

# No More War Or Corruption

Re "NHE fraud kingpin freed" (*The Namibian*, 12 January 2001), this news article about Mr Axaro Tsowaseb is once again tangible proof that the Government encourages fraud by public officials.

How else in the world could it be explained that for more than two years Mr. Nujoma allowed Axaro Tsowaseb, a convicted felon, to bilk the Namibian people out of millions of dollars in unearned salaries while he was not working? And, to add insult to injury: even as a convict, Axaro was not fired. No, he was asked to "agree" to "resign"?! Moreover, as if this wasn't more than pathetic, his resignation, an agreement with the Nujoma government, cost the poor Namibian taxpayer N\$2 million!!!

There is absolutely no single good reason for paying a crook a salary while he is laid off for his vile acts. Nor does it make any sense to pay him N\$2 million to let him go. Unless you want to encourage this sort of thing, the fact that money under his watch disappeared is clearly enough reason to fire him on the spot for either incompetence or dereliction of duties.

If the Nujoma government really cared about the Namibian people instead of the stomachs of its elites, it would, if an official is confronted with credible evidence of malfeasance

that is so strong as to warrant a suspension from office and a subsequent conviction, as it happened here with Axaro Tsowaseb in stealing money from the National Housing Enterprise, he must, in addition to jail and being fired on the spot without pay, be required to:

a) disgorge the stolen items,

b) face penalties, disbarment and some form of censorship.

This would unequivocally tell each would-be thief and convict, like Axaro Tsowaseb, not to mess with Namibian public's property and that stealing from the Namibian people is unprofitable and will hurt you or any fool who's dumb enough to even try it.

However, the the stories of stealing keep trickling out of the Nujoma Administration while he remains mum and even praises the thief. Take, for instance, the case of Mr Abraham Iyambo, the Minister of Fisheries, and those questionable payments (bribes, if you will) for his wedding that were paid for by people who need his approval to stay in business.

Then there's the N\$25 million that went through Quando Holdings, a Swapo company, supposedly in route to the Democratic Republic of Congo and disappeared without a trace. There's, of course, no good rationale why this

putative gift of the people of Namibia to the people of Congo could not have been transferred through the good offices of both governments. Instead, the Government's money was diverted into Swapo's hands (Quando Holdings and Swapo are the same thing) and disappeared. Once again, isn't President Nujoma curious at all?

Corruption is an insidious malady that, if it isn't faced head-on, will severely retard our country's economic development. Therefore, unless he is really seriously wanting to fight corruption, President Nujoma should not yet exchange driving a Mercedes for a Chevrolet, as he recently proposed while he was vacationing at Swakopmund. Unless it is part of an overall anti-graft package, driving a Chevy would be worst than pinpricks since it is not likely to make a dent in corruption by itself. It will mislead the Namibian people into thinking that something is being done to control excessive spending. This false sense of accomplishment will lull the public into complacency and thus aggravate corruption.

If he wished to well for Namibia, President Nujoma can use the very same dictatorial power that he so foolishly wielded in sending our soldiers to be killed in Congo and Angola to stop corruption at home by his cronies. He is after all, the same man who

single-handedly turned the north-eastern part of our beautiful country into a shooting gallery for Savimbi of Unita and dos Santos of the MPLA. For some reason he swallowed the nonsense dos Santos told him as far as how quickly dos Santos would be able to finish off the tenacious Savimbi, if Nujoma could give only a piece of Namibian land for the Angolans to continue their 25-year old civil war. If the President had bothered to consult a cross section of Namibians, he would have been well advised about how unrealistic it was for dos Santos to all of a sudden beat a masterful guerrilla fighter with Savimbi's cunning and experience. Now our co-patriots in the north-east are being robbed and murdered day and night by the foreign invitees and our Government is unable to protect them.

Let's all urge President Nujoma to - now that his personal friend, Laurent Kabila is dead - withdraw our soldiers from both the Angolan and Congolese civil wars and save their lives from the ensuing chaos and slaughter. Kabila's death is tragic, but it's also an auspicious moment that must be positively used to pull our soldiers out those quagmires in Angola and Congo now, today.

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