

## Opinion/Letters

## Reclaiming the values and institutions of African heritage

By Paul T. Shipale

The elections are over and the headlines are screaming "SWAPO swept the elections and ran over the opposition". Indeed, the biggest losers in these elections were none other than the RDP who was hoping to make inroads and dent the SWAPO's support base. RDP performed dismally in Caprivi region, Hardap and Karas regions in the south, in Erongo and could not garner enough support in Kunene, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa despite being arrogant towards other opposition parties with their 'big brother and bullying mentality', presumably based on their past performance in the in last's years Presidential and National elections.

Even in the Khomas Region where they managed to capture the Windhoek East Constituency by a small margin. Besides, that constituency traditionally belonged to the opposition parties such as RP, MAG

COD and DTA and SWAPO Party is still running the show in the Capital City with most constituencies under its wing. RDP as the official opposition party that portrayed itself as the main contender to SWAPO Party, was totally rejected by voters in Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Kavango Regions, the SWAPO Party stronghold, which makes one wonders as to what happened to the talks of 'a major seismic change and scores of people flocking to RDP' etc?

Thus, the biggest losers were the RDP and they only have themselves to blame for their confusing messages. After that heavy blow and all the good looking talks on paper with 'strategic alliances' with the RP and talks of having won last year's Elections are nothing but bluffs. It is clear that the National and Presidential elections were not rigged as claimed by RDP because these elections are clear testimony and a vin-



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dication of what transpired last year. Now back to my topic.

Frantz Fanon, the French Caribbean Algerian revolutionary of African descent stated, 'Each generation must out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it'. When fourteen years ago, I was introduced to the Pan-Africanist ideology by a Friend from the west-indies or Caribbean island of Saint-Lucia, Mr. Glen, little did I know that the time will come when I will be invited to be a rapporteur at a Pan-Afri-

can gathering or workshop in Windhoek.

The theme of the workshop is better highlighted by the fact that I found a letter whose content was basically a request or call to present a paper at that workshop under the theme; *Sustaining the new wave of Pan-africanism*. What I found interesting in the missive is a paper by Professor Kwesi Kwaa Prah titled; *Keeping our eyes on the ball (2)* in a form of a letter addressed to Major General (Rtd) Williams, who is gracing this occasion with his presence and serves as one of this workshop's convenors.

In such a letter, the author articulates his thoughts which, according to him, *have meandered and coursed through his mind in the wake of the meet-*

*ing planned to elaborate and identify a platform for ideas which could eventually feed into the 8<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Congress*. The author then went on to propose a more smaller, more focused and plumbing meeting where *in-depth knowledge over a defined and specified area is deliberately favored...* The author also went on to caution against the *catchword and slogan of "black power" and the ideology of racial holism* and suggested that such a phraseology is now irrelevant in the African context to apply the slogans of 1966 by the likes of Willie Ricks and Stokely Carmichael a.k.a Kwame Touré.

Equally perplexing to the author was the frequent race's talk as if racism was unique and exclusive to the

black-white context. The author then explained that Racism was directed by Hitler against European Jewry and against the Roma people (Gypsies) and Slavs. Pakistanis and Indians in Britain, Arabs in France, Turks in Germany, Moroccans in the Netherlands, Spanish settlers and Amerindians in South America, Indians and Aborigines in Australia, Native Americans, Mexicans and Hispanics in the USA all face racism on a daily basis. Racist attitude have existed between Chinese and Malays, Indians and Chinese in South Asia. The Japanese (Wajin) have for ages despised the Okinawans and Ainu of Hokkaido and even the Burakumin or the Dalits in India and the central Asians in Russia, the Blacks in Africa systematically traded as slaves by the Arabs, or the slaves of the

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## Regional counsellors must deliver- loyalty and service delivery

By Cde Salomo Mekondjo Nambinga

I authored this formulation in a jovial mood, for our party has yet won overwhelmingly in the just ended regional and local government elections. This is a clear testimony that the nation highly trusts and believes in the Swapo party for a better and a bright future. However, it is one thing for our leaders to be voted into power but a different thing altogether to fulfil the will, wishes and aspirations of the electorate.

As a SPYL member, I feel called upon by the situation to offer my humble advices to the recently elected comrades specifically to the regional counsellors. It must be clearly understood that they are directly connected to the ordinary people at the grassroots level who are in the majority. Hence, when they fail to deliver, it will be interpreted as the whole failure of the Swapo led Government.

Therefore, as they assume their offices, they must know that the electorate needs their wishes to be fulfilled. Nothing more and nothing less! The tendency of some regional counsellors being only seen around when they are campaigning to be voted for and disappear just to reappear during the next election campaigns to seek power must cease forthwith.

It is high time that we measure the loyalty of our members based on the service delivery,



Salomo Mekondjo Nambinga

specifically how effectively they are implementing the programmes as outlined in the 2009 Swapo party election manifesto. A loyal member would tirelessly work hard to implement the programme of the party that will eventually address the plight of all members of his/her constituency irrespective of their party affiliations.

By so doing, people will continue to put their trust in the party and win more members. We must learn from the past events that there is no best barometer to measure loyalty than judging them based on service delivery. This is because we have seen former comrades claiming to be loyal than every body just to see them on the other side heavily criticising the very party that they once claimed to be loyal to dearly. I am well aware that the concept loyalty to one's party means a lot than this.

Similarly, it is time to hold the comrades accountable

when they fail to deliver as expected. I would like to make it categorically clear that I have no personal vendetta against any regional counsellor, but I would want the will of the party and electorate done. I would like to commend our senior leaders, for having given a clear warning to would be swapo regional counsellors during the election campaigns that they are expected to deliver once elected, otherwise will be recalled.

While I don't wish any swapo regional counsellors to be recalled, they must prove themselves otherwise. They must go out to their people in their constituencies listen to their pains, joys and give them hope when they despair. They must know that they have been elected to be servants of their people and not just honourables who sometimes turn themselves into bosses of their own people. They must engage and address the plight of the youth in their respective constituencies respectively.

The issue of rural development is overdue and must be addressed urgently. It is also my sincere wish that regional counsellors from the opposition parties will be patriotic enough and implement the programmes in the swapo party manifesto without failure. Once again, we need to remember ourselves that ordinary people need their standard of living improved. Remember, they are in majority and give us power to lead them without failure and betrayal.

Aristotle once said "In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because there are more of them and the will of the majority is supreme". In a comradely spirit, I urge you not to betray the electorate. Viva Swapo!

## SWAPO S.G on Cuban Five

29 November 2010

H.E Mr. Eric Holder

U.S. Attorney-General

Washington D.C

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Your Excellency,

RELEASE OF THE CUBAN FIVE

On the 12 September 1998 five Cuban men, namely Fernando Gonzales Liort, Gernardo Hernande Nordelo, René González Sehweret, Antonio Guerrero Rodrigues and Ramón Labañino Salazar, now famously known as the Cuban five, were arrested by FBI agents for observing monitoring and reporting on the terrorist activities aimed at the independent and sovereign state of Cuba.

The only "crime" was to report on the plans of a terrorist network, based in Miami Florida, which for over 40 years has coordinated terrorist attack on Cuba. The single aim of the Cuban five was to save innocent lives in Cuba and in the United States. Anti-Cuban terrorism has caused the death of almost 350 Cuban over the years.

I recently led a delegation to the Republic of Cuba, where I met amongst others, Mrs. Magaly Liort, Mother of Fernando Gonzales Liort. Mrs. Liort spoke about her emotional suffering due to the imprisonment of her son and the other Cubans. We further remember fondly the visit of 3 of the family members of the Cuban five to Namibia and the moving accounts of pain and suffer-



Cde Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana

ing arising from the separation of the loved ones has inflicted upon them. We were moved by their resolve to continue the struggle for the release of all the five. The National Assembly of Namibia on July 2008 unanimously adopted a motion calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the Cuban Five.

Your Excellency, we join the rest of the world and call upon you today, to unconditionally release the five Cuban Heroes in order for them to be reunited with their families.

Accept, Your Excellency, assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, MP  
Secretary-General

