

A Cover-Up Culture

PLEASE allow me space in your esteemed newspaper to raise some questions regarding the subject of the 'wedding of the millennium' of Dr Abraham Iyambo.

In Namibia a cover-up culture is taking root the shield the top echelons and to demonstrate this, I fail to understand why the Prime Minister (who is supposed to drive the campaign against corruption) adopts an attitude of: 'the Minister should be given an opportunity to explain himself'.

Please, Mr PM, tell the nation plainly whether the matter is closed after the explanation of Dr Iyambo.

The following questions are directed to Dr Iyambo, Joan Guriras, the Auditor General and the Ombudsman: * There are certain rules that govern donations and as far as my knowledge is concerned, only charitable organisations are allowed to open accounts without registering but have to be registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services. In view of this, how was the account in which donations were received for the wedding, opened? * What is the name of the account? * Is the account which is reported to have contained about N\$140 000, taxable? * Who was authorised to sign and withdrawn the money

and by whom? * How much was withdrawn and what was it spent on? We would like a detailed account. * What was the contribution of anyone who gave a donation, whether asked to do so or done on his own accord? What was Dr Iyambo's own contribution? * How much was spent at the ceremony in Swakopmund and how much in the north? What were Dr Iyambo's own contributions? * What is the balance in the account? * To open the account at whatever banking institution one has to have identification proof, certain documents and certain bank rules have to be satisfied before the account is opened. Who submitted this? * If any amount remained as a balance in this account, will it now be transferred to the personal account of Dr Iyambo since the donations were his, or what will happen to the amount? * Why were the donations in the form of cash in the first instance not directly paid into Dr Iyambo's bank account? * Whose decision was it to open an account in which the cash donations would be paid and not to use the existing account of the Minister?

If the Minister wants to be taken seriously and believed by us, he must hand to all newspapers

the required information so that the newspapers can engage themselves in a journalistic investigation to publish the full details so that we can form and inform our own opinions.

The Minister himself claimed to be 'incorruptible'. Why then the name-calling without addressing the issues raised? Attack and cover is the best weapon nowadays.

The request above is in line with Article 18 of the Constitution that administrative bodies and officials shall act fairly and reasonably and comply with the requirements imposed upon such bodies by common law and any relevant legislation ...

The attention of Dr Iyambo is also drawn to Articles 41 and 42 of the Constitution which state: "All Ministers shall be accountable individual for the administration of their own ministries and collectively for the administration of the work of Cabinet, both to the President and to Parliament" and "ministers may not take up any other paid employment, engage in activities inconsistent with their positions as Ministers or expose themselves to any situation which carries with it the risk of a conflict developing between their interests as Ministers and the private interests".

We know by now that the Minister won't be asked to vacate his post. The government must do the honourable thing and transfer him to another position. His assurance that he is not corruptible would not be accepted until the investigation against him is finalised and the outcome known.

The newspapers also have a duty to conduct an independent probe and make known the outcome without fear or favour.

Lastly, I admire the work done by The Namibian to expose corruption, greed and self-enrichment.

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