

REGIME

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one is a thug, (or a cheat) what do we mean? Is thuggish behavior (or cheat) the sole monopoly of former liberation and left-wing movements? What about the aimless and political loafers who will do any party's bidding for a few bucks? When we say someone is a dictator or a despot, what do we mean? Why is it that the western media and its toady parrots in Africa are only able to identify despots and dictators only in Africa (and the liberation movement

or left-wing movement)...?" asked Maruma. Likewise, one wonders why in some papers there is a total blackout on the stories depicting the improprieties of some people in this country and a gauntlet thrown at those perceived to be the "Nujoma loyalists" or "Omusati clique"? Why do we label others as "Nyembas from Angola" while we don't talk about "the Ompanda Village" in southern Angola where some people's family hail from? Why do we call others 'cold-war-pawns' and 'CIA agents' and do not talk about those who defected from the former eastern countries in plain cold war? Should we then

conclude that they were 'cold-war-spy agents'? Is it a matter of a defense mechanism of projecting our image onto others?

Dr A Lewis from UNISA wrote an interesting article on the issue of perception. Humans make judgments about others and attribute meaning based on observed behavior (Cushman et al. 1992:32; Finchilescu 1992:210; Baron & Byrne 2000:49). Humans develop projection and selective perceptions as shortcuts, referred to as heuristics, when perceiving. The former, occurs when the perceivers' own characteristics, traits, emotions and dispositions are attributed to those

of other people. This implies that people's perception of others is influenced more by what the observer is like, than by what the person being observed is like (Robbins 1991:133). The latter, takes place when people selectively interpret what they perceive based on their own interest, background, experience and attitudes (Griffin & Moorhead 1986:77). This implies a failing to take the whole picture into account when drawing inferences which leads to unwarranted conclusions (Robbins 1991:132). It is, thus, my contention that the perceptions created of portraying the ruling party as a 'cheat' coupled

with the projection of calling others as 'cold-war-pawn' should be viewed in the context of projecting our own ghost onto others including "rigging, conspiring, cheating and conniving" with Namprint as Hidipo's and Kanime's own baby. The former created it and the latter viewed it as an "expert in the field of printing ballot papers".

The recent saga about the ballot tender's aim was "to discredit the electoral process ... with the ultimate goal to undermine the legitimacy of the outcome of elections in November and thereby render the results unacceptable" the New Era's editorial observed.

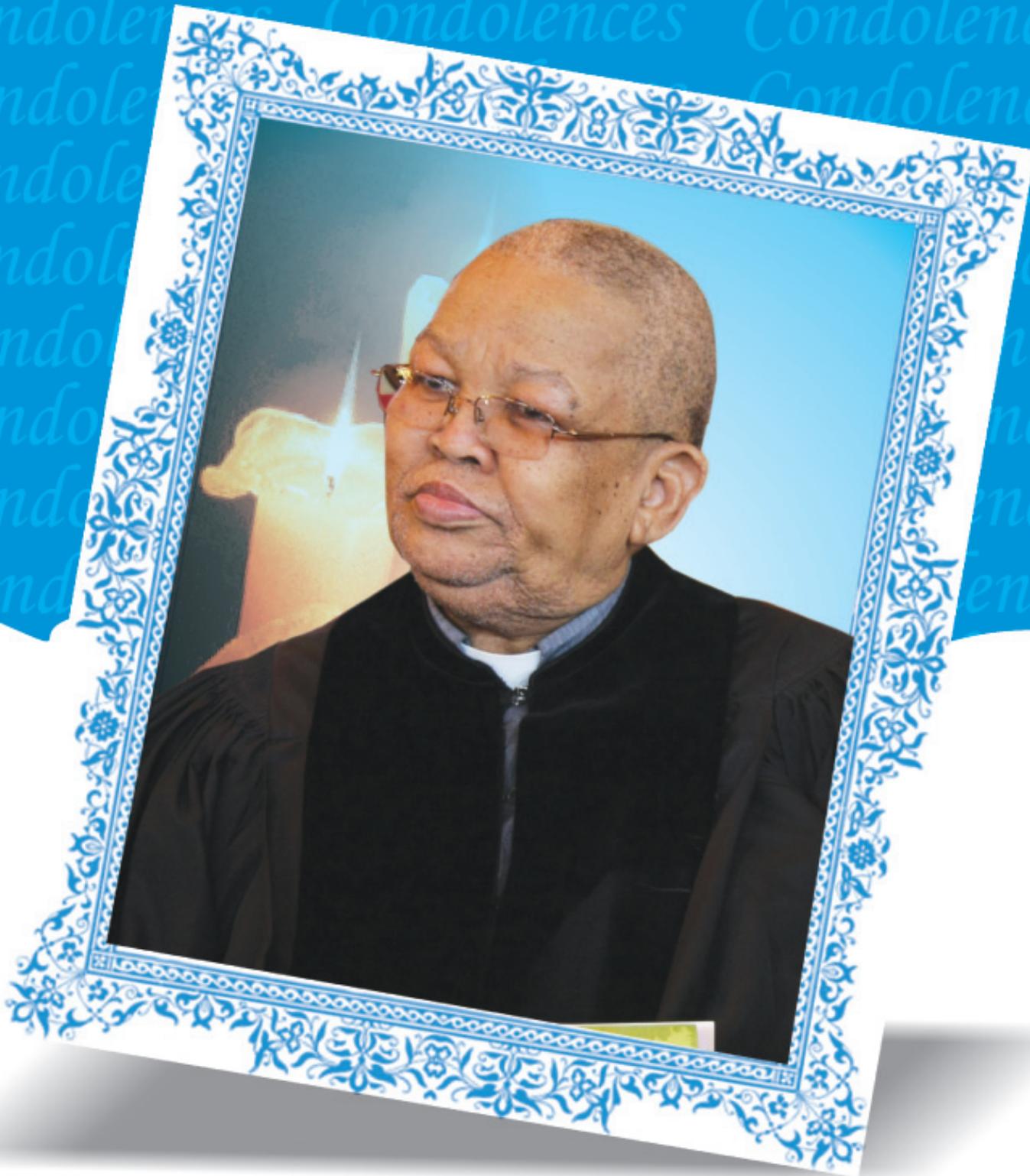
"(The opposition and their backer's game plan)... is to sow doubt, suspicion and mistrust in the minds of Namibians and the world about the conduct and outcome of the electoral process... with a strategy that has been borrowed from the script of MDC in Zimbabwe... The Aminuis envelope debacle and the way the saga has played itself out is no isolated incident..." "The political induced controversy over the ballot tender is no sideshow (either) but a part of a larger political jigsaw puzzle whose tentacles stretch far beyond the immediate..." concluded the New Era's editorial. To me, these are "trigger-happy-critics gone ballistic" with a verbal tirade of a calibrated phraseology shooting holes at SWAPO as an object of target and an exotic destination to vent their anger in an image destroying-sloganeering meant to pollute the air with intimidation and suspicion.

III- CONCLUSION

Mr. Eleanor Lemmer of UNISA wrote about the globalisation debate and made some interesting observations. A crude version of the complex debate surrounding globalisation, would involve the globalists who regard globalisation as a dramatic new interrogation of established paradigms, and the skeptics who dismiss its significance (Held & McGrew 2000:2). A variety of positions on the skeptic-globalist continuum occur and this, together with insights emanating from different disciplinary strands, adds to the richness of the debate. The main areas of discussion can be seen in terms of geopolitical reconfigurations in terms of world power and mass communication. Globalisation is no entrenched given as is often touted in lay circles. True, recent decades have seen the growth of entrenched patterns of worldwide interconnectedness, which have enmeshed states in networks of interaction; hence an embedding of local, regional and national orders in expansive sets of networks of power but the process is not universal and is experienced unevenly.

The ruling party SWAPO vowed to uphold, inter alia, the principle of democracy, national unity, and good governance and ensure participation in international conflict prevention and resolution as well as bilateral cooperation, South-South cooperation, non-alignment and regional integration. President Pohamba stated at the beginning of this year that "we are proud that Namibia has consistently held peaceful democratic elections since independence, where voters exercise their preference freely. This is the source of strength for our democracy. It is also a measure by which the international community gauges our commitment to constitutional and democratic governance." My position on the globalisation debate is based on the Pan-African movement as conceptualised in the ideology of Pan-Africanism as an African people's movement of those at home and in the Diaspora. Let true legitimacy come from the people. Namibia does not need any regime change doctrine but consolidation of democracy and progress.

Condolences



The board of directors, management and staff of Financial Investment Services share their sense of loss and condolences with the Witbooi family, the Swapo Party and the whole Namibian nation with the passing of one of Namibia's most gallant sons.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers are always with you, but we will comfort ourselves with the knowledge that he fought a good fight, he finished his race, and kept his faith.

Rest in peace

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