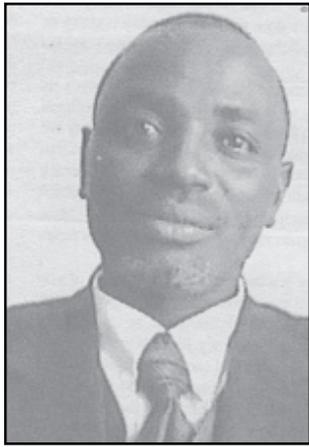


'RENTED-MOUTH' VERSUS A DEVIL'S ADVOCATE-CAT'S PAW

Dear Editor, I am usually not the type to respond to cat-paws' provocations to amuse the crowd and passing bandwagons because "j'ai des autres chats à fouteur" but allow me a right of response to set the record straight to the twisted piece opined by a one Ndunga in the Windhoek Observer's edition of April 24, 2010, which rather reads like a personal attack under the guise of a question or concern using the newspaper as his/her launching pedestal. The said letter has reference indeed.

On the onset, let me inform the readers that I have it on good grounds that it is not the first time that a member of a certain non-governmental organization which acts as 'a rented mouth and propaganda tool' to carry



Paul T. Shipale

out personal vendettas under the guise of unverified 'hypotheses', conspiracy theories and all sort of drummed up fabricated stories to justify their existence while targeting the Government and the ruling party to secure funds for some obscure fishing

expeditions on fact-finding missions, depleting the coffers from donor agencies, while purporting to be neutral, objective and autonomous, wanted to find out "if the writings under the name and picture of Shipale, were indeed mine or am I being used by a 'third force', namely the editor of Namibia Today, Asser Ntinda and others."

Last year, I elaborated on the faux pas of a propaganda war with plans concocted to exert control of the SWAPO party's structures following the 'Nyamu notes' with plots to discredit those known as 'Nujoma loyalists' by placating them as illiterate buffoons and corrupt. The propagandist developed the blatant hypoc-

risly excoriating their critics with discussion-stopping slogans and hurling insults in an image-destroying sloganeering in tandem with derogatory and vilifying articles with a calibrated phraseology, with the sole mission subversively designed to provoke people into acts of retaliation and verbal counter-attacks.

Let me assure the author(s) that unlike them who are busy instilling a culture of fear, I don't hide behind pseudonyms because this is the only country I know, the land of my ancestors. Why would I hide behind scum letters? As far as I know, we live in one of the best constitutional democracies in Africa.

In his theory of discourse, Michel Foucault (1926-1984)

introduces us to the concept of discourse and defines it as the way in which society speaks, writes and thinks about particular subjects, aimed at the retention or acquisition of power, at a given point in history, in our political speeches and the media. The outburst with an arrogant sense of entitlement by the anonymous writer and his/her handlers in a propaganda war, who wish that we first report to them for a clearance certificate to be able to articulate our views in the public arena, should be viewed from that angle. Having just emerged from a stunning defeat from which they had to lick their wounds like injured buffalos, they are now frantically trying to cobble together a sort of a come back strategy by regrouping the troupes while hiding behind pseudonyms and scum letters used as ploys and public relations stunts.

Was it not some network with falsely touted media analysts, columnists and experts using complicated manner of speech to sound academic and convincing which wanted to plant in our minds the regime change doctrine while censoring the state media? Why complaining about us writing in the State media?

New Era's editorial of January 15, 2010, wrote about a propaganda war looking back in retrospect at last year's general elections which had an 'unusually high dose of toxic (silent and hidden) calculated use of propaganda albeit in a subtle form... that has put Namibia on the verge of a crisis of sorts' said the editorial. 'Conversely, a propaganda campaign would aim at winning the hearts and minds of citizens. Presently though, those peddling the propaganda campaign are aiming more at incitement and arousing anger among citizens than anything else. And in this battle to stir emotions... truth is the first casualty' emphasized the editorial. 'Consider, a leading member of the information highway who castigates voters for exercising their right and insinuates that they are "un-thinking"... there is more to this than simple rumbling by a journalist whose mind is clouded by her personal choice of politics and in the process, objective analysis and reasoning are lost to deadly and brutal propaganda', concluded the editorial.

The author asked which SWAPO I am referring to and went on to quote the right honorable Prime Minister Nahas Angula. Ironically, on the same page where his/her letter was printed, Oom Kosie Pretorius of MAG also quoted the PM who stated that "in SWAPO ideology, there was no tribe or colour and people were elected on merit for what they do. That is not SWAPO tradition, not at

all. These things are just coming and that is what going to destroy SWAPO from within" said the PM, probably referring to the 'non-Oshiwambo president' utterances, if one reads from what Mr. Pretorius wrote, made in the Windhoek Observer to corroborate the earlier version made by the editor Kuvvee Kanguuehi in 2009 when he talked about "northerners' tribal rotation at the presidency". It is evidently clear that the author misquoted the PM and is flying under his wings to score cheap political points albeit under the guise of an anonymous letter to throw some low punches at me as their soft target for jibes disguised as a question.

The late Olley Maruma, journalist at Southern Times, used to say, 'the media in Southern Africa has not managed to cleanse itself of the old values of apartheid and shake off its legacy of racism and cynicism. The holdovers of apartheid have decided that the best way to keep it alive is to resort to the duplicitous methods of the past where the militant critics of racism and its mutated forms are treated as enemies, while its fifth columnists and bootlickers are sold as the doyens of the truth and that anyone who defends those they vilify is a dunce and an enemy of freedom'. Little did I know that what I considered to be one of the progressive Newspapers in the country that claims to 'set the nation's agenda' will be used to advance certain duplicitous agendas.

Ironically, as we approach May month, my first opinion piece in the New Era's newspaper was in May 2008, under the heading 'let's build'. I wrote the article after a revelation I received in 1997 in which I saw the then minister of education Nahas Angula in the middle of two camps or groups on top of a building without a roof. On his right hand were President Nujoma followed by the then ex PM Hague Geingob, the then minister of foreign affairs Theo-Ben Gurirab and many others followed by a sea of people waving SWAPO party's flags. On the left side of the then minister of education and current PM, was a marching platoon of soldiers with the then minister of trade commonly known as HH, and now President of RDP, saluting at the marching soldiers. I did not understand what was going on and asked the then minister of education what the dream meant. He told me, in the same vision, to let go of the dichotomy and concentrate on building the unfinished house without a roof. I now realize, with the benefit of hindsight, that the unfinished building symbolized this country and

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Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

APPLICATION FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE BURSARIES FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

The Division of Agricultural Training in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is inviting applications to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine. This bursary is in particular for the award of three (3) Veterinary bursaries to students who are **CURRENTLY** enrolled for the 2010 academic year within the SADC Region.

APPLICANTS SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

CONDITIONS

- * Applicants should write a **motivating letter** with a complete Curriculum Vitae (CV) and should be accompanied by the following **certified** documents;
 - > Proof of copies of either Namibian ID, birth certificate or passport;
 - > **STRICTLY** proof of enrolment/registration for 2010 academic year.
 - > Results of the first semester, if available, or any proof of academic progress up date would be an added advantage.
 - > **ANY APPLICANT WHO INTENDS TO COMMENCE STUDY IN THE 2011 ACADEMIC WILL THEREFORE NOT BE CONSIDERED**
- * Females and physically challenged persons are highly encouraged to apply.
- * **ONLY SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES SHALL BE DULY INFORMED BY THE END OF MAY 2010.**

Closing Date for Submissions: MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010.

- * No late submissions shall be accepted under any circumstances.
- * No faxed copies shall be accepted.

SUBMISSION CAN BE EITHER

Posted to:

Ministry of Agricultural, Water and Forestry
Department of Agriculture
Directorate of Agricultural Research and Training
Division of Agricultural Training
Private Bag 13184
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA

Or delivered by hand at:

Government Office Park, Luther Street
Division of Agricultural Training
Ground Floor, Rooms 029/031
Eros
WINDHOEK

NB: SENDING BY NORMAL MAIL MAY DELAY YOUR APPLICATION TO ARRIVE AT TIME, THEREFORE, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO RATHER COURIER THEIR APPLICATIONS

Enquiries:

Clemens Khaiseb
Tel: +264 61 208 7004
E-mail: khaisebp@mawf.gov.na

Ms. J. F. N. Andowa
Tel: +264 61 208 7002
E-mail: andowaj@mawf.gov.na