

Comments

from page 3

to speak more than 4 or 5 Namibian languages (which must be compulsory at school level), all of us must be encouraged to attend national cultural events of other communities (and not just attend the Otjiserandu, because I am Otjherero, etc), and these must be promoted as Namibian events, instead of a Damara, or Herero event. Ask me, I always have to explain why I look like a Coloured, but can speak Otjherero and greet in most Namibian languages. I thought that we are Namibians.

◆ **Mutambo Timotheus**
I believe that we are first Namibians before we are anything else, our being Namibian should and must supercede our tribal affiliations. Tribal affiliations or groupings should play no role in a free and democratic Namibia. That's what the white men used to divide our country and should have no place in Namibia. The consciousness of tribe has led to more harm than good in Africa. Comrade, if we are to promote patriotism and loyalty we should encourage our people to be Namibian and nothing else. At every juncture the ugly snake of tribalism sticks out its head. I have just watched NBC news and the people demonstrating at the Karas governor's court appearance also used tribalism, which is quite unfortunate. My conclusion Comrade Secretary is that we must be Namibian and then African, protecting and defending the heritage and legacy of our forefathers irrespective of the tribes they belonged, but based on their contributions to Namibia and Africa.

◆ **Justin Chusaru**
Firstly national tribes should be united for it to be called a nation, a nation itself is built up of these tribes so tribal unity is more important to achieve an animal called a nation. Otherwise we end up talking about tribalism as a hindrance to achieve national unity. So people within a nation have to be united first and we then cross the borders to join those nations which would have achieved national unity amongst themselves so in the end we then talk of a united Africa. Dr the disunity which we have witnessed within Africa, particularly in East, West and Central Africa was caused by this lack of unity amongst the tribes of which those tribes can be found in other nations surrounding so if the intersection within a nation fails we tend to say to achieve a united Africa people within countries must unite by themselves. WHAT A QUESTION DOC NOW I READ OTHER COMMENTS.

◆ **Ndumba J. Kamwanyah**
y@Mutambo, I hear you, but here is the deal, being Namibian does should not necessary mean homogeneity and nor should it mean identity without tribal identity. In fact being Namibian should mean the opposite, being proud, honoring, and celebrating our diversity. What colonialism did was dividing us but also making ethnicity a negative thing. Being a muHerero or a Mufwe is not in conflict with being a Namibian, but they complement each other. Let's face it, ours is a multi-cultural society, which is a strength in itself. As

Norman put it, it becomes a problem when as individuals we confined ourselves within the boundaries of our ethnic groups instead of getting out of our own comfort to learn, appreciate and enjoy other ethnic groups. I say 'pambili' with multi-cultural nation/state, and down with nation/state that disregard the importance of cultural diversity! I think that is what the framers of our constitution meant with "unity in diversity", although we tend not to give serious thought about this.

◆ **Ijaman Jona Katembo**
It's so nice and great to hear my beloved country man and women discuss the thorny issue that has been and hampering progress in our communities. Please people lets not just talk but practice what we are talking...lets not discriminate our fellow country man..women on the basis of tribal...ethnicity, political opinion, way of life etc....I salute to your opinion!

◆ **Margaret Mensah-Williams**
I enjoyed reading all valuable opinions and great views, my question is "what does those in the engine room(govt) do to steer the process of One Namibia, One Nation" We should never loose touch with our cultural and traditional background, but this in itself should not make us to view only our own tribal group is the most important people, we should appreciate the diversity we have coming from different tribal backgrounds, but we should respect one another's tribe and not make fun out of some or feel such and such a tribal group does not have the right to exist or belong, we all belong to Namibia and are Namibians just as we belong to our mother continent Africa and are African's, that is why the Founding President introduce the singing of the AU anthem together with our National Anthem to incalcate the pride into all of us to be proudly Namibian but equally proudly African, just as we come from different tribes in Namibia so are we coming from different countries on the African continent but it should proudly make us African's irrespective from which country we come, though we should be proud of which country we hail from. Having said that in my intro I asked what is the engine(govt) doing to build on the foundation the Father of the Namibian Nation laid, I agree education is the key to our patriotic future so let us come up on FB with a practical plan to propose to our Govt the way ahead. In this case I request our youth to come up with your innovative ideas, I know you will not disappoint.....once again let us learn to respect one another as a people first and the rest will follow.

◆ **Annelien Nonnoz Van Wyk**
My personal opinion is that tribal unity is not the same as national unity in Namibia or Africa? Our being wambos, kavangos, hereros, damaras, namas, caprivians, basters, coloureds, twanas, afrikaners, germans or english in Namibia is indeed more important than being Namibians and our being Namibians is more relevant than being Africans and in order to achieve national unity and make all tribes feel to belong we have to understand the difference and accept that difference as our own. In

also of the opinion that the "engine room" have a lot of different policies in place that steer the process of One Namibia, One Nation, but most of us are not aware of these policies or frameworks that exist, so in order to understand the term One Namibia, One Nation, we have to acquaint ourselves with the relevant available information.

◆ **Milton Louw**
I start by addressing the words of Albert Einstein, "He who cherishes the values of culture cannot fail to be a pacifist." I must first address mistakes that I have made in my feeble attempts at contributing to the nationhood of our beloved land during the past twenty odd years. I have thought it unimportant where my family comes from, what their cultures and beliefs were, and often thought these were to be considered and ultimately rejected as part of their living in a past dominated by the racial classification given by the system of Apartheid. Who I am is not dictated by our external environment, but rather by the internal. As humans we tend to blame our culture, society, government, employers and even our own families for things that goes wrong, but rarely give them credit for "our" achievements.

We have thrown the baby out with the bathwater. This is the only explanation of the total lack of information based on cultural affiliations in our census in Namibia. Unfortunately, this attitude of "let's pretend it is not there" does not make it so. Even in South Africa, where the Apartheid system was the most formalised, they have recognised the need to keep the information and knowledge of all cultural groups as part of the "rainbow nation". Discrimination because of race colour or culture is a thing of the past and is replaced by recognition and acceptance of our differences. We have also outlawed discrimination on the basis of gender, yet still need this categorisation to measure the needed changes that must take place in our country for gender equality. In the same way it is important to note that when a previously marginalised group, such as the San people, have qualified teachers from within their own tribe and culture (Republikein - 14 April 2009).

The lack of recognition of certain groups can have detrimental affects on our country. Look at what has happened to some of our pre-Independence orphans who returned from East Germany. More recently we have seen the SWAPO veterans and orphans also wishing to be recognised as a distinct group with specific needs. In the near future we will see a new group forming of AIDS orphans who have grown up differently with specific disadvantages that need to be addressed to allow them to fully pluck the fruits of our freedom. What culture shall all these groups inherit? There is a national culture Namibia. Thus we can refer to our language as Namlish with its peculiarities and pronunciations. We are known by our friends and foes on the sport fields as the Brave warriors and the Biltongboere.

In business we refer to the marketing process. It starts with an analysis of the present and then moves to develop a strategy. In marketing it is recognised that to provide the best product for the customer you need to segment the market. Tools such as the Living Standards Measurement are used to focus our marketing efforts. A typical LSM would include age, gender, race or

cultural group and income. (Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) household surveys have become an important tool in measuring and understanding poverty in developing countries.) The people of Namibia are the customer. To serve our people better we must recognise our difference not only in gender or language but also in race. The census in Namibia must measure the race and culture embraced by each resident in future.

The tertiary education institutes in Namibia must then participate in research focussing on cultural, racial, gender, urban-rural economic and livelihood inequalities in Namibia. This ongoing research must continue to ask what the relationship is between the growth and spatial distribution of the public and private economic sectors. It must also encompass the formal and informal economy, the nature of poverty, the character-

istics of poor areas, and socio-economic empowerment.

Lastly, we must learn to say "We are Namibian (Wambos, Hereros, Coloureds, etc.) proud to be working to a better future for our family, tribe and country!"

◆ **Milton Louw**
PS: Perhaps we should have a Ministry/Directorate of Integration?

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**
I am thoroughly educated by your comments and opinions, thank you very much Ralph, Norman, Mutambo, Justin, Ndumba, Ijaman, Annelien, the Honourable, Milton, Job, Eras, Shakes, Imms, Cuana and Sylvester. There is a practical suggestion made by Cde Mensah-Williams, I should be interested to hear your views on it...:-) One Namibia One Nation: let us live it and let us breath it for the sake of Namibia and its future! Norman, you are right,

in that "to eradicate tribalism is to promote nationhood"

◆ **Margaret Mensah-Williams**
Why don't all you guys become writers you are so unique and rich in knowledge. Further you should make your rich knowledge accessible to our children and youth in resource centre's, libraries and educational institutions. The next step is for our youth to utilize this powerful knowledge and start to have public debate's around it at school, university, college level as well as on radio, tv etc. This will teach them so much more of real life and what creates a inclusive society which will be the strong foundation for them to build on and have real life experience. You have it go for it, I know some of you have written some insightful literature but on these issues it should be for Namibians written by Namibians.

NATO chopper crashes, two soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, — Two soldiers of the NATO-led forces lost their lives as a helicopter crashed in south Afghanistan on Thursday, a press release of the alliance said.

However, it did not mention the exact place and the cause of the crash, saying in-

vestigation is underway.

Meantime, a Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi in talks with media via cellular phone claimed of responsibility, stressing six foreign soldiers were killed in the incident. He also said that Taliban shot down the heli-

copter by a rocket propelled grenade in Helmand province.

On the other hand, Daud Ahmadi the spokesman for Helmand's provincial administration in south Afghanistan told Xinhua that the chopper crashed outside Helmand's provincial capital Lashkar Gah at around 03:00 p.m. local time. He did not comment on casualties. (Xinhua)

SWAPO PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

THE POSITION:

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

DUTY STATION:

SWAPO PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WINDHOEK

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- DIPLOMA IN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION
- GRADE 12 CERTIFICATE
- FLUENCY IN WRITTEN AND SPOKEN ENGLISH
- ABILITY TO DRAFT LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS
- SWAPO PARTY MEMBERSHIP CARD OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS
- EXPERIENCE IN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE AN ADDED ADVANTAGE

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS SHOULD FORWARD THEIR APPLICATIONS WITH CVS AND CERTIFIED COPIES OF QUALIFICATIONS TO SWAPO PARTY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, ATTENTION COMRADE FRANCE KAUDINGE

CLOSING DATE: 26 JULY 2010

ENQUIRES:

COMRADE HAMUNYERA HAMBYUKA AT 061-238 364
COMRADE FRANCE KAUDINGE AT 061-238 364