

Prosperity Needs Peace!

AFTER years of fighting a bitter war against the South African illegal occupation, Namibians won their independence and because the nation was divided, the Swapo government invoked a policy of national reconciliation.

Nine years after independence Namibia has received compliments and recognition by the international community with regard both political and economic achievements.

But Namibia has also seen on a number of occasions, imminent collapse of peace and unity, as a result of unfortunate acts by some negligent and ignorant members of our community, threatening reconciliation and hurting those who in fact have the interests of the nation at heart.

The President, Prime Minister and Swapo leadership in general have preached peace and unity, but disappointingly, some diehard conservatives have interpreted calls for peace as a sign of weakness.

The fact is that the whole Namibian nation suffered in one way or another over 30 years of liberation struggle, so all Namibians carry the wounds of the past.

There must not be witch hunts. Our past is bitter and we gain nothing from any attempt calculated to destabilise the country. Perhaps Namibians who have engaged in peace-threatening acts should reconsider all that in view of what happened in Katima Mulilo.

The Katima incident cost innocent lives and irreparable damage to property.

There is much room for Namibia to prosper, but the catalyst for such prosperity is peace. Namibia and the world at large face social evils like AIDS and an increasing crime rate, and we cannot add unrest to the burden.

So it is the duty of every namibian to discourage any kind of act which is bound to destabilise the country. Sentiments which are calculated to foment dissent should also be ignored.

Brothers and sisters, we are rebuilding the nation. We should not *fight one another* and become the laughingstock.

People have died fighting for independence and peace and it would be a betrayal if we cannot maintain the peace they died for. I finally appeal for peace, unity and patience.

The policy of reconciliation must be support by all of us.

We must be careful not to endanger this policy ten years after independence for self interest or political gain.

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