

Namibia's

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sector of the economy, they allow 20% male corporate executives, whose dominant position remains unchallenged, to have the last laugh. The growing vocal agitations are, however, sadly based on the assumption that we have explored and exhausted all avenues and are based on shaky premises that we are a fully fledged democracy. We are not yet there. We are still crawling or at least just coming out of adolescence. In this regard, although I am not the party's spoke person, neither am I mandated to make media comments nor to issue press releases, I applaud the decision to rap on the knuckles and crack the

whip on the public spat as well as taking swipes at those who recently hogged headlines and went on a rampage with their seeming antics of 'straight-talk' reputation that had the potential to derail and take the focus away from pressing matters.

In this connection, equally, it is inconceivable that experienced politicians would, by their puerile and uninspiring antics, fire salvos and throw missiles bristled with half-truths and outright misrepresentations and be so misinformed by sticking out their foot in the mouth trying to write the next electoral script or determine the content of national discourse, alleging that our courts and the Media are not independent despite being ranked and hailed as one of the best

in Sub Sahara Africa. Wanting to capitalise on the Arab world momentum, they seized on obscure speeches and fervently waved this as proof that here too in Southern Africa, there are despots. Their little exercise must have restored the masters' faith in their divide and rule strategy.

This perhaps explains the unseemly haste with which they went to form their parties because they never saw Independence as the outcome of a struggle they waged. If not, why don't they recognise government efforts and progress? Let them know that we possess the ability to properly think through the noise generated by an article full of propaganda that fails to produce background

information and facts on key issues. Again, as City Press's Songezo Zibi rightly asserts, when opinion is offered based on poor background information there is possibility of misleading the public and it is an offense to our intellect as readers when they assume that we lack the necessary depth to notice shoddy propaganda with mediocre analysis that does not evaluate each situation in its proper context.

On the other hand, alongside job creation, corruption has become a major concern and we have coined our own shorthand for it; tenderpreneurship, meant for the newly entitled and today's greedy and predatory elite feasting on our young democracy. This in turn exacerbates inequalities in stark ways,

devastates national psyche, fragments and politicise and what is politicised is then ethnicised with talks and whispers of 'only people from a certain group are doing all the eating from the kitty and the revolving pot'. It does not require a rocket scientist's intelligence and analytical skills to see why the masses chafe with sporadic outburst of protests and fierce conflagration sometimes, when there are those whizzing, around poor settlements they should be serving, in their latest acquired expensive wheel toys and day in and day out, we hear of people found with their hands in the till and still continue to pilfer, thus rubbing salt into the festering sore of neglect. In that case, why don't we all sup-

port the Head of State in his crusade against corruption when he invites the nation to join hands to combat this social vice and to pause and reflect on the moral state of our society instead of constantly attacking and finding excuses? Let us revisit the project of nationhood transformation and avoid the pitfalls of a victim vs. perpetrator mentality and the majority vs. minority paradigms and mind frame. After many years of interethnic conflict, the need to harness Namibia's potential around unity of purpose is a necessary and overarching imperative. At the heart of it, the proposal for unity must be directed towards the country's transformation through creative and well-thought out strategies that advance integration and avoid the isolation or balkanization of anyone based on tribe, race, region or gender.

It is for this reason that I applaud the 2011/12 budget, presented against the backdrop of 20 years of democratic governance and peace in the country. Taking in consideration what His Excellency, President Pohamba said during the opening of the third Parliament that this occasion is taking place "at a time when our nation is looking to Government with great anticipation to provide answers to the pressing issues of the day. These include the question of unemployment; the needed improvements in the provision of quality education, health care, housing, access to land and other social amenities," the Finance Minister presented what others called an 'aggressive and revolutionary' budget "in order to effectively fight and defeat the problem of unemployment".

The Minister also acknowledged the words of the Founding President, H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma, when he said at the launch of VISION 2030 that "while we all recognise that the future is filled with uncertainties, we must build our Vision for our country on the philosophy of success in the face of all hurdles. The mission of our Vision must be to resolve all those issues that may inhibit future development and to set ambitious targets which will challenge all sectors of our economy into determined action." Indeed, this budget focuses on those issues that are key to the people-centred policies of the ruling SWAPO-Party as contained and outlined in its Manifesto of 2009. In this regard, the Finance Minister, starting this year, said Government will implement a Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) aimed at addressing economic growth and the high unemployment rate through support to strategic growth sectors.

Now that the nation is turning 21 on the 21st, let us acknowledge that "Founding a political Party, building a political party, sustaining a political party, mobilizing the nation and the international community, fighting a liberation war, liberating the country and founding a nation are no mean achievements." At 21, Founding President, H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma, could look back with pride on the Namibian Nation that he had played such a crucial role in establishing, like a proud father witnessing the entrance into adulthood of a child. Happy 21st's Independence Anniversary, and receive my 21 gun salutes, Namibia!

Disclaimer: These views do not necessarily represent the views of my employer nor am I paid to write them.

Namibia - Coming of Age !



The Social Security Commission congratulates the Government of the Republic of Namibia for maintaining peace, prosperity, stability and social safety net over the past 21 years.

Your visionary leadership enabled the Commission to provide the much needed social security benefits to the Namibian workforce.

From the Commissioners, Management and Staff of the Social Security Commission.

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