

# Namibia And Pensions

I WOULD like to request the leaders of Namibia to take an example from the South African government as well as other countries with regard to pensions.

They never dumped a qualified person when he/she goes on pension. These kind of people are needed in our society to exchange their ideas and experiences. For example to be our government advisors or to serve on boards of directors. When our youth are appointed to become Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Managing Directors etc, our former leaders can play an advisory role in terms of assisting them.

They know what needs to be done when things go wrong and they also went through the same difficulties in the past.

For example, if our President Sam Nujoma steps down, he should remain a government advisor since he has experience in governance.

Freedom fighters, those who were in exile and those who remained inside the country during the independence struggle must be considered as heroes in the light of the fact that they fought for the



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country. Our party, Swapo, must recognise the important work they have done, whether white, black or coloured.

Why I am stressing this is because I observed that we, as Swapo leaders, have forgotten our people, in particular the elder freedom fighters. We only honour and salute them at their funerals to show our last respects, otherwise it is rare that we take care of them. I again urge my party to take care of these people while they are still alive, so that they can also see and remember that what they have done for their country is of value.

It should be remembered that those who were inside the country during

the independence struggle used to go to Angola to take information to commanders of Plan fighters. Their houses were destroyed because of this course of action. Some who were in exile are still suffering. For example, Comrade Nangutu is one of those who fought at Ongulumbashe. But he is not considered as a hero. I met him several times while walking long distances without transport.

Is this the path we like to walk on? Are we not going to respect, take care of, and accommodate our people before they die? Are they not supposed to enjoy the fruits they fought for like all others?

I ask God to bless us for doing the right thing. We must look for peace in order to be able to build our country.

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*Note: We have used the writer's photograph because he informs us there are many J P Katanga's. Readers please note photographs cannot usually be accommodated due to space considerations on these pages. - Ed*