

many socio-economic hardships and is thus sup- frastructure, especially in power? The essence of evant drugs but people are many manufacturing in-

Facing Up To Destructive Forces in Namibia

NAMIBIA is one of the few countries in Africa that continues to enjoy peace, stability and unity as a nation after the cruel joke of colonialism was dismantled for more than a decade.

Colonialism made us a united nation, because all of us faced one external enemy at that dark time in our history. Unfortunately, as independent people we no longer unite as one. An apparent external enemy no longer threatens us. In the absence of this enemy it is much easier for some people to mistake their fellow citizens as possible foes. So these foes should be confronted through tribal affiliations.

Destructive forces such as tribalism, favouritism and nepotism have now taken root in our nation. Tribalism will bring disrepute to the present unity of our nation. The unity of the country will be scrutinised and questioned by the people who find themselves increasingly pushed aside to the edges or periphery of society. So they have to sur-

vive on the crumbs which fall from the table.

At the present moment if you find yourself in this country you are fortunate in terms of political stability. It is not good for many countries in Africa. Disorder, chaos and fratricidal war are continuing to disrupt or cut short the life of many common fellow Africans in those countries.

Ordinary people or laymen do not choose such an intolerable miserable situation. The political elite did indeed bring Cain's curse on their countries. All the problems are not of their own making. Some problems might be due to external dependence and external influence.

In Namibia we are not completely free from all types of problems. We have problems of our own. In the first place we are now confronted by an invisible ogre (AIDS) in front so us, that is swallowing the young and bright, who are the cream of the nation. Secondly, the lethal poison arrow of corruption is piercing too deeply into the nation's eco-

nomic and political system and makes it bleed internally that can be difficult to see with a naïve eye.

Thirdly, crime and other social evils are making the lives of innocent and law-abiding citizens difficult. Despite all these problems we are still relatively at peace with one another politically. But this peace can be short-lived as long as these problems remain with us. It can be likened to a bird flying in the air, anyone can kill it by shooting or stoning if one wants to.

But let us not be like a nation of ignoramuses about our relative stability, peace and unity. As Africans on the African continent we are not completely shielded neither are we immune from the problems that affect other African nations.

We might find ourselves in similar miseries in future if we are not cautious.

In conclusion, we don't want to see Namibia plunged into perpetual political or economic instability. We want Namibia to

be viewed nationally and internationally positively as a country that promotes peace and unity, which is sustainable amongst its citizens. Additionally, Namibia as a country should strive to use its diversity to enrich itself not to kill itself. So the immortal words uttered by one of the famous, revered non-violent civil rights leaders, Dr Martin Luther King jnr that says: "I have a dream..." still speaks and is valid to our current situation as a nation struggling with tribalism and other evils. As a nation we should have a dream that solely concerns his or her character, ability and competence and which will determine the future of our country's citizens livelihood. If we take character, competence and ability to be precedent over tribal affiliations then we will be a winning nation and not a losing nation in the long run. And we will take our rightful position as one important nation of the world.

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