is permanent.

If the government can spend N\$800 million on vehicles (Barden Motors) and N\$500 million on the new state house as well as close to N\$500 million in the bailing out of Air Namibia and other ailing parastatals then certainly the same commitment should be

shown towards the socio-economic upliftment and development of its people and their businesses.

The solution, I think, lies in the political will of politicians to face up to reality and introduce policies which are in the best interest of the socio-economic development of the country. Namibians should also stand up for a better standard of living as no other nations will do so on its behalf. Namibia's current infrastructure standards are on par with some of the most developed nations in the world and should therefore refocus most of its resources and energies directly into

the development of its people. What we need is an implementable economic recovery plan that directly touches the lives of Namibians.

I am therefore proposing the following solution:

That the government establishes a social and economic development fund in which it allocates N\$1 billion per year for a period of five years (totaling N\$5 billion over a period of five years) strictly for the social and economic upliftment of its people.

This initiative will surely increase the level of money supply in the economy especially towards the previously disadvantaged Namibians

who so desperately need the funds to uplift themselves and their standard of living.

Namibians are a patient people and it is only a matter of time before their true colors start showing. An angry man liberated this country but a hungry nation can easily forget that liberation and turn against that man and his friends, leading to a catastrophe.

The beauty about this country of ours is that anything is possible provided that the right policies and visionary leadership are in place.

**Concerned Citizen**

**Via e-mail**

**Note: Name and address provided - Ed**