

# Kapia speaks about his suspension and how it was politically motivated.

**Question:** How do you feel now that your suspension from taking part in SWAPO Party activities has been lifted?

**Answer:** I feel relieved. I am very happy that justice has prevailed at last. I want to thank the Party leadership for having handled this issue to its logical conclusion. I thank the SWAPO Party Youth League, SPYL, which set up a committee to investigate this issue and finalized it on time. Of course it was delayed, but at the end of the day, it came out. The committee found that I did not do anything wrong.

On the basis of those findings, SPYL decided that I should come back to the office. But the Party felt differently because there was a lot of misleading information. Some individuals, including some of those who served in the SPYL Committee, jumped and went to mislead the Party leadership.

That was why the Party came up with another committee to investigate what these people were saying. That committee also found nothing. Now I can address meetings as a former secretary for SPYL. I am ready for any assignment the Party wishes to give to me.

**Question:** Who do you blame for this whole saga?

**Answer:** It is a difficult question. But of course you have to blame somebody. The Party needed to analyze this issue very carefully. There were those who had their agenda against me within the Party. Some of these people were frustrated because they believed that I was preventing them or their chosen candidates from being elected into positions.

When the N\$30 million issue came up, they thought it was their chance to finish me off. The blame squarely goes to those people who decided to mislead the leadership. During the inquiry, my investigation revealed that some people were meeting in some offices to discuss the strategy on how to cause confusion and how I should be arrested. Some wanted me to be arrested in my Office as Deputy Minister.

These things were done deliberately by some individuals. Some of these people have left SWAPO Party. Some are still hibernating in the Party. I am saying hibernating because they had a committee which was managing the whole inquiry to cause confusion. State machineries were used in this whole saga. These people wanted Kapia not to be trusted by Founding President Sam Nujoma, by President Hifikepunye Pohamba and by the entire leadership. The strategy was that Kapia should be destroyed politically. Even Prime Minister Nahas Angula was one day informed that I had overdosed and was in ICU and died there. There was a group of people which was planning and strategizing on how to destroy Kapia politically.

One lawyer was even instructed to draft a warrant of arrest against me. He took it to the Police to sign, as if the Police drafted it. They went up to the Prosecutor General's Office. They failed to get me arrested because there was no ground for me to be arrested. Some of these people who are now saying that the Party leadership had preempted the High Court by lifting my suspension are the very people who took part in secret meetings which were organized to destroy me. Some have since joined the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP.

These are the same people who fabricated the Koevoet story about me. These are the same people who are after me. Even some senior police officers were drafted into this



campaign to arrest Kapia. What is it that I have done to be arrested? This whole thing was politically motivated for Kapia to get out of Parliament so that someone could get in. You know who followed when I left. (Hidipo Hamutenya.) That has been the strategy all along.

I am happy that the Party has realized what is cooking behind the scene. As time goes, information will come out slowly but surely. You cannot hide the truth. Fine, I am happy. I am ready for any assignment. I have been given different assignments in my life. I have never failed.

**Question:** Has your investigation that you have carried out found out why those people wanted you out?

**Answer:** Apparently I was disturbing them at the Party Headquarters. Some of these people were at the Party Headquarters as well and they were not comfortable with me being there. They said all sorts of things, claiming that I was running the show. Before the 2004 Extra Ordinary Congress, we had local authority elections. I was chairperson of a vetting committee that was set up by the Party to vet nominated candidates. Some individual members of the Party were having problems with the committee because they did not want to follow procedures.

We sent some of the candidates back because they did not qualify. Some individuals wanted to sneak in such people without following procedures and I said no. Stories started making the rounds that I was apparently preventing their candidates from being elected. It spilled over to the Extra Ordinary Congress in 2004. Some of these people were saying that I prevented their candidate from being elected as SWAPO Party presidential candidate. I don't know how.

I just worked hard within the Party structures and supported the candidate whom I supported. They also worked hard for their candidate. Delegates at that congress decided who should be the SWAPO Party Presidential candidate. Now it is Kapia to be blamed. Why? This whole thing was just a set up. But I am determined to work for my Party and to defend it. If something is not right, I will never ever support it and I will not allow it.

**Question:** Psychologically, how did you live with that suspension for almost five years?

**Answer:** It was a serious psychological torture, but I handled it with confidence because I knew it was not done by my Party. This was the work of individuals whose motives were not detected on time. They managed to influence the decision-making process in the Party. But I am happy it is now finally resolved, though it was not easy for me.

Imagine you are suspended from taking part in Party activities. I have an office as SPYL Secretary where

I could not go. SPYL had a congress which I should organize and chair as Secretary, but I could not attend. It was not easy. I want to thank my doctors. They advised me correctly. One of my doctors, Dr. Elizabeth Shangula, passed away. She was my pillar. She did all the talking. I took her instructions and advice seriously. I never had high blood pressure. That was my fear.

I thank all my doctors for their advice and instructions which saw me through this saga. I am not psychologically damaged by it. You know, you are on suspension, then another case that you do not know, comes up. People wanted me to be arrested. You ask why? They only tell you that what is on paper is all they have! What is this? You could clearly see that it was politically motivated.

I will tell you something. The first person who phoned me immediately when I handed in my resignation letter to the Prime Minister, Nahas Angula, because President Pohamba was not in, was Joseph Diescho, all the way from South Africa, apparently to congratulate me on the decision I had taken! Who gave that information to Diescho, if it was not politically motivated? This is a classic example.

There are many things that I still have. One day I will speak out. I am still investigating. It may take me 20 or 30 years, I am determined to get to the core of this whole nonsense. I know that somebody somewhere was behind this. I want to get that person. And I will. I am busy. I appeal to all genuine comrades to provide me with whatever information they may have, just contact me. I want to get to the root of this thing because I know that somebody was behind it.

The inquiry showed how the money was squandered. Even some credible financial institutions in this country which started first to squander that money are there, but nobody



is asking them. I never got a single cent from this money. It was not even my intention. Yes, life goes on, but it was not an easy thing to go through.

I was being intimidated. Because of such intimidation, I asked VIP Police to provide me with security when I resigned as Deputy Minister. My request was refused. Some were saying that I prevented their candidate from succeeding and therefore I should not get security.

**Question:** You said that some of those people have left SWAPO Party, while others are still in. If you were to meet such people, would you shake their hands?

**Answer:** I can if I feel like doing it. But I do not want to revenge. That is not in me. I can talk to anybody. I talk to them very often. Even those who knew that I knew that they were the architects of this thing, I greet them. This is Namibia. Whatever they were trying to do, they did not succeed. But one day I will talk and set myself free. All we need to do now is to ensure that nobody again goes through what I have gone through. Party structures must be strengthened to ensure fair play and discipline.

**Question:** Having gone

through those difficult moments, what have you learned?

**Answer:** I have many comrades in SWAPO Party. I regard them as my friends. But many of them were distancing themselves from me. That is one of the biggest lessons I have learned. They never even called me, whereas they could call me day and night before. When this thing came up, they distanced themselves from me. They never visited me and they never talked to me. I want to thank those who were by me all the time.

They showed me their true colours. They are my comrades and my friends. They helped me financially. I have a family. I found myself without a job. My wife also lost her job. These comrades brought me food, money and anything they could provide me with. There were times when I could not pay my monthly installments on my house, they came in and helped. They helped me pay my legal fees.

I learned lessons. I have worked hard for SWAPO Party. But for some of these people to forget what I have done for the Party, it was shocking. It is painful to work with such comrades, and when something small comes up, they totally forget the good things you have done for the Party. But I am happy. I commend some of the leaders of the Party who continued talking to me, visiting me and helping me.

I lost my father in 2008. Some of the comrades whom I really thought would be there never turned up. I am not saying they should make contributions, just to turn up or even a phone call as they used to do. I have learned lessons. I have learned the hard way. My brothers and sisters who bore the same surname Kapia were also being victimized. It was rough.

That is how human beings are, apparently. They can be good the same day in the morning and be bad the same day in the afternoon. A human being is not a good thing to trust. Do not trust anybody. Just like them and smile at them when you meet them, but do not trust them.

**Question:** This is an election year. Your suspension from Party activities has been lifted. How will you take part in the election campaigns?

**Answer:** I am ready for any assignment. I have already received many calls from the regions after my suspension was lifted. Many comrades want me to address them. For your information, I want to thank regional structures of the Party, SPYL, Elders' Council, Women Council, all of them in the regions never gave up. They have been asking me as to when this suspension would be lifted so that I could address them.

I always tell them to wait for the Party to conclude the investigation. After the announcement of the lifting of the suspension, these structures in the regions are regularly calling me to address them. I am ready. I advise them to write directly to the Office of the Secretary General so that I can be informed and I will see.

**Question:** Where will you want your first rally to be?



**Answer:** Anywhere in the country. Any region that invites me, I will just go. SPYL has already started. It invited me to address its Central Committee meeting in Swakopmund. The ball is rolling. I am ready for any assignment.

**Question:** This is a crucial year because we will have National Assembly and Presidential elections in November. The born-frees will vote for the first time. What message do you have for the youth?

**Answer:** I want to appeal to the youth that the future of this country is in their hands. They must prepare themselves and register to vote. They must read and analyze documents of political parties very well. I can write something very nice, but check my history. It is very important to check the history of any political party. Check the background of individuals in that particular party. Ask yourself questions. If this person was a deputy minister, was assigned to be a high commissioner, representing Namibia in a given country, what has that person done for Namibia to benefit and succeed?

If that person now tells me that he or she is joining a new political party, what does that tell you? He was in SWAPO Party. He failed to deliver. Maybe he was deliberately doing such things so that they can blame SWAPO Party tomorrow. You should know that as well. Even these ones who are telling us a new beginning or whatever, we must know their background. Some of them were ministers, parliamentarians and ambassadors and high commissioners, what have they done? Zero. They were doing things to fail SWAPO so that they could set up their own political parties. Now you want to follow them to do what?

Young people must be very careful. Those people who are setting up various political parties will leave you in those parties. You must be very careful. They will continue setting up political parties now and then. Check these people carefully. My message is simple. Young people must prepare themselves and vote for SWAPO Party to make sure that the peace and stability we enjoy today is maintained.

We have achieved a lot since independence. We cannot do everything in 19 years, but what the SWAPO Party government has done is impressive. We are doing well. People say that if you want to enjoy peace, come to Namibia. If you want to enjoy freedom of expression, come to Namibia. That is the reality.

The born-frees must sit with elderly people to be taught the true history of this country. They must visit SWAPO Party offices in the regions to seek more information about SWAPO Party and the country so that they are not misled by those who have their own agendas. Go

and vote right. To vote right means to vote for SWAPO Party so that we can continue with our development agenda, which is informed by the needs, hopes and aspirations of the Namibian people. Unite and ensure that SWAPO Party wins overwhelmingly. Read the review of the 2004 SWAPO Party election manifesto. It has revealed everything which SWAPO Party has achieved.

**Question:** Has your loyalty to SWAPO Party been damaged in any way as a result of the ordeal that you have gone through?

**Answer:** No, not at all. In fact, my loyalty to SWAPO Party has even been strengthened. Now I know I am tested. During the armed struggle, I worked with combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, as a young person. They gave me tasks, which I executed successfully. I was hunted like nothing by the Boers. But I never gave up. The ordeal I have gone through has just strengthened me. I can handle any situation, even tougher than this one. My brothers, sisters and my mother were happy when they heard about this news. They say that if SWAPO Party gives me any assignment, I should never refuse. And I will not.

But the most important thing is that we must be careful about individuals within the Party who have their own individual interests which we may not detect early. We must analyze situations very well. The Party should handle things quietly and carefully so that we prevent these ugly things from happening again. Our decisions should not be informed by emotions.

One day, Hidipo Hamutenya and one SWAPO Party leader, (name provided, and she is still hibernating) came at the Head Quarters and found members of the Ndilimani Cultural Troupe outside. He asked them this question. "Ya! You want Kapia back? We will not allow him here. The Politburo will not allow him to come here." Then this official who was with Hamutenya cut in and said: "Kapia to come back? No, he will disturb our programme." What was it that I was going to disturb? We are all members of the Party. What was it?

These people were busy. They started long ago. They knew Kapia was a threat to their programmes because I could reveal their programmes before they were implemented. That was their fear. I want to urge Party structures to really look at issues objectively. If a comrade stands up in a meeting and says something emotionally, and you want to set up a committee to investigate whatever that comrade has said, such a person should not be part of that committee. Party structures should also not allow individuals to volunteer to serve in committees investigating serious issues. I am saying this because I know what I have gone through.

I want to warn that if there is any issue being discussed, whoever was vocal and outspoken on that particular issue, should not be part of that committee. The committee should be made up of people who are not members of that structure and be impartial enough to get to the truth of the matter. We have individuals within the Party who have issues with other colleagues, personal issues, and want to use Party structures against a particular comrade whom they do not like. Within the Politburo, there were individuals, maybe two or three, who were pushing and calling for my suspension because they knew what they wanted to achieve. I remain committed to the aims and objectives of the SWAPO Party.