

# The DTA Takes Issue With 'Laz'

I REFER to the column 'Ekse Kuume' by Nghumbilemo ya Ndakomani in The Namibian of Friday, April 3, 1998.

As this column is probably read by many people I cannot allow the writer to get away with his uninformed remarks about the issue such as cutting down the Civil Service. Why does he feel that the opposition "are dying a slow, painful and ridiculous death?" It is time people like this columnist stop making such unfounded and groundless remarks about the opposition when they clearly know nothing about what is happening in the politics of Namibia.

The writer goes on to trot out the hairy old argument about the opposition only knowing how to criticise but never providing any alternatives. All this serves to prove is that the writer never reads his own or any other newspaper. The official opposition, the DTA of Namibia, has provided plenty of alternatives to, for example, the shocking overspending by the government, the enormous size of the Cabinet, how to solve the lands issue, and many other important issues, but the writer clearly finds it easier just to go along with the stream than to think for himself and inform himself of what those alternatives are.

This is shown by his infantile argument about why the Civil Service should not be downsized. Where does he think the money comes from to pay all those civil servants? This is not a Socialist welfare state where no one pays taxes and the state employs everyone until the state is bankrupt. The taxpayers of Namibia must provide the money to pay all the civil servants, and there is not enough money in Namibia

to support the civil service.

Only if the government stops spending the taxpayers' money on unnecessary luxuries and produces a Budget which will stimulate the economy and boost job creation will the people about whom the columnist claims to be concerned stop suffering. Their suffering certainly cannot be alleviated by giving them jobs in the Civil Service.

With regard to the Budget, the columnist should inform himself to the fact that no one has to date said a good word about it. The criticism levelled against it has not come only from the opposition parties, but also from every economist in Namibia, including those who support the majority party. These are people who have made their mark in the private sector, not the civil service, and who understand what it takes to make a country's economy viable.

I believe that as a columnist in a widely read newspaper like The Namibian, Mr ya Ndakomani has a responsibility to his readers not to write so thoughtlessly and irresponsibly about issues he clearly does not understand or has not thought about properly. If he cares to visit the office of the DTA of Namibia, we will be happy to inform him about the many alternatives we have suggested, but which are regularly wiped off the table in Parliament by Swapo's two-thirds majority, which he no doubt helped to elect.

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