

# 'Gambling' With Our Funds ...

I CHOOSE to comment publicly on recent Cabinet decisions concerning retirement benefits for senior political office bearers and the reversal of salary increments given to civil servants.

Many civil servants are already affected by the latter as increments received since April 1997 are to be recovered and salary notches reversed as before date of increment.

The same Cabinet hired "financial experts" with taxpayers' money to draw up the performance appraisal document and the WASCOM report promised a ten percent (10%) salary increase with effect from 1 April 1997 and then kept silent.

In my opinion the reason for such harsh decision would be the unexpected availability of jobs for ex-combatants in the public service; the recent demonstration by unhappy nursing staff or the unavailability of funds to finance the retirement benefits for senior political office bearers.

Cabinet agreed to "gamble" without concern with our pension fund which is our only benefit in the grey-haired years ahead, yet they seem to be concerned only about their retirement years.

Few elderly citizens in our beloved country survive on pension-payouts by government at this moment but it does not concern the Cabinet members.

Unless the government comes clean on their decisions I am of the opinion that civil servants in Namibia are used to the benefit of their bosses and that goes for every taxpayer in the Republic of Namibia.

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