

Comments

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there perceptions such as what Cde Tsabang indicates, but in the whole I don't think there is a policy in this country which encourages tribalism. Having said that, it is further... See Moremy view that there is nothing wrong for one to speak and proudly exercise one's culture and tradition. What is wrong, in my opinion, is only when I use my tribal affiliation negatively: i.e. employing and providing opportunities to only members of my tribe etc. As far as I know, both in the ruling party and the government (at all levels) there is no official policy to that effect, but some individuals are the ones who do it. In this case, the blame must go to individuals and not the whole country or ruling party.

◆ **Tsabang Telukhunoana**

4 sure tribalism wont b institutionalised but @ sum point it causes problems,sum anc members felt dat it was becoming xhosa dominated nd although sum pple wont agree with me,tribalism within anc caused da post-polokwane havoc,but @ least my leader u r addressing issues not supressing dem,why not conduct a study on dis issue dr ngurare?

◆ **Annelien Nonnoz Van Wyk**

My Cde, it's my opinion that the Country, GRN and SWAPO party consist of those individuals that are tribalistic and as a result of those individual behaviours, tribalism exists in the Country, GRN and SWAPO party.

◆ **Titus Endjala**

I agree that: very few individuals show tendencies but not systematic; governing systems NO NO.

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

That is an interesting take Cde Annelien. The hardest part is then what to do about it?

This reminds of something. I recall back in 2003 Cde Eveline Nawases and I had a meeting with some elders from the Nama community in Tseiblaagte. At the centre of that meeting was the view that Namas were being discriminated by other tribes from the north

from actively participating in party structures. We suggested in that meeting that as per the SWAPO constitution discrimination on the basis of race or tribe was wrong. We encouraged them to ensure that cadres from the Nama community should actively be encouraged to participate in the party structures. As you will be aware, I have just returned from Grunau last week. While there, I learnt that there is a warning given to SWAPO that if the candidate for the Keetmanshoop Rural in the upcoming elections is the incumbent Cde Hilma Nikanor and not a Nama, the Namas will allegedly not vote for SWAPO. I suppose there are also other parts of the country where they would rather vote only for a person from their tribes and in the end there would thus an expectation that in State House too must be a member of their tribe. This being so, how do we balance tribalism with nationalism and or can they co-exist successfully?

◆ **Annelien Nonnoz Van Wyk**

Cde, I am of the opinion that they already co-existing, however not successfully and that is what we must ensure. I also believe that tribalism is based on beliefs and our task is to attempt to change those beliefs, question is how?

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Thanks for the post @Nankali. You have a point Cde Tsabang, I think it is best to debate this issue openly and for a study to be openly done or conducted. What I see amongst us Africans, we are too afraid to face each other and discuss matters of common interest. Imagine a Conference on Tribalism in Africa being convened, for example? I see more openness amongst young people than older ones on this matter. I hope that is a sign for a brighter and realistic tomorrow on issues of tribe and race.

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

I agree Cde Annelien "our task is to attempt to change those beliefs" as to how, the rationale for starting the National Youth Service, as I remember discussions on it back in 1998-9 was to ensure that young people are molded into nationalists and patriots. Perhaps we must strive to ensure that national ser-

vice for young people must include doing ... See Morecommunity work in areas beyond one's constituency or village. If I am from Katjinakatji I should be assigned to spend a month or so in Bethanie and the youth from Bethanie goes to Katjinakatji etc. You and Cde Mandela are our bosses at NYS.-)hope you will push that agenda...lol

◆ **Tsabang Telukhunoana**

how i wish i lived in namibia,i enjoy our engagements a lot my comrades

◆ **Alex Anguuo**

The issue of Keetmanshoop is long overdue, we have dedicated n loyal cde's from the nama community who can serve us better.people who can go indeep of Amilema/Tseiblaagte n talk 2 their people..the likes of Annelien, Mr Ashipala, Mr Cloete, sori 2 mention names here..

◆ **Etuna Josua**

I know there are perceptions of tribalism, as to whether there is factual justification for such perceptions is different question altogether, few people that cry foul of tribalism are prepared to provide hard facts so that if it exists, it be tackled. Others simply cry 'tribalism' since they are tribalists themselves (believing that others do things from a tribalist point of view), others do it to try to attract sympathy when things don't go their way (RDP is a case in point !) hoping to attract sympathy. Remember, tribalism is one those things which... it is easy to allege, but those who allege it, never provide facts to prove it, to an unquestioning mind allegations are equated with facts and that is how perceptions of tribalism are created. When it gets at that point, it becomes difficult to disprove tribalism, since, it has not really been proven in the first place, thus one would not know what facts to address in disproving tribalism.

◆ **Ijama Jona Katembo**

Yes, there is serious trbalism in Namibia and it's hampering progress big time!

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

@Cde Tsabang..just relocate to

Keetmanshoop lol.!@ Cde Alex thanks for the post...Annelien for Councillor sounds appealing..lol but does it not stand to reason that your premise was to put cadres from the Nama community there: does Mr Ashipala not fall under the category of non-Nama and by extension what about children of mixed marriages do they qualify to be classified as Namas or other tribes?

Comrade Etuna, a very interesting post and makes a lot of sense "easy to allege tribalism but difficult to prove". And "others simply cry tribalism since they are tribalists themselves (believing that others do things from a tribalist point of view), others do it to try to attract sympathy when things don't go their way." This does seem to support the view that there is tribalism and which is primarily orchestrated by individuals but who also happen to occupy public offices. I have often listened when as politicians speak especially those in Government, they put up a public show of One Namibia One Nation, yet when you go to their office their entire staff (from cleaner to PA) all are one tribe, is this not an example of tribalism?

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Mpandu Ijama, watengura nare asi..? There being tribalism, what then should we do in order to prevent it from "hampering progress"?

◆ **Ijama Jona Katembo**

Yes Cde, i needed to see you but time was too short. What should we do is a million question. Maybe in each and every ministry, NGO, parastatal, etc there shall be a proportion of each tribe represented...especially the diplomatic post..these post are mainly occupied by certain tribes and its not fair to the other tribes that are not represented...we need more Kavangos and those from the San community represented on diplomatic post not only three tribes...i know you know what i mean Cde!

◆ **Jovitha Mumbala**

Yes, kind of, but not on my ruling party.....

◆ **Margaret Mensah-Williams**

Tribalism is rife in Namibia amongst ourselves, we first look

at who say something before we LISTEN to what the PERSON say and when something happen we link it to tribes, if someone steal we hear the following; "dit was moet vambo's..." it must have been Ovambo's..poor Ovambo's. Now I like whar Dr Geingob said in one CC meeting, "if people have ... See Morepositions we say the ovambo speaking people are having the majority of positions now the reverse is also true, the Ovambo speaking people are the majority tribe in Namibia so even in prison they are the majority because they are more in number in the entire country so those who complain should remember it make sense for them to occupy more positions because they are more in number" Therefore coming from a minority party but also remembering where we come from,,let's kick this ugly inferior and divide and rule evil which the apartheid regime rooted so deep in us with a size 14 foot in the bud. We are all Namibians and should compete on equal footing, I do not stand back for anyone even if I originate from a minority tribe because I have equal rights as enshrined in the Namibian and SWAPO Party constitutions and if anyone discriminate against me based on my sex or tribe I tell the person where to take a hike to. This country is free and if you feel you are oppressed by any person you should speak up. There are tribalkist who will never change but they are individuals from different tribes and we should expose them Some believe there is a Omusati clique and apparently I am part of it...though I am from the South and that status is accorded to me based on my principles, I believe,,I don't care because I am a Namibian who see no colour or tribe because I am mixed with 5 different blood lines and my daughter with 6 blood lines and my husband with 3 blood lines so how canl ever belong to a specific tribe Those who argue on tribe lines hide behind it to cover up for their weaknesses, I will vie for any position in the party or in the government if I qualify for it and I believe I have something which can add value in that specific institution without fear for anybody because I am a Namibian and a loyal and dedicated citizen and cadre and no one will stop or intimidate me to feel less because this country and SWAPO Party belong to ALL of us who are

members...VIVA ALL NAMIBIANS, I SALUTE YOU LET US LEARN TO BE INCLUSIVE!!!!!!!Do unto others what you want others to do unto you and if there are tribalist hiding in either government or our mighty SWAPO PARTY let's name and shame them.

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Comrade Mensah-Williams has SPOKEN and the MESSAGE is LOUD and CLEAR, let us hear what others have to contribute to the discussion on tribalism.

◆ **Etuna Josua**

People, we must look at the content of one's character, not at the language or supposed language that one speaks at home. And for those that allege tribalism to obtain sympathy, know that your actions only strengthen those that do not want to see Africans united. That said, the lines of tribe are slowly but surely becoming blurred and disappearing. There has been so much consanguinal mixing that few people can say with any respectable degree of certainty that they belong to one or other tribe. On the other hand, where one feels aggrieved by alleged tribalism, it is better to show some spine and speak out freely and provide whatever evidence you have, so that this menace of tribalism or perceptions thereof can be tackled head-on, and genuine cases (if any) can be distinguished from non-genuine ones.

◆ **Lydia Aiping**

Amen to that, Cde Mensah-Williams; that's honourable of you~standing up for PRINCIPLES! I share the views expressed by Annelien van Wyk and the above articulated by Cde Mensah-William. To deny that tribalism exist in the country and that it's practised in various structures of our society is to fool ourselves, so as racism! However, I will argue ... See Morethat it's minimally practised, hence, since some people didn't experience it, they will deny its existence. Nevertheless, I concur with those who attempted to provide the way forward and I will argue that we should intensify nationalism views the way we did about democracy. Like Ijama alluded to; this process requires a lot of hard work and

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When you look at this picture, do you see
A) a sack?
B) a product of Namibia?
C) a reasonable basis for economic growth?

If you answered A or B, you got it right. If you answered C, you think the way we do. Without sacks, bags and other packaging material, large parts of the economy will grind to a halt. Which is why the Development Bank of Namibia financed the expansion of Quality Bag Manufacturers in Ondangwa. And why we have financed a number of companies in the field of packaging, and projects and infrastructure in the field of transport.

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