

Nam Needs Social Security

THE TIME is ripe for each and every Namibian to think clearly about the future of our beloved country, Namibia. There is no need for us to behave as if we are in transit in this country. We are at home and should behave accordingly.

Namibia today is like a transit country for Namibians. It appears that nobody cares anymore. The wave of crime is gaining momentum each day. Everybody has pinned his hopes on the Government and the police to stamp out criminals.

But we Namibians know the solutions to these problems, yet we are too scared to face them. The way to solve our current problems is to look at the balance sheet of our people's and our country's wealth. We should then have a clear indication of how much money per month each unemployed and elderly person requires (eg N\$500 or N\$400) and a social security system should be set up. Should there be a shortfall, then an increase in income tax could be considered.

Research into social security systems could be done in countries such as Great Britain, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and the USA.

There is no need for the well-known rhetoric that the country does not have money or resources. Unless we move in the direction of a social security system on a sustainable level, poverty and crime will remain with us.

The problems we are facing today are a result of our failure to think properly and come up with sound programmes to address them. We are only addressing the symptoms and not the root causes of our problems.

Let us convince ourselves and the government of the day that one way to have peace of mind and feel safe in the privacy of our homes is to implement a social security system for the elderly and unemployed without further delay. It is a far better proposition than land distribution and empty promises, because land distribution is for those who can afford it and definitely would exclude the elderly and unemployed.

Set excuses aside and let us bring about tangible change.

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