

# Lack Of Control Is Africa's Downfall

BEING a born Namibian and having experienced the Apartheid era, the transition to independence and 10 years thereafter I have critically observed the demise of most of the countries in Africa and Namibia in particular.

What I have tried to establish is why every country (with the possible exception of Botswana) is troubled economically, has experienced a general drop in standards and seems to be going backward instead of forward.

Being a keen sportsman I have also observed the chaos in our sports administration which is no different in the rest of Africa. Our national sport, soccer, has been a casualty with the inability of administrators to administer the sport effectively.

Taking sport administration as a clue to Africa's woes and if one superimposes the administration and control (or lack of it) of sport in Africa onto the administration and control of Government, the cause of our problems becomes only too evident. Africans seem unable to administer and control, and therein lies the rub.

For the layman to understand one needs to simplify this explanation by explaining the administration of soccer in this country. In the Premier League there are no clubs or amateur teams (ie 11 players with sponsored jerseys). By clubs I refer to a body established for the benefit of its members who own a field and a clubhouse as assets. There are no clubs in the Premier League so how can you expect the so-called administrators to administer and control an infrastructure which for all intents and purposes does not exist.

You can bring the best football administrator in the world to try and put our football back on track and he will fail because there is no infrastructure (we need administrators not coaches). The administrators receive thousands of dollars from the gates of football matches and companies are still willing to pump millions into the sport but the problem is that this money most of the time

does not end up in the bank account so that the administrators (who are supposed to administer and control) can pump the money back into sport.

The above example is exactly the same with the Government in that they are incapable of controlling revenue (monies collected from taxpayers), if one looks at education (school hostels), health (hospitals), Oil Equity Fund, corruption in various Government departments, corruption in the Municipality, it is obvious that there is no control and as a consequence the cupboard is bare.

One needs only to read the Auditor General's reports which are frightening to say the least. It is easy to write reports on what is wrong but who is going to fix the problem if we don't have proper administration and control in Namibia.

With the Government's 'cupboard bare' it is not surprising that the implementation of VAT is being rushed in at the most inopportune time (Christmas trading period) to fill the cupboard once again at the expense of the consumer. But the question is will Government be able to keep a handle on increased revenue for the benefit of the State. I'm afraid the answer is no, unless they can learn to administer and control which so far the rest of Africa are incapable of doing.

I have no doubt that the IOC and FIFA recognise this shortcoming and that we are all living in cloud cuckooland if we believe that Africa will get to host a World Cup or Olympics until such time that we get our house in order because if the standards set by the Australians are anything to go by we will be living forever in dreamland.

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*Note: Name and address supplied. - Ed*

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