

Loss Of Memory?

IN RESPONSE to a letter from "Concerned taxpayer" (November 19), although I do not deny your near accident, I must state the facts accurately since you seem to be suffering from loss of memory.

Firstly, I was one of the three passengers in the Community Skills Development Centre (Cosdec) car, which was not overloaded. The driver has a valid driver's licence and was absolutely sober at the time of the incident.

We were terrified by the speed with which you approached the notorious sharp turn. In fact when you approached the four-way stop our car was motionless. It therefore puzzles me as to how you could recognise two drivers and conclude they were drunk.

It is evident that you, the "taxpayer", have ulterior motives because your allegations (particularly on the charges of drunken driving) are devoid of tangible evidence.

Regarding drunken and reckless driving, the laws of this country allow you as a citizen to lay a charge on both counts. It is not only the duty of the police officers. Your next recourse would be to lodge a complaint with my Board (Cosdec) if you think that your case has locus-standi. This is my challenge to you because you allude in your letter that you have prima-facie evidence.

Do not portray me as untouchable and compromise the good image of

our police. By alleging that the police are unable to take me to task is to imply that they (police) lack integrity and are corruptible. That is tantamount to libel.

For your information, Cosdec has a clear action programme which was developed through consultations with the community, minus you obviously. You would not know that we had a Vision Workshop in August this year, although you do seem to know much which is supposed to be privileged information, which also came in a distorted form to you.

Fifteen trainees were recently recruited and infrastructure renovation has been completed, and an ongoing process of capacity building is taking place. Furthermore the trades we are offering and work plans, which are available for your scrutiny, are tangible testimony of our mission statement to involve the community in forming Cosdec policies and implementation strategies.

It is evident that you, "Concerned taxpayer", have a personal axe to grind. I will challenge you to come out in the open and show your true colours. Namibia is a free country where you do not need to hide behind anonymity. I welcome criticism at all times, but not when it is laden with hidden venom.

Awar Thomas
Head of Cosdec
Keetmanshoop