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By Paul T. Shipala

My attention was particularly caught by the New Era editorial of Friday 2nd October 2010 which talked about ‘the power dynamics and internal democracy inside SWAPO’. The editorial asserted that determined outcomes during leadership contests are becoming a thing of the past and that the SWAPO primaries were a dress rehearsal of that which we are soaked up in during the 2012 congress in which SWAPO will have to choose its new avatar.

This goes to show that those old guards pinning their hope on co-option and factions were grossly mistaken in thinking that the youth are asserting themselves and in the process altering the power game without assistance from those who are supposed to wield power in the party, said the editorial. If anything, the SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL), an official party structure, emerged as the only serious threat during these primaries, concluded the editorial.

I am on record for arguing that a critical analyst will encourage us to find out, who gains what, who loses what facts are added up and whose version of the story has not been told. Indeed, Critical thinking involves insight requiring a sharpened eye to distinguish what from what is ought to be, and will unavoidably come under fire and earn the ire for maintaining a critical and objective stance. Let us dissect the latest discourse hopefully without touching some warning nouns and nurture some feathers while treading carefully not to be perceived as supporting one faction or the other.

Surely, the 2012 SWAPO congress will be a crunch time for the ‘Old Guard’ and the ‘Young Turks’ and the Primary stages was the undercurrent of whatever may happen due to the anarchic’s of delegates to the big Indaba. Arguably, so far the ‘Old Guard’ strategy was not to raise their stakes high and support all the top 4 leaders in the party. However, SWAPO’s majority seems to pinning their hope on co-option and permanent candidates openly seem to have worked for them. The text however, will be whether they will succeed in treating carefully not to fall in their lot behind a particular candidate thinking behind the scene as some others do. It will be interesting to find out if they will hold their cards close to their chest and not be impertuous because if they bet on a wrong horse, the horse will die and their plans almost ‘dead on the bone’, be left to eat their wounds but their hopes, will be hoisted sky-high.

One just hopes, this is not the much talked about ‘devolutionizing’ doctrine to SSAPLO, a majority of Monopolists who saw that some equally deserving candidates were labelled as ‘Omusati clique’ and ‘Ndonga eldra’ as the rest of the candidates found themselves on the other side with some vying for a “minority” candidate and using the same campaign money and machinery to garner votes with the sole difference of riding on the back of prominent names. The stumbling block, however, to the alleged ‘minority hypothesis’ is whether it will prove successful after it failed in 2010, 2012 and 2014 with deviations and catering consequences in east Africa. If the perceived ‘majority’ felt discriminated reversed by those who thought they have their turn to eat from the supposedly revolting State kitty and pot.

The President of the Party will also be unable to endure indirect soft sell jibes on his leadership as he will attempt to play the unifier between the different factions and the party and not be drawn in any dispute while ensuring that there is no repeat of the 2003 extra-ordinary congress. It is a fact that he too played safely by publicly defending the Founding President as prompted by the top leadership because if he should impose him he has a particular candidate he is supporting. Meanwhile, his tattle-tale is under scrutiny as he plays his cards, including by the Founding President and Father of the Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma, who still holds a lot of power. Namibia remains Namibia’s foremost undisputed kingmaker who threw his weight behind him.

The President also has to manage the dyssorted tidbits of anachronises from those who know him over a long stretch of time such as Professor Mbaramba Kerina and the Speaker Theo-Ben Gurirab, Founding President Dr Nujoma was always a man on a mission and a man of destiny who is very observant and chooses to listen more to others than do the talking, a unique man without leading said Leysing.

As most of those contemplating vying for political office know that they need to secure his blessing, the president has 2 chances of success may be slender.

The Founding President as a statesman, head of the Nation’s unity and a great visionary and strategist once advised some candidates with the potential to win, to realize the cost of taking the lake of unity and political stability in the party and the country. What remains to be seen is whether all will abide by this call as some are out to be vying for a ‘Njoma candidate’ and other options while others were heard saying they prefer someone from Kunene region, since year in and year out this region together with the northern regions and others delivered a land slide victory to the ruling party SWAPO unlike Subsistence which is predominantly controlled by the opposition parties such as UDF and NFS and NDKC.

It has always been my belief as a pan-africanist that People should not just be capitulated and wheel-flung from place to place but earn their positions by virtue of their embodiment of certain values and principles regardless of their ethnicity or their sex. Taking a cue from what President Pohamba once said that “Njoma is our leader”, then the ‘Old guard’ and the ‘Young Camp’ and the only faction I belong to is the Nation’s faction and I will follow the good shepherd. I go strait and get entangled andembroiled in rhythms of tribal politics. On that score, I agree with the Namibian columnists: if you are going hoping fancies on long ago.

Let the best man or woman win based on charisma, humility, ideas and character. Anyways, who are these ‘minorities’ and ‘majoryties’, none-Oshiwambo and Omusati-clique, Ndonga eldra element and Kwankala’s Omukurua (the ancient one we find here) and I thought the Namibian wepeke formed one nation? Wake up from your slumber people! Don’t you see this is the bad seed of division planted to the Namibian’s seed (so to speak) and everything we are seeing is slavery perpetuated to see ourselves as tribes and not a nation and fight among us like the Luwano and Karas people did? It all started with stereotypes.

Indeed, the Founding Father is the country’s last hope. He told Namibians to wonder the virulent attacks launched against him under the pretext of ‘self-defense’ by some rejects. He is the only one who is now saying that they “don’t know Njoma” yet wrote full stomachs and corruption thieves who are still running loose. Does that mean that these writhings were concocted together with the Namibians? It’s a fact the President who are saying they “regret being part of the liberation struggle” that brought about our independence and ended our struggle, also told us that we want to make all alliances with those who inherited the assets and liabilities of slavery, co-opt faction and stand beside and watch while they vilify and kill our prophets and leaders and from our time as leaders and today and yet want us to make alliances with those who inherited the assets and liabilities of slavery, co-opt faction and stand beside and watch while they vilify and kill our prophets and leaders from our time as leaders and today.

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We had to start by building our states. It was easy to talk…just talk…no action. We extended our school system upwards to the universities which were non-existent at the time of independence. For most of our countries, an economy that relied on cash crops for export to the former colonial powers still prevails, beyond our grasp…Our learning of the economy has taken place in state-owned enterprises with well-paid workers. These enterprises undoubtedly proceeded by trial and error. But could it have been otherwise? Have we mentioned our unique language? We could as well have included hunger, pandemics, civil war (and western intervention), terrorism…reflected in huge population…reflected in huge ascos will dent their plans almost ‘dead on the bone’, be left to eat their wounds but their hopes, will be hoisted sky-high.

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