

White Namibians Have Rights As Well

AFTER reading the article by Albert Kawana ('Nujoma - Best Insurance Policy', October 23, pp 6-7), I asked myself why he mentioned the fact that people such as he with only one passport would "burn to ashes within Namibia" in case of war and instability, if he believed so strongly that his party was taking the correct course.

And he mentions that there are those with more than one passport. I assume that he means the white Namibians. Who is he to accuse them of being cowardly and predicting they will flee their country and "look at Namibia through DSTV from abroad"? (By the way, DSTV is a South African company.)

You did mention this in your column (Political Perspective), and I want to support what you said: even the white Namibians who were born and grew up in Namibia have a right to see Namibia as their home. They also develop a feeling of belonging to Namibia, just like everybody else claiming that Namibia is "theirs". Isn't it their right to defend "their" country's peace and stability as well? Do they have to belong to Swapo to classify as "freedom fighters"?

In this light it is your and my right to speak out against the Third Term, because we believe that it may threaten

Namibia's peace and stability in the future. And it is our right to convince others of our opinion by laying open the consequences that the amendment of the Constitution might have one day. I also ask myself if supporters of the Third Term have ever studied history, because there we find many examples of what an amendment to the Constitution can lead to.

To give one person more power has very seldom resulted in what it was meant to achieve. And the argument of Mr. Kawana, that the historic record of President Nujoma proves his selfless loyalty to the country, is based on a very naive belief. The president is no saint, he is also only a human. Power is a very dangerous thing when given to one human.

I would like to end with an appeal to you: please carry on with your effort to bring people to their senses. I can only hope that people like you will always be assured freedom of expression, and that our parliament does not wish to change chapter 3 of the Constitution in the near future.

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