

Nujoma 'Is Unfit To Govern' ...

SINCE independence, the country has been run by an incompetent clique of friends under the banner of Swapo. Everyone knew their short-comings but accepted and tolerated their short-lived political run to give them the opportunity to bring about stability, peace, justice and progress. But now, they are taking the patience of the people for a ride. They all think that the support Swapo has been enjoying for years was simply to put Nujoma and his cronies into parliament and to legitimise them as "the only people who sacrificed and therefore entitled to compensation through high salaries etc. Today, any Swapo leader who is confronted with the question of nepotism, tribalism, corruption and incompetency always resorts to the same recitation:

- "I have suffered and sacrificed my life for the struggle" (most of them did not even know where the battle-front was). They lived in wealth in Lusaka, London, New York, Bon, Paris, Moscow, Lagos, Cairo, Stockholm, Oslo, Addis Ababa etc. This is precisely the same mentality that they returned to Namibia with - to get richer at the expense of the people. The same people who used to live at the expense of the blood of the freedom fighters (by marketing their sacrifices as products to generate international monetary sponsorship "for the war") are the same ones who are now living at the expense of the tax generated from the poor. I wonder how many of these so-called top civil servants will be able to find jobs in a job market where the playing field is levelled. Very few of them will compete for jobs other than those granted to them through political connections - that the Prime Minister all of a sudden calls nepotism. Has he been asleep all the time or is he coming up with new electioneering bluffs?

- "Don't rock the boat, we can fix you!" Most of these warnings are coming from people who have quickly forgotten that this nation has been at war and that people prefer peace out of choice. It cannot be forced upon people. Additionally, the military command structures of most groups, just like that of Plan, are still intact. Why? The war did not have winners or losers. Bullets in this country were a last resort to gain an upper-hand through the Ballot. Namibians from both sides of the house must stop injecting militaristic discourses into a fragile situation that is deteriorating daily because of the following:

- Corruption that involves top civil servants. Most Cuca shops in the slums belong to greedy top civil servants, as if their sky-rocketing salaries are not enough many have been involved in scandals involving theft or unauthorised spending of government money (Guibeb, Hishongwa, Ithete, Tjiriange, Nehova, Tjitendero - the list goes on. I could perhaps single out Nahas Angula (a very simple and honest person). President Nujoma? If he was concerned, he would have fired at least half of his cabinet as a measure of fighting corruption.

- Unemployment: It is perhaps the seat of many problems. Some are eating well in the name of having sacrificed, while others are standing on the street-corners waiting for a job or a handout.

- Nepotism: It involves discriminating against certain ethnic groups who are not from the North. Just look at the civil service structure - top jobs go to an Oshiwambo-speaking person and hand-outs to

other ethnic groups. We need restructuring or affirmative action. Fortunately, they all thought that government was the only employment agency, and forgot about the parastatals where you can now find other ethnic groups in top positions, thanks to the commercialisation process that normally requires skills as a yardstick for employment.

- Endless overseas leisure trips under the pretext of attending conferences - even in countries where we have embassies. Are Namibian diplomats not capable of attending these seminars on behalf of the country and only send these reports that are anyway put on shelves without being utilised?

- The gravy-train: The problem has not been solved but rather shelved until the mandate of the third term is achieved. Is the president ready to slash the salaries and benefits of his cronies in half in order to save the public service from collapsing? Would each Minister openly declare how much he/she gets, including their benefits, (and other forms of income apart from salaries) to give the nation an idea of the money wasted on them?

- Children on the street without scholarships: Is education a human right or a privilege? How many Mercedes Benzes are equivalent to sending all the pupils of Shipena/Shifidi High School to universities in Southern Africa? I am saying Southern Africa to pre-empt the excuse that UNAM has got no space! How can the Namibian government parade Michael Jackson in the capital (and the North) proclaiming his love for children while here in Katutura the street children are sleeping on the banks of the Goreangab dam without food and blankets. Please comrade Ministers, sacrifice one parliamentary session and spend the whole day in the slum to see for yourselves the ugly pictures of this country ... teenage rape and alcohol abuse, child-prostitution, crime, poverty, mushrooming slums, psychological dejection from society, social deviance, daily killing, increasing car accidents due to lack of patrol and an increase in vehicles that are not road-worthy, lack of proper housing, deteriorating neighbourhoods, theft. Do we have any social policy to combat these problems? Please don't wait until election time to fool the electorate.

I started this paper by saying Nujoma should go and not have a third term. Why? The regime that I have described here is HIS. He is the President! He has the power to change through dismissal, effective reshuffling of his cabinet, enforcement of policy, maintaining political scrutiny of his political employees (the Ministers, Deputies, PSs etc). He had almost eight years to prove that he is not only from Kahao, but from each part of the country. That instead of constructing a tarred road to his own homestead, he could have constructed one to Hosea Kutako's homestead as a gesture of revolutionary appreciation and unselfishness.

He should employ other ethnic groups around him in the State House. He should not talk of reconciliation and then practice racial discrimination. Nujoma and his cronies are unfit to govern!

REVOLUTIONARY
WINDHOEK