

White to white

THE future of the country is being shaped NOW ... don't you want to partake?

This question I wish to pose to all my white compatriots who regard Namibia as their home country and who want their children and grandchildren to live here peacefully and prosperously; and to those who are in the privileged position to influence the economic and social development of our country after independence, but who foresee darkness and insecurity in the future.

During these past decades we have consistently ignored or distorted certain realities in our country (and the press has played its major part) until they became facts in our history. After all, the process of independence has begun, Resolution 435 is being implemented and the Swapo leadership and even its President, Sam Nujoma, did return from exile.

Let us look at some aspects of the present situation:

Election campaign and intimidation: This is the first general election in this country, and aggressive and unacceptable behaviour by incited party members can be expected. But we are very fortunate, as the sole country in Africa, to gain independence through the process of an extensive peace plan, and we can be grateful that the process is progressing according to plan and relatively peacefully.

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peacefully.

In spite of all predictions, the guerrilla fighters do not practice intimidation at the point of the gun and maintain a rather strict discipline. Great respect can also be extended to Swapo for its restrained reaction to the assassination of Anton Lubowski, the most provocative incident thus far. Let us hope that the recent increase in violence will not escalate to an unmanageable level.

Election result: Most parties have resorted to an anti-Swapo election campaign on a very low level. Instead of informing the electorate of future programmes, aims, policies etc, they attack other parties and do not hesitate to instill fear and hatred, often based on lies. The shocking incidents of April 1, and the unsolved question of Swapo dissident camps have put oil on the flames of general accusations. As much as we would like to put a finger on certain issues and condemn certain actions, we should not become blind to the fact that for the majority of Namibians Swapo is still the party of the future. Swapo will win the election. Will we be able to live with that? I think we can - if we are prepared to contribute as true Namibians.

Reconciliation: For the past few years, Swapo has been following a course of reconciliation among Namibians.

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Namibians.

The former struggle should not perpetuate as a conflict between black and white but should terminate as a conflict between the South African colonial power and the Namibian population. Not only at the biggest political rally in Namibia, on Sunday September 24, has Nujoma offered reconciliation and cooperation. This gesture was not motivated by the wish to gain the votes of the whites. Swapo does not depend on these votes to win the election. It is rather based on the willingness to learn from the experiences of other African countries and is guided by the aim of a peaceful and stable future for all Namibians.

Appeal: I would like to appeal to all, to recognise and accept the realities, and not to be deceived by ideologists, politicians and a one-sided press. See, hear and think for yourself.

Accept the offer of reconciliation and cooperation instead of sneering, spreading false rumours or laughing about distasteful pamphlets. Grab the opportunity at this point of history and regard the coming independence as a challenge rather than a threat.

You can become involved at all levels, and it is important everywhere. It is necessary in our daily relations with other people.

Talk about fears and negative expectations, but also understand and share the anticipated joy of many Namibians about an independent Namibia.

Great challenges lie ahead for all professionals and experts to contribute to the development of Namibia. Ever so often economical questions are being discussed during which businessmen just shrug their shoulders or show their dismay. These economists too, are challenged to accept the realities. Contribute, by sharing your knowledge and experience, to the formulation of a new economic policy.

The times of "alles-sal-regkom" are past. We need creativity and imagination, idealism and visions for the shaping of a future Namibia. So offer your expertise and positive involvement NOW!

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