**Opinion/Letters**

Viva Namibia at 20
Viva SWAPO at 50

By CJ Kaeverna (Otjiwarongo)

First and foremost, let me extend my revolutionary greetings and salutation to my fellow Namibians and at the same time pay tribute to the fallen Heroes and Heroines of our struggle for Independence, for their blood waters nourish our freedom. Namibia, Motherland, rejoice for you will never be colonised again.

Despite critics of all sort and political propaganda used by those reactionaries 20 years ago and more so tried by all means to intoxicate the minds of our people, it was characterised by beatings, harassments, imprisonment, starvation, killings of our people, military conscription, torture to mention but a few. Every facet of our life i.e. Residenza (the forced removal of our people from old location to Katutura), Employment, Education, Public amenities and Politics was regulated and controlled to keep us in a strictly subordinate role, whilst the so-called white supremacy was matured and maintained as the order of the day. I am referring to a dark past where my generation was forced to participate in the bitter struggle and the aim was eventually manifest itself.

Yes, Namibians waged a long and bitter struggle and the aim was nothing else but Freedom from the chains of colonialism. Key to this revolutionary engagement of the racist South African forces was the mighty SWAPO through the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN).

Congratulations to Namibia at 20 and Happy Birthday SWAPO at 50. Oh yes, 20 years ago we attained our hard won independence. This year we are proudly celebrating 20 years of self governance, 20 years of self determination, 20 years of peace, stability and economic property. It is therefore incumbent upon us to safe guard and nurture our democracy and by so doing keeping the torch of freedom alight.

May the visionary, able leadership of our government steer us towards the realisation of vision 2030.

International Press Freedom Day

Namibia joins the rest of the world in commemorating World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2010. This year’s theme, “Access to information: the right to know” could not have been chosen at a better time, especially when the world is optimally benefiting from the exchange of information and news, both at the local and in the global arena. News and information is travelling at high speed nowadays, reaching even remote corners of the world – all because the world’s citizens are exercising their right to know.

Press freedom in Namibia is vibrant and the country regularly features among the top five positions on the African continent. This is indicative of the conducive environment created by the Government to allow media practitioners to do their work without fear or favour.

The Namibian Government appreciates the watchdog role of the media. At the same time, we call on the media to live up to the expected high ethical media standards to promote credibility and respect. On this special day dedicated to the media, we salute our media practitioners for their tireless efforts in bringing the nation information and news. We also salute those practitioners who have made the ultimate sacrifice in their pursuance of news.

Long live media practitioners! Long live press freedom! Long live the Republic of Namibia!