

# **On education**

IT IS my contention that Namibia needs a unitary education system to guide its people and control its rate of development.

The powers of education should be centralised. We need a government which is committed to secure the cooperation of the people of this country. We need a democratic government which rules by a constitution approved by the majority of its peo-

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ple. Its purpose should be the protection of life, property, and not based on force and authority. We need a higher standard of living and social security in Namibia. We need adequate food, shelter and medical services. We need education for personal growth and happiness. We need a strong government.

In Namibia each ethnic government has an education minister. The purpose of this education is to equip the African child for his place as a labourer in Namibia. The ministry of education is given unrestricted powers to decide what schools should exist, service for teachers and the content of black education. It plans to separate one race from another. Economically, politically and socially, whites are at the apex and blacks at the bottom. The emphasis is on quantity and not quality. The education of blacks is inferior and teaching is done through the medium of vernaculars up to Standard Six, then there is a sudden switch to learning English and Afrikaans. The standard of English in particular has dropped disastrously. The black student is in a terrible dilemma for he either accepts such education or gets no education at all.

It is my contention that there is a need for a clear national educational policy in Namibia, and a compulsory and unitary education system.

Blacks and whites should govern the country in harmony; we share many things and should share the land under one government. We share a common history and culture and we can speak to one another in our national languages. Namibia needs a national symbol to give us a sense of belonging as a nation.

Education should not separate black and white; and children should not be taught that blacks are lazy, inferior, stupid and so on.

Education for black children is scarce and inadequate. It is the cause of all the political unrest in Namibia.

Namibians do not see ethnic governments as their governments; or the constitutions as their constitution; they have become politically-divorced and frustrated.

In the final analysis, we need a strong unitary government against external forces, because unity is strength. We need new methods of organisation, new skills, new insights, new dreams and visions. We need a climate in which Namibia can keep peace with the world.

It is the time now to transform Namibia into a better nation. It is time to put political differences aside and form one Namibia, one nation.

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