

Peace And Justice Is The Way To Go

ALLOW me to quote the message of Uhuru Dampers during a Namibia Catholic Students meeting at Dobra: "peace and justice are the main challenges currently and will be in the next millennium".

The year 2000 has been declared by the UN as the International Year for the Culture of Peace. A manifesto has been drafted by Nobel prize winners to seek personal commitment from all citizens of the world to the promotion of a culture of peace. The objectives and initiatives are to make a new beginning and to transform the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace and justice.

He added that a culture of peace and justice needed promotion because:

- * Namibia's past history and experience has been violent and unjust
- * The current crisis that Namibia faces
- * Namibia needs to prevent escalation of wars and poverty, the main threats in today's world.

He further stated that the legacies of the national suffering and struggle for more than a century has left scars on the people that would take

time to disappear.

As a result, there are great disparities in resources distribution in the country. "There are still many unsolved questions from the past and hatred and the sense of revenge continue to grow in our societies. Therefore, promoting a culture of peace must start with healing the wounds of our past".

This is a challenge by our youth to our government. Being signatory to the UN Culture of Peace 2000 also with the esteemed privilege of having a Namibian as President of the UN General Assembly, we would like to see the government setting an example for the world. With its commitment to a culture of peace, our government should embark on programmes

aimed at promoting peace, and also identify areas and issues which might contribute to conflicts or war, and resolve them immediately and amicably.

Bridges must be build and we must identify the perpetrators who are trying to break them down.

Every year Cassinga has been commemorated on May 4. The day has been marked by sluggish political speeches, and it is no wonder the majority of people tend to stay home on such a big day. I would suggest that this day be commemorated in mourning by all, irrespective of which political party you belong to.

An invitation should also be extended to those who were responsible for the massacre. It is only then

that this will be a day of genuine mourning and healing.

In my opinion the NBC programmes are not conducive for healing wounds but rather stir up emotions. The NBC should be a facilitator of a culture of peace.

People have emotions and feelings, they are not machines. We all

know it is difficult to apologise for the wrongs and pains of the past, but there must be a start otherwise deep-rooted wounds turn into a cancer if not treated properly. maybe the crimes committed by Dr Death are just the tip of the iceberg.

There was once a call by churches to establish a genuine platform for peace, truth and reconciliation. Is it progressing?

Finally we hope that Mr Gurirab will put his stamp on the UN. Angola and Congo are still bleeding, sir. It was a matter of weeks before troops were sent to East Timor. Why not these places?

We Africans can also enter the new millennium without war.

Carpio Amakali, Windhoek

German Repudiates Dierks' Criticisms

RE: Dr Dierks' comments on 'German tribe' of Namibia in The Namibian of October 26.

If quoted correctly, Dr Dierks

- representing the 'German tribe' of Namibia politically, but there do exist German cultural organisations with elective representatives and