

Permit issue

I WISH to air my disappointment about the issue of permits to the travelling public between Rundu and the Caprivi.

Fellow Namibians, it hurts to see the travelling public suffering like they do in the country of their birth. Ever since the introduction of the issue of permits by the SADF eight years ago, it seems that Namibians are not much concerned about it.

The permits in question is not a statutory law of the country but rather an imaginary law introduced by the army to cause severe hardship to Caprivians and the travelling public.

The army should immediately and unconditionally do away with the issue of permits, for if not, Namibians will be left with no option than to challenge the validity of the permits in a court of law. Members of the travelling public are checked and their clothing left in the dust road, after every 50km stretch from Bagani to Kongola.

A poor Caprivian motorist with his family, was travelling from Katima Mulilo to Windhoek and at the Kongola army checkpoint was ordered to drive 120km back to Katima to have his provision of fish written on the so called permit. He had to refill his car with petrol for a second time although the permit in question does not stipulate the inclusion of provisions of any kind. Though you are in possession of the permit, it does not offer you protection of any kind, because it is stipulated that you travel at your own risk. What is the use of carrying something that does not give you any protection? What is the use of identification cards issued to Namibians and residents? The behaviour of Upingtonians and people from the Cape is intolerable and they must be sent back to where they came from.

I appeal to all **peace** loving church organisations, progressive political parties, and Namibians both black and white, to stand up and speak out against the issue of permits between Rundu and Caprivi.

COMRADE DISASTER
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