bound.

I recall a personal experience that would serve a perfect example of the distinction between outcome and output. In order to address the grievances of the citizens against government representatives, we established the office of the ombudsman. We also established an anti-corruption Commission. Perceptions of corruption in Namibia, to be there. This mindset needs to change. We need to emphasize service, performance, effectiveness, and outcome-oriented thinking. I have been advocating the need of performance based appointments for a fixed period.

I recall the German who told Karonda, the Secretary General of the NNUNW “telling him that it was the Germans who had built the country. Amongst all the wild claims to a race – well that is Namibia for us after 20 years.

Accountability requires continuous surveillance by the media and the civil society. These, fourth estate institutions are the mirror of the society. The state must provide room for them to function properly. Namibia has a good record of providing this space.

What the readers want is not speculation but accuracy, not rumors but facts. Ronning correctly argues that the new type of sensationalist newspapers are "highly critical of government, both the new and the old, which personalise political issues, run campaigns against officials and politicians, expose scandals of economic, political and private character ... which often shows poor journalistic judgement and oversimplifies unwritten, but internationally accepted ethical rules.”

The media’s obsession with sensationalism weakens the interpretation of journalism as the great leveller, a righter of wrongs, a humbler of the mighty, a watchdog against the abuse of power, an agent to “comfort the afflicted and afflect the comfortable,” which is very much in question today. “One venue of critique sees journalism as having shifted from watchdog to mad dog, mindlessly attacking authority (especially governments), avoiding serious news about public affairs in favour of scandals, celebritics and ‘infotainment.’”

However, we can claim that civil society in Namibia is vibrant but many challenges remain. In Namibia, too, there is great inequality with high gini coefficient. We have still lots of problems. But Namibia is still the place I want to call my home.