

# The Civil Servant And The Gravy Train

THANK you for your column "Political Perspective" of Friday February 4.

I have been a civil servant for the past eight years. Sometimes one feels so down just at the thought that civil servants do not get any increase or even a bonus. We live far beneath the bread line because of debts and no one thinks of giving us an extra cheque to clear our debts. We have to buy everything on credit to try and survive because there is never any cash available.

As civil servants, we have only one form of income and if we want to do other business we first have to get permission from the public service, and then this income is also taxed. I got a Wascom cheque of about N\$9 000 last year which was taxed to N\$4 000. Why can't they tax these big cheques of the leaders? This is very unfair toward the ordinary worker.

You work for a month and at the end of it, you don't even have enough money to pay your debts. Some days you don't even have money for a loaf of bread or to pay the taxi to come to work. Sometimes people can no longer bear the

suffering of their children.

The wealthy leaders of this country should keep in mind that these are some of the reasons why some people commit suicide.

The price of everything in life increases: taxis, bread, milk. The one thing that does not increase is the civil servant's salary.

When will the Prime Minister, his deputy, other ministers and deputy ministers, and the MPs campaign for an increase in our salaries and even a bonus? Never, because they do not care, as long as their gravy train runs smoothly.

Please your honourables, start thinking about your fellow Namibians. Please don't tell us every time that it is not only the Government's duty to help. We try to help ourselves, but how can we if our salaries stay the same from year to year. We try to be efficient and effective civil servants, but the Government does nothing from its side to encourage their workers.

**'Can't take it anymore'**  
**Windhoek**