

Remembering History to build the future

By Paul T. Shipale



Cde. Paul T. Shipale

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, On the occasion of the 30th jubilee summit of SADC in Windhoek, said "Looking back today we know that our victories and successes have been the result of our collective unity and solidarity, the purposeful unity that remains one of the principles, values and ethics at the heart of SADC which became a timeless fitting response to the pressure of brutal military attack to which the frontline States were subjected by the apartheid regime resulting in considerable measures of economic destabilization... these were by and large years of real threat and challenges..Many of our citizens lost their lives... To their

credit the leaders of the frontline states refused to be cowed into giving up to the brutalities of apartheid. They remain resolute and unwavering in their determination to bring about the complete liberation of Southern Africa, bravely maintaining their support and solidarity with the liberation move-

ments who were then fighting for their independence and majority rule in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. We owe a debt of gratitude to the founding fathers of the frontline states and pay special tributes to the late presidents Agostino Neto of Angola, Sir Sere se khama of Botswana, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, and the former presidents Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Dr. Sam Nujoma of Namibia and the icon of South Africa Nelson Mandela as well as Oliver Tambo of the ANC for a successful decolonization process" concluded the firebrand Zimbabwean President.

Robert Nesta Marley once asked "how long shall they kill our prophets, while we stand beside and look?" I for once, as



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe. Photo by Levi Upula.

a product of Omusati, Oshikoto and Ohangwena regions trained in a socialist Cuba, then a capitalist France and a Pan-Africanist west-indies ideologies was born for such a time as this and will not stand by and look while there are those who are busy sowing seeds of division, ridiculing those who made sacrifices for this country and want us to be apologetic for our hard won independence. Indeed, there are too many Africans apologetically slandering and besmirching our leaders, and have dedicated themselves to bootlicking, praise singing, and pedestrian alliances. They are convenient tools used to advance Eurocentric-afro-pessimists agendas under the guise that they would sound more credible because of their African heritage. They are playing the race card while also seeing and recognizing a person through their tribes and not the common humanity that transcends all barriers in all of us.

The case in point is an article which appeared in the Windhoek Observer of Saturday June 26, 2010 titled "is Omusati clique real or imagined" in which the author hinted at some questionable "findings" which he must have stumbled upon in the course of writing his *soit disant* "research" and one such "finding" implied that he "can safely say that Omusati-clique exists". The question is; his point is?

A fitting response to this

tory as we shape our destiny. History, the present and future are all intractably bonded..." continued Haindongo who also said "(we have not heard anything new from them) apart from regurgitating and insultingly labeling anyone that they dislike as 'Omusati clique'. If that is their vision for Namibia, then it is not relevant to modern politics, but obsolete because the days of Bantustans and tribalism are long buried under solid concrete. A vision based on derogatory terminology cannot develop Namibia, but divide it... every successful nation is built by the energy and sweat of its people..." concluded Haindongo.

The author of the imagined "Omusati clique" article does not historicize the moral, societal, and cultural values that constitute African identities. His ethnographic notions of ethnic groups are problematic and ignore the sedimentations of exchanges, adaptations, inventions, and changes that the ethnic groups in question, whether seen positively or negatively, have undergone. If we dispense with the epistemic tribalization of Africa, we are left with the notions of Africa as geography and as history, Africa as a spatiotemporal construct, at once a process, product and a project of a complex and contradictory historical geography. The concept of historical geography, sitting at the intersection of two disciplines, allows us to combine the spatial and temporal interests of geography and history, to understand that the physical environment and human agency are mutually constitutive, that people's creativity and thought produce places as much as places produce people's cultures and identities, in short, that landscapes are not only important aspects of culture, they are products of historical processes.

Spaces as experiential sites are socially produced and they produce the social, for all social phenomena, identities, activities and relations have a spatial form and a relative spatial location. Space, then, is an active, constitutive force of the social's very composition and construction. Space and spatiality are complex and articulated material, cultural, symbolic, and discursive formations that structure and are simultaneously structured by historical change and through these nations are built as we are busy building ours. But we must be careful how we build and which materials we are using, whether gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, because each one's work will be tested and revealed by fire and if the work endures, he

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LOCAL TENDER BOARD

FOR THE CITY OF WINDHOEK



Tender Invitation

Tender No: TRA 128/2010

Title: RESEALING OF STREETS IN WINDHOEK – PHASE 1
Description: The contract comprises the Reseal of Streets by treatment of existing defects followed by either a Cape Seal or Asphalt Overlay with modified binders
Closing Date: Friday, 17 September 2010 at 11h00
Tender Briefing: (Compulsory) **Friday 3rd September 2010 at 11h00** in the Committee Room, Customer Care Centre, Rev. Michael Scott Street, Windhoek
Tender Documents: Available as from Tuesday 31st August 2010 at 09H00 at the Customer Care Centre, Rev. Michael Scott Street, Windhoek.
Levy: N\$ 230.00 (Non-refundable)
Enquiries Technical: Mr Francois Gouws (Aurecon) Tel 061 297 7000 - Fax: 061 297 7007
 City of Windhoek: Mr. D Reed, Tel: +264 61 290 2333

Tender No: M 75/2010

Title: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RIPPLE CONTROL RECEIVERS FOR THE CITY OF WINDHOEK
Description: The Electricity Department of the City of Windhoek wish to procure ripple control receiver for demand load Management
Closing Date: Friday, 17 September 2010 at 11h00
Tender Documents: Available at the Customer Care Centre, Rev. Michael Scott Street, Windhoek.
Levy: N\$ 250.00 (Non-refundable)
Enquiries Technical: Ms. Tuhupa Zajtjirua - Tel: +264-(0)61-290 2337

Tender No: M 87/2010

Description: RENDERING OF PROFESSIONAL HORTICULTURAL AND TURF TERRAIN MAINTENANCE SERVICE AT (EXCLUDING BUILDINGS), FOR THE SAM NUJOMA STADIUM (ONE GRASS FIELD AND ONE ARTIFICIAL FIELD), KHOMASDAL SPORTS GROUNDS (THREE GRASS FIELDS), AND JOHN YA OTTO NANKUDHU SOCCER FIELD (ONE GRASS FIELD) OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK. (FIVE YEARLY TENDER), SMES, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TENDER
Closing Date: Friday, 17 September 2010 at 11h00
Site Inspection: Compulsory Site Meeting will be held on 10th September 2010, 10h00 at the Parks Division office, David Hosea Meroro Road (Hochland Road), Windhoek
Tender Documents: Available as from Friday 27 September 2010 at 14h00 at the Customer Care Centre, Rev. Michael Scott Street, Windhoek.
Levy: N\$ 150.00 (Non-refundable)
Enquiries Technical: Mr. Mr. JPSK Tjitjo Tel: +264 61 2903543 /2903540

Tender No: M 91/2010

Description: PRINTING & MAILING PROCESSING & MAILING OF MONTHLY MUNICIPAL SERVICES STATEMENTS AND THE DELIVERY OF THE ALOE NEWS LETTERS
Closing Date: Friday, 17 September 2010 at 11h00
Tender Documents: Available as from Friday 27 September 2010 at 14h00 at the Customer Care Centre, Rev. Michael Scott Street, Windhoek
Levy: N\$ 100.00 (Non-refundable)
Enquiries Technical: Ms. Ursula Mutjavikua - Tel: +264-(0)61-290 2244

Enquiries Procurement: Ms A.N Shinavene –Tel: +264-(0) 61-290 2614/2270
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