

# Ten Reasons Why Caprivi Should Get A New Name

ALLOW me to clear up and elaborate on what has become a controversial hot potato on the name change for Caprivi.

Who was Caprivi to start with? Caprivi was a German Captain in the German colonial army. Shortly before they were defeated by the British and the South African forces, Captain Caprivi and his forces quickly decided in that short session held at their Headquarters Schuckmannsburg to name the region Caprivi in addition of the existing Itenge name.

This was decided to have a two-fold connotation. Firstly as a landmark that clearly states that the entire Namibia was colonised by Germany. Secondly, with the name Caprivi intact it was easy

for Germany to reclaim the entire country back after the war and review all signed agreements with Britain.

A name change for Caprivi is long overdue; it was supposed to change subsequently after independence in 1990. Change is inevitable and we cannot run away from it.

Why the name change?

1. The name Caprivi has no cultural link with Namibians residing in the region viz Masubias, Mafwes, Mayeyis and the San people.

2. Caprivi cuts short the history of Mafwes, Masubias, Mayeyis and the San people whose history goes as far as the 15th century.

3. The scrambling of African history teaches us

that most Africans come from the Great Lakes where the name Caprivi never existed, hence it only came alive in 1915. (Note: languages existed before the name Caprivi.)

4. The name Caprivi discriminates hence all Namibians residing there cannot be called Caprivian, only those born there. (note: Caprivi is not a language but a German name.)

5. The name Caprivi promotes rebellion and secessionism since it implies

Namibians who hail from that region are from a country other than the Land of the Brave.

6. Caprivi assumes the status of a different country, hence it is the only Namibian region that subjugates citizens, viz, we

don't have Omahekeans, Ohangwenians nor Khomasians, why Caprivians?

7. Caprivi should not be compared to cities and towns like Windhoek and Tsumeb which explicitly reflect their origin by name. It is subject to change without vote or referendum to suit the prevailing changes and development, so as to bring about peace in the country. Remember it is one of the most troublesome re-

gions in the country.

8. The name Caprivi has nothing in common with Namibian people.

9. The name Caprivi could have been a contributing factor to the past and ongoing tribal conflict in the region. Nobody really knows its real meaning. I'm aware the new name may not make Katima Mulilo clean.

10. Caprivi is the only Namibian region, which is not indigenous - it has no historical background

with its people.

The name praises Caprivi and his father Zipfel and indeed the entire German people as heroes and will continue to haunt us as long as it exists.

Having said that, my choice of name is Zambezi Region. It is neutral, impartial and is Namibia's major tourist attraction. Nearly everyone drinks water from (the river). We all live from it either directly or indirectly

through its fish. In this way we will remain Namibians and will never be 'Zambezi-ians'.

**Namemunacho KATUTURA**

*Note: Contrary to your version of how Caprivi got its name, the strip of land was named after German Chancellor Count von Caprivi. Letter writers should please ensure statements presented as fact are correct. - Ed*

## Viva Ndaitwah For Snub At UN Launch

I WOULD be extremely pleased if you could publish my reaction. I am basically writing in response to an article which appeared in the Friday (August 31, 2001) edition of your newspaper titled "Minister snubs UN launch".

I think the Minister did the right thing by ignoring the launch of the so-called human development report. This indicates that our leaders are starting to wake up and

Minister should not even agree to talk to them before they publicly apologise to the nation or publicly acknowledge that this report was a mistake.

If they have no respect for us, there is no reason why we should show them respect. It must be reciprocal. Is this how they justify paying themselves hefty salaries for doing nothing in Namibia? They are redundant in Namibia, what are they doing here anyway?