

Open challenge

WE, THE black people of Rehoboth Gebiet, have kept a close eye on the maelstrom politics of the Basters recently, and we are sick and tired to this underhand, directionless politicking over our heads - we challenge the Basters to direct negotiate with us.

We wish to inform the Baster government that we have serious reservations about the statements in recent weeks.

Firstly, about the so-called 'open schools'. In spite of the Baster government's self-expressed policy that all schools in the Gebiet are open to all regardless of race or colour, it is not the Baster children who are being driven out of these 'open schools' - at a time when the whole of Namibia is striving for open schools.

Money from Baster taxpayers. We would like to know which Baster tax payments are spent on what purpose for the black people of Rehoboth. For virtually every need, such as the moving of black people, they got money from the central government, but instead used it for the development of the Basters and in so doing, perpetrating the squatter status of the black people in the area.

On the question of the presence of black people in this Gebiet, which is wrongly understood, I would like to say the following: we are in this Gebiet to stay, forever. It is our right to be here, it is not a favour from the Basters of anyone else. The Basters should once again take note that the present Rehoboth history is being written by the Basters for the Basters, and is not recognised by us.

Basters should also take note that we first requested fair and reasonable treatment in a friendly manner. We asked for a few hectares

for each black resident of this area, in order to 'squat' legally in these places, but we are no longer interested in a few hectares: we want the land of our forefathers.

The so-called support of the black people. We would like to see the Baster government hold a meeting in Block E in order to establish what the black people think of them.

The referendum. Like other Namibians, we look forward to the result of the proposed referendum, because in this manner we will get a clear picture of where the Basters stand in regard to the rest of Namibia. We expect the whole world to keep an eagle eye on the proposed referendum.

The Basters of this country must take note that any law applied in the Rehoboth Gebiet, must be announced at a policy meeting, where they establish what policy should be followed and that everyone is guilty of the so-called *vaderlike wette* and attention is given to the official oppression of the Basters, under which the black people suffer.

With the proposed referendum each Baster will be asked what his attitude is towards the other inhabitants of this country.

One thing is certain - as certain as the sun which rises in the east - an election will come in this country, and the Basters will want to negotiate.

CHAIRMAN
REHOBOTH ACTION FRONT
J BOOIS

Calling penpals

IT WAS purely by chance that I