Probing questions about the implications of the “Shaana case”

By Dr. T. Elijah Ngurare with inputs from the Columnist Paul T. Shipale

A retired journalist once observed that “the news media are money-making businesses... and are biased towards conflict because conflict draws readers and viewer attention.” In my opinion, the same can be said of the media in Namibia. They have become more and more of a value-added conflict tool that sets an agenda on selected topics as necessary conflict. The media generally sets the agenda of the day and echoes immediately by the editorial of The Namibian newspaper and the kind to be dealt with by same media. The media generally sets an agenda on selected topics as necessary conflict. The media generally sets an agenda on selected topics as necessary conflict.

The Minister of Justice and a public newspaper was asking the Minister’s action of dismissing Judge Nthomeng Majara’s order to apply her mind to the matter thereby satisfying herself that the relevant provisions of the Act have been complied with before she formally redact the document to the Minister of Defence versus Mwandingi’s case of 1992 (2) and such judgments have also been respected and adhered to by State organs.

Our constitution allows the aggrieved party to seek redress by appeal according to Articles 25 and 18. The Minister may appeal to set aside the judgment or not to act but instead, the application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal has been refused and the Minister herein was not acting irrationally nor there but has become more of a value-added conflict tool that sets an agenda on selected topics as necessary conflict.

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