

Sick of Bester

ALLOW me to express my heartfelt disgust at Commandant G R C Bester's childish, hopeless and self-defeating comments which regularly appear in this newspaper.

As a patriotic and oppressed Namibian citizen, I really feel compelled to respond to Commandant Bester's narrow-minded allegations against the editor of this newspaper in particular and the entire oppressed but fighting people of Namibia under the leadership of Swapo.

I would like to make it categorically clear to Commandant Bester and his masters in Pretoria that Swapo is the people of Namibia and the people are Swapo. If South Africa is trying to destroy Swapo, then they must be trying to destroy the suffering Namibian people. But the apartheid regime will not succeed in destroying the people's movement. The apartheid government has been trying to bring Swapo to its knees for years, but all their efforts were in vain.


They have even tried to infiltrate the organisation with spies, but none of their dubious attempts have succeeded.

Commandant Bester went on to ask a foolish and shortsighted question: "Who opted for revolution?" The answer is simple and clear: Swapo. But the next question to which he should provide us with a proper answer is why Swapo resorted to armed liberation struggle.

Swapo Secretary General, Andimba Toivo ya Toivo made the movement's position clear in the Sixties: "Swapo itself was a non-violent organisation, but the South African government is not truly interested in whether opposition is violent or non-violent. It does not wish to hear any opposition to apartheid".

Furthermore, Swapo President Sam Nujoma, made clear the position of Swapo with regard to the people's revolution against colonial oppression and exploitation at the WCC conference in Lusaka last year. He said:

Letters to the Editor



"On the question of violence, we make no apology for the fact that after a century of foreign oppression, genocidal military campaigns and unbridled economic exploitation, our movement had decided to take up arms to confront colonial violence with armed self-defence. It is enshrined in our movement's political programme that Swapo does not glorify war. We wish that nobody had ever forced us to have to fight a war of national liberation. But the reality of prolonged colonial oppression in Namibia being what it is, we have been left with no alternative but to fight with arms in hand for our liberty and right to self-determination and independence. To those who would advise us not to fight colonial oppression with arms in hand, our answer is: 'show us the available non-violent means to Namibia's independence and we shall follow'".

The available peaceful means to Namibian independence through UN Resolution 435 has been deliberately delayed by South Africa for ten years. Since 1981, the Swapo President has expressed his genuine willingness to sign a ceasefire with the South African regime anywhere in the world but in Windhoek or Pretoria. But what was the response of South Africa? They said it was 'premature' to sign a ceasefire with Swapo.

On so-called 'atrocities' allegedly committed by Swapo against the civilian population of this country, this is wishful and baseless thinking on the part of the people who have failed to

win the hearts and minds of the oppressed Namibians.

If Commandant Bester claims that Swapo has no support, then does he think the over 3000 people who attended the recent Swapo public meeting in Katutura were supporters of his Government?

Commandant Bester cannot tell us about the ways and means as to how Namibians should achieve freedom and national independence, since the whole history of the Afrikaners in South Africa and Namibia is written in blood. How did they achieve their self-determination from Britain?

I think it is high time Commandant Bester stop writing rubbish to the people's newspaper and should rather send his misleading and counter-productive letters to the Koevoet Koerant.

I appeal to the editor not to publish any more of his letters. He has access to all necessary means of propaganda and should leave the editor of this newspaper and Dr A Shejvali of the Council of Churches in peace.

I would like to close with the words of ya Toivo, who said that: "We believe that South Africa has a choice - either to live at peace with us or to subdue us by force. If you choose to crush us and impose your will on us then you not only betray your trust, but you will live in security for only so long as your power is greater than ours. No South Africa will live at peace in Namibia, for each will know that his security is based on force, and that without force he will face rejection by the people of Namibia".

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