

# Means To Silence

FROM where I stand, and looking a bit further to the horizon, I am convinced that the Namibia I was used to in the early Nineties is not the Namibia I am looking at right now.

Many dedicated sons and daughters of this country sacrificed their lives and time for the betterment of their fellow citizens, including those misled by the then South African apartheid regime. Well and fine.

Apartheid has been minimised, but not totally eradicated. Independence has been achieved (politically) but economically we still have a long way to go. Briefly, the Swapo Government, if they talk of anything achieved during the past nine years, cannot go beyond what I have mentioned above.

Corruption has become a 'sacred' thing in Namibia, and leadership has failed to address this matter, for reasons known only to themselves.

We had the case of a governor who was transferred and promoted because of his abilities to embezzle money! The nation waited, but nothing happened. Recently we

heard that a suspended civil servant in the same region is still on the government payroll. Not to mention the wedding of the millennium.

The list goes on and on ...

I know also of a Swapo appointed traditional leader in the Mukwe constituency who helped himself to funds and as a result has been rejected by the very people he was supposed to lead.

But even so the Swapo leadership tries to defend this person by all means.

Rural people have been neglected only to be remembered during election years. Exactly nine years ago, our people were struggling to get documents like IDs, birth certificates and passports. I was really surprised that a few months ahead of the elections, our people in Kavango have been asked to give their names to a representative so that birth cer-

tificates could be issued to them. Why have the government waited until now?

Why should drought relief food be used for electioneering? Project proposals are now being accommodated, backdated to 1994. Suddenly everything and everybody has become important in the eyes of the government.

The rural people still suffer a lot, because they are mostly regarded as illiterate. It is high time that the electorate be respected and not be used for political ambitions.

Political intolerance is another disease which has infected the Swapo camp.

This party does not tolerate independent thinking. If you dare to, you will be nicknamed on the spot as a puppet.

Face only one direction, do not question if you are not clear, stick

to the ideology of 'we fought for this country, and then you are the right person. Yet still, ironically, they call themselves the champions of democracy.

When I joined the CoD many of my former colleagues in Swapo tried to persuade me to go back, failing to understand that I made my decision for good reasons. They even went to the extent of telling me to go back to Swapo and be prepared for the next election for regional councillors to be elected to one of these posts. I frankly told them I had no political ambitions whatsoever, and I will go to a party which is transparent, honest, and can accommodate independent thinking people.

I am a rural man and are prepared to live, work and fight for the still oppressed (whoever oppresses them, whether government or chief).

How many people in Namibia have been silenced this way? With the promise of high posts in return for their silence?

The CoD has room for everyone, we are the zebras of Namibia. There are those who want to compare the ANC with Swapo; Ulenga with Bantu Holomisa, but the differences are as large as an ocean.

The ANC has reconciled with its people, by establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Swapo never did that! Most of us have lost relatives who have disappeared into thin air.

My hope and dream is to see this nation achieve what others have achieved.

Peace and stability we don't have because of the DRC war and the situation in Caprivi. Tolerance and transparency and multi-party democracy is what I stand for.

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*Note: This letter has been shortened. - Ed*

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