

# THE 'REGIME CHANGE' DOCTRINE INTRODUCTION

BY: P.T. SHIPALE

My brother Maruma from the Southern Time sister newspaper warned the Namibians to watch out for the west's hand in election when they vote in Novem-



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ber. The question is: Should Namibians take Maruma's advice seriously? Is there any precedent of that doctrine and any material and circumstantial evidence suggesting that it might happen here? Before we embark on our topic, let us first look at the theoretical framework of critical thinking.

According to Waghid (2000:27) one of the most immediate challenges confronting us is the establishment of a democratic ethos critical discourse and critical thinking, cultural tolerance, and a commitment to a non-sexist and non-racist social order. Critical thinking involves more than conceptual clarity. It involves imagination and insight requiring a sharpened eye to distinguish what is from what ought to be. It is in this sense that it is liberating from the possibility of being no more than an unaware pawn in the system of written, printed and spoken words. It allows to recognize an unexamined philosophical concept and to question assumptions that are being made with regard to its meaning. It is premised on these views that I approach my topics and found this one quite relevant especially with

regard to Iran and Zimbabwe.

## I- THE IRANIAN AND ZIMBABWEAN CASE

### A- The Iranian Case

The New Era's editorial of June 26 2009, lucidly exposed the case of Iran and the battle for the middle-east when it wrote; "like a ton of bricks, western nations have opportunistically descended on Iran to try and do what they would not practically do-changing the conservative regime in Tehran under Mahmoud Ahmadinejad if not reversing the Islamic revolution itself...the dispute over Iran's presidential election has provided heavy armor for (the west with) ensuing street protest in that country (that provided) a perfect cover for the reactivation of both overt and covert operations against Iran albeit in a more sustained manner and greater intensity . The Western Intelligence Community (must have) had their hands full with back and forth communication from and outside of Tehran in an effort to fan the flames of dissent in the hope that Iran's hard line government will succumb and collapse in the face of both internal and external pressure...fact of the matter is that the Americans and Europeans...do not give a hoot about the rights of the Iranian people...what (they) want is regime change so that a subservient and weak regime takes over in Tehran..."

### B- The Zimbabwean Case

Olley Maruma from the sister newspaper of Southern Times once wrote that "when Zimbabwe's land reform programme and black empowerment policies was at its

apogee...the Anglo-Saxon world immediately became apoplectic, invariably taking the side of the former white landowners. To hoodwink its readers and viewers back home, the western media tried to portray the standoff...as a righteous crusade to restore good governance, human rights and the rule of law to Zimbabwe. In 2000, Zimbabwe's election process was monitored by some 302 international observers, the largest contingency came from the European Union (EU), with 190...while that of SADC had 29... Britain and The USA were deliberately excluded because they were...clearly in favor of an MDC victory since engineering its formation the previous year... In numerous statements issued long before the election, they had already decided that the election would not be free and fair, in an attempt to cast a shadow on the legitimacy of the elections in case they were won by ZANU-PF... It was glaring obvious that the western observers report was following a script already pre-written before the elections by their sponsors back home... So Namibians, watch out when you vote this November" concluded Maruma with a warning.

## II-CALCULATED STRATEGIES TO DELIGITIMISE ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA?

Maruma wrote again that "...as the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein observed, the most important issue in philosophy in a post Marxist world is the meaning of words. When we say some-

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## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

### MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE



The Honourable Minister, Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and the entire staff of the Ministry of Justice would like to extend their deepest sympathy and thoughtful condolences to the bereaved family and relatives of the late Ode Hendrik Witbooi who passed away on 13 October 2009,

We mourn the passing of one of Namibia's most illustrious and brave sons who remained steadfast in his commitment to Namibia's independence, nationhood and social development .His belief in the righteousness of the cause made him persevere until the very end.

*May his soul rest in eternal peace.*



## NUNW

### Message of Condolences

Message of Condolence to the Bereaved Family, the /Howesen Clan, The Namibian Workers and the entire Namibian Nation on the home going of our late Comrade, Dr. Reverend Hendrik Witbooi.

On behalf of the Central Executive Committee (CEC), the entire Leadership of NUNW and its Affiliate Unions, we wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of Captain Hendrik Witbooi for the loss of their dearest Father, Husband, Grandfather and friend.

Comrade Captain Hendrik Witbooi immensely contributed to the liberation struggle of this country through his tireless and selfless efforts as an outstanding leader of the dehumanized Namibian people. We as workers mourn the home going of our Comrade and friend. His contribution to the development of our country is immeasurable, we as the workers have lost a true pioneer, a great son and an outstanding National Leader. We pray that his loved ones and all of us as Namibian Workers will be strengthened by the Grace of God during this time of bereavement. We are a proud heir of his exemplary leadership and humanity!

*May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace*



## KALAHARI HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD



### MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

It is with profound sadness that we learned about the passing on of the Late Dr. Reverend Hendrik Witbooi at the Roman Catholic Hospital on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009. We knew him as a multitasking revolutionary and a special person who was endowed with attributes of greatness and unshakable commitment to serve his compatriots as a national leader, teacher, musician, father, traditional leader and an astute politician. He was a fearless freedom fighter who personified the fire of resistance in the south of our country particularly in Gibeon which became known as the "SWAPONEST", He served his community, his country and his one and only political party SWAPO honourably and with un-



wavering patriotism.

He served as Acting Vice President of SWAPO inside the country. After independence he served as Minister of Labour and eventually the First Deputy Prime Minister. SWAPO Party has lost an icon, Namibia has lost a great son and leader. The family has lost a father, brother, and grandfather. The Board. Management and employees of Kalahari Holdings (Pty) Limited extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

*May the Soul of the Late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi Rest in Eternal Peace!*