

Std 8 Impact

I WAS made to believe that there is a conflict of interests in this country in the field of employment.

I am saying this because previous history shows that in the past job applicants were just taken in or employed without pre-conditions. As a result, there are many government employees with less than Std 8 qualifications.

The burning issue today is the Std 8 certificates and its impact on the Namibian labour force. As we start to reap the fruits of our country's independence which we have fought and died for, lying ahead is a politically-motivated blocking mechanism, the Std 8 issue. Now, how can one enjoy the fruits of hard-won independence, if he/she does not possess a Std 8 certificate?

Where do we go for a living, when you are likely to face three questions: Std 8 certificate; long-term job experience; and previous employer.

It is disappointing to have a door closed in your face because you don't have a S 8 certificate. What about those with practical experience?

This is a disturbing issue. How do they expect someone who was forced to leave the country and fight to liberate it, to surmount this blocking mechanism?

The government of this country inherited a large number of people with long-term job experience. Why can't they deputise these people with less experienced staff so that we can create mutual understanding and a skilled labour force?

The Std 8 question is promoting division between the haves and have nots.

I am thus suggesting to the lawmakers that we get together and formulate a common goal as to how to redress unemployment with regard to the Std 8 issue. Economic prosperity and peace and stability can only be achieved through collective input from all sections of Namibian society.

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Mechanic's woes