

Ombudsman Challenged On Environment

PERMIT me space in your newspaper to address the Ombudsman, the supposed upholder of our Constitution in respect of Natural Resources.

Sir,

After returning from a ten day holiday at the coast, I am of the opinion that you are not doing your job, or rather, you are neglecting your duties.

Let me be specific:

1. Damaging the Environment

When travelling between Okahandja and Karibib, one cannot help noticing one heap after the other of concrete boulders. ONE HEAP AFTER THE OTHER of unsightly rubble. Nobody debates the necessity of building a fibreoptic line to the coast for better communication.

Surely this is no excuse for destroying a beautiful countryside with unsightly rubble.

I have taken time to investigate - near the railway lines there are enough borrow pits of past construction that serve no purpose.

With a loader and a truck, these heaps could be removed and the holes filled - a dual purpose served.

2 Empty bottles and bags

Travelling along the highways, one sees endless heaps of glass bottles, 99 per cent of them non-returnable (in the desert we found only 4 returnable bottles, which we collected). Why is it NOT possible to promulgate a law, making all non-returnable fluid containers illegal, or at least place a heavy tax on all these glass and plastic containers.

It seems as if all parties concerned shun their responsibility - firstly, the firm that is marketing the product, secondly, the legislator who is well aware of the negligent attitude of the population at large, thirdly, the Ombudsman who is ultimately responsible for the environment and fourthly, each and every member of the population.

Take time to look at the legislation of our so often shunned neighbours and try to establish why their countryside is reasonably clean

Sir,

PLEASE DO SOMETHING
CONCERNED WINDHOEK