

What Is To Be Done?

Swapo Has Lost Its Vision For Namibia

TO us young people of this country during the years of the 1960s and 1970s, Swapo symbolised the image of equality, justice and freedom for all the people of Namibia.

The prevailing situation then was one of oppression, denial of justice and human rights for the greater majority of the black and coloured population of our land. There were laws instituted such as job reservations, Bantu education and numerous pass laws restricting the movement and abode of citizens merely on the colour of their skins.

One could not get certain categories of jobs, no matter how qualified you were. One could not purchase or own property or land no matter how much money you had. One could not attend any school or academic institution. This circumstances were degrading, humiliating and restricting the human spirit of our people for generation upon generation. The pot

was boiling and an explosion was inevitable. That is why the message of Swapo found much support and sympathy among a broad strata of our oppressed population. Swapo's vision of a just political, social and economic society for all ethnic groups in the land was hailed countrywide.

Many of us, particularly in the Baster and coloured communities, were ostracised because we openly proclaimed our adherence to the Swapo vision for Namibia. In many instances we were denied basic privileges that were normal in our societies. But we persevered because we were convinced that Swapo's vision was the right one for Namibia.

For it was a vision where people of all colours, tribes and origins would take hands and build a new Namibia, free of strife, oppression and denial of basic rights. It was a vision where we thought the play-field

would be levelled in terms of job and educational opportunities, political participation and that appointments in all government institutions would be done fairly. It was a vision where no one tribe would again try to dominate over the others. It was also a vision where all Namibians live in peace and tranquillity; where no Namibian would again be a political refugee or flee their homeland because of political intimidation and fear.

It was because of this common vision that the support for Swapo was so broad among the Namibian people. It was because of this common vision that the support for Swapo was unwavering. For many it was a vision for which they were prepared to sacrifice their friends, family and possessions.

For many others it was a vision for which they were prepared to lay down their lives. For many today, however, the

shining vision of Swapo has become a great disappointment. For many this vision lies shattered. Why?

In simple terms. Swapo has for the past eight years that it has been in political power in Namibia, done nothing but emulate all the evils of the past apartheid regimes. It has instituted one of the most corrupt systems of self enrichment by political leaders and their close friends and relatives. It had created an elite system whereby a small clique derives all the benefits at the detriment of the deprived, poverty stricken population. It has instituted tribalism of the most naked kind in the civil service and parastatals.

The Swapo-government has squandered our resources by the mishandling of the national budget as was again recently pointed out by the Auditor General. It is apparent that the Swapo government is just not interested in maintaining

any fiscal or monetary discipline.

This is the result of competent and unqualified people being appointed to responsible positions merely on the basis of their ethnic and tribal origin. The government is using legal means to achieve illegal ends. It is thus clear that the actions of the present Swapo leadership have deviated drastically from the expectations of the masses of our people.

That brings us to the crucial questions at this juncture in our history: WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

That is the question that was asked by Lenin when Mother Russia laid shattered because of maladministration, corruption, ethnic conflicts and Tsar dictatorship. This question also has to be answered by Namibians at this point in history.

**NEVILLE
ANGERMUND
WINDHOEK**