

# A Capitalist Agenda

I WAS quite excited when Robin Tyson introduced the issue of globalisation as being the point of discussion on 'Talk of the Nation on NBC - TV last Monday, 17th November 1997. However, to my disappointment the talk show turned out to be an event of handful of capitalists plotting their agendas. I for one thought that the NBC has a historical obligation, that of educating the nation, and not to mislead it as the talk show ended up doing.

My main problem is that the panel was not balanced in terms of viewpoint. The panel essentially welcomed globalisation but vaguely disagreed on how best capitalism can be strengthened.

Globalisation cannot be discussed in a neutral manner, as if it is only an economic concept. At all times globalisation should assume political content, and for that to be possible it needs an ideological engagement. It is a fact that the capitalist mode of production from its origins had

an inherent tendency to universalise, to break down barriers to develop the forces of production internationally and to establish a world wide division of labour. One does not need to be reminded that these meant that the stronger nations will benefit at the expense of the weaker nations. Such a process could not be possible without imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism. Therefore welcoming globalisation blindly, imply that one is basically welcoming imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. Literature informs us that capital has over the years evolved in different stages, methods and has assumed different forms, including the new-liberal agenda which the panelists grossly misinterpreted, some might have done so for obvious reasons, some did so as serious errors of judgement.

Therefore talks about globalisation cannot be done in isolation from the historical background of our struggle in Namibia and the struggle of marginalized people all over the world. The externally engineered economics emphasising globalisation, structural adjustment programmes, liberalisation, privatisation and fiscal discipline has a tendency of eroding social responsibility in addressing our needs as weaker nations. It is therefore no surprise that the great people of Cuba and other peace loving nations are fighting against the new-liberal agenda. Globalisation does not promote excellence on the part of small scale economies such as ours. In order for us to understand our position within globalised economies we need to look at the issue of what we have to offer. A small scale economy such as ours

can only offer unfinished products, (raw materials) and such products are not competitive on the world markets. The performances of Rossing Mine (Uranium) can be used as an example. If we are really to compete we need to establish economies of scale, which can be at least competitive. One should also understand that we cannot influence the terms of trade at global level, such as prices for our products. Therefore we could receive anything for a price, with little option. Our economies are therefore used as insignificant reservoirs of raw materials to be marginalized at the pleasure of the industrialised giants. I cannot believe that the role of transnational companies was not clear to panelists, TNC's has only one purpose, that of making profit at any given opportunity it regardless of whether there is exploitation, oppression or

not. TNC's do not appreciate social responsibility and their greedy attitude is responsible for the current state of poverty, misery, unemployment in many countries of the South. It therefore fails my logic to understand how one blindly welcomes globalisation. We cannot fulfil our promises to the people such as housing for all, jobs, education for all, better health care etc, while warmly welcoming globalisation.

I therefore appeal to the producer of NBC's 'Talk of the Nation' to reopen that specific discussion and invite credible scholars, politicians, and institutions, e.g. The calibre of comrades, Theo-Ben Gurirab, Ignatius Shixwameni, Peter Ilonga and Unions such as NANSO, NUNW, NANGOF, Swapo etc. This issue needs to be revisited through the same talk show to balance opinion and educate the nation.

**ZEMBURUKEE  
KAVENDJII  
WINDHOEK**