

Comments

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Party and its leaders everyday and at times for no good reasons...

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Cde Tsabang those are good questions towards which all our countrieshould be daily striving for...

◆ **Hailwa Kauna**

Viva camarad Ngurare viva...viva SWAPO Party viva....those tht dnt lyk it, thy should swallow the blade. SWAPO will lead 4evr and ever...We salute th peaceful country SWAPO and its leader's have made.

◆ **Naftal Saka Ngalangi**

Cde you are doing a lot for the land of the brave. Some people really need to be called to order. They abuse freedom of speech which they cannot define.

◆ **Hailwa Kauna**

Its true Naftal,I think we must luck it up again and amend this freedom of speech that is being misused by ths ppl. No respect even 4 there old man Tatekulu Shafiishuna mani. How can they want 2 compete with him,uh...

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Thanks Cde Kauna and Cde Ngalangi, ur absolutely correct that we havefreedom of speech, press and expression in our country but some people abuse it deliberately...(-) One Namibia One Nation!

◆ **Hobie Clark**

Ngurare>It could of course be because the opposition-parties is more orless totally quiet between elections so no-one knows whether they are still around or not! And be fair now, Ngurare, wasn't it last week that the Namibian had a column cry...it sizing the opposition-parties for only showing up every 5th year or so come election-time...? So there IS criticism, though maybe not as much as you would want it :-). But, to my understanding, if "you" are a member of a party in Namibia you are more or less expected to say "yes and amen" to whatever the party-bosses comes up with and to me, that isn't right, since it stops free flow of ideas and in the end makes them un-democratic and free of progress. None mentioned and none forgotten. :-)

◆ **Tsabang Telukhunoana**

@Hobie:I know exactly what u mind the main priority of our political parties is to rule, if dey lose elections den dey wont play any constructive developmental role,all dey'l do is criticise,if da govt says the sky is blu,dey'l say its purple, its a pity, neh? Etuna Josua People in glass houses should not throw stones. You cannot insult SWAPO cadres and expect not equal response. Paulus Alumbungu Dr Ngurare, for SWAPO what does tolerance means? Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare Thanks for the question my brother Paulus. For SWAPO tolerance means peacefully co-existing with those who hold contrary views to ours and for that we have the Policy of National Reconciliation for the past 20 years. In this period no critic of SWAPO has been imprisoned or bombed like it happens in some other countries. This demonstrates

our level of tolerance and respect for freedoms of the press, speech and expression. Hope I have tried to answer your question.

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Thanks Cde Kauna and for your good contribution from which lam learning a lot too...(-)

◆ **Paulus Alumbungu**

Peaceful co-existence, u are right Dr, but last year incidences that happened during election campaign speak the contrary. Oppositions, are they political competitors or enemies of the nation ?

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

My brother Paulus, I hope you are not implying that SWAPO went out on a campaign against opposition RDP? Besides there is also a need to address the question of RDP provocation in last year campaign b4 we can discuss the perceptions of enemies etc. Peaceful coexistence has served us well for the past 20 years and in the future.

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Another suggestion I could make generally is that citizens should have the freedom to directly write letters or emails to politicians on pertinent issues of national interest. It does not help to just become addicted to complains day in and day out without giving alternative suggestions.

◆ **Hailwa Kauna**

Yes Dr,you are right. the platform is there....I mean freedom of speech that is being misused by ths ppl, rather used ths 2 suggest the right things that we ar'nt doing right.

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Exactly Cde Kauna, well put.

◆ **Titus Endjala**

I think sometimes we scoop so low to interpret insultand the abuse of the freedom of speech. I now wonder if we have a common understanding of who is our leaders at different levels. Anyway, I am referring to elected leaders here&and st...rictly not company CEOs with SWAPO card membership. I do not accept insult for any leader, BUT our leaders and the government must accept, on top of the black Volvos and the title Honorablethe fact that they are subject to greater criticism (and even insult) than ordinary private individuals. If they cannot stand this challenge, they must be recalled or relieve themselves of responsibilities. I am shocked by some relatively new and old "thin-skinnedand egomaniacs activists, currently on censorship campaign on FB to cause divisions. I don't think there's anything objectionable about this campaign that allegedly stemmed from some intolerant people on FB that need not to be associated with. This is sad and campaign managers must be warned that; with the policy of (national) reconciliation, if the tough gets going, we might be forced to ask when did they arrive to become so comfortable to do what they so please. These are people very often change colours, unpredictable and may as well qualify as hibernators. We must be honest and come clean on who was insulted and when, ditto to individuals we are trying to cover and protect from public scrutiny. Corrupt and incompetent leaders including

CEOs must not be tolerated, retained, recycled (back to Parliament) and seek immunity where it does not apply. Criticism must not be confused with defamation. Let us encourage debate and criticism to see things from different angles. Opinions may only be censored in the most extreme circumstances and not on the grounds that they are "untrue". Let us all preach 1 Namibia- 1 nation .A country that is too divided cannot stand, and equally true, a country that is too together would be communist. Gone are days when a Comrade is never wrong!! I rest my case!

Public scrutiny of elected officials is a tenet of democracy and no one is above criticism not even ourselves on FB who are criticizing others. During the 2004 Extra Ordinary Congress of the SWAPO Party, for example, went as far as stating ...that they wanted Founding President to die so that they could urinate on his grave. This was a letter to the editor and published by a newspaper under the guise of "freedom of the press and freedom of expression". If this same words were uttered to a USA President it would have been a Federal offence and stiff penalty would have been given to the writer and the newspaper: but it did not happen in Namibia. The point to be made thus is that there are limits to our freedoms and it is so in every democracy. Equally, it needs to be said that there are so many good things happening in Namibia since 1990, it will help in criticisms that we acknowledge the good and where we see the bad we propose how to improve such. In the final analysis, even comrades are human beings, I have never heard of anyone in SWAPO saying they are never wrong. If SWAPO or its leaders are wrong let us criticize but so too if things are good we ought to give praise. If opposition parties or their leaders are wrong let us criticize so too if they are doing some good we can give praise. Further my view is that Namibians should not live in the veil of fear. Public scrutiny requires that a single citizen can and should hold an elected leader accountable for something seen as going amiss in a specific ministry, constituency or even region for that matter. Even for our local authority leaders we don't take them to task directly but instead we are addicted to blaming everything on SWAPO and that is simply not fair. A preacher who goes against the sixth commandment is blamed for his/her transgression we never blame God for that....lol

◆ **Ipeinge Mundjulu**

Dr, Cde; Ngurare, Mr. Hobie and Mr. Muchali, I like your liberal way of debating (liberal in my own terms thou) although conservative can be correlated to an individual opinion. You are really setting an example of to us as a Nation, and... giving us a good example that, if one has a different opinions, it does not translate them into imperialist (if i may put it that way). Thanks. I give extra credit to cde Ngurare for devoting your much need time to us ordinaly citizen. I hope our parliamentarians can debate in such an approach. I

tend to listen to those who have different opinions, and construct new ideas from them if it requires so.

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Mundjulu>It's all about how you/we view the "other guy". If we just see people as enemies and "no-gooders" then you'll have a very badrelationship with them. If we see them as human beings then we can/should be able to look past our differ...ences and have a good, constructive debate. Namibia is too small (population-wise) to view everyone as potential enemies; we need to work together to make the country better. Like, Ngurare and I think different in most ways but that shouldn't stop us from first having a heated debate about issues and then after the debate having a drink (non-alcoholic ofcourse so we set a good example for young(er) people!;-)) and a laugh together.

◆ **Ipeinge Mundjulu**

Hobie, well said, nothing but the reality:-)

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Thanks for those comments Cde Mundjulu and much appreciated. As a human being, I am aware of my imperfections. But I also know that I can learn from others regardless of their status in society etc.

◆ **Ipeinge Mundjulu**

That is why I feel that it is healthy to ...debate issues with people who may not necessarily share my political or religious outlook and learn from them. Mr. Muchali Sr., I like the perspective you have on peace and reconciliation on the Caprivi issue. As I understand it, the government has already extended a hand to all who feel the need to return to do so in that spirit. As you would recall, I did indicate that this is a sensitive and emotive issue on both side, however, in my view, if there are people on both side who are willing to give peace and reconciliation a chance, that surely must be in the interest of Namibia and its people. I will engage some elders to learn more and revert back to you. Hobie, yes I am back in action lol (i like the comment about having a non-alcoholic drink...that is all I drink and may be share a cup of oshikundu with you in Katutura...)

◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

Comrade Mundjulu, while I may not openly agree with all the things you said, I want you to be rest assured of my respect for you. Freedom of expression is exactly what you, Muchali Sr, Hobie and others are doing here on face book. No politician can control the conscience of the thinking public. Someone once said "education makes people easy to govern but difficult to enslave": whatever we are speaking as politicians if it is not in the interest of our people and country we deserve to be challenged. That is what I think...(-)

◆ **Ipeinge Mundjulu**

A quote from JFK, "it not what your country can do for you but whatyou can do for your country" Surely the secessionist forgot about that during their barbaric but that's past now. Way forward, we have a human right body in Namibian, to w...hat extend have they dealt with the issue, such as rehabilitating the culprits, community consultations toward a truth

and reconciliation mechanisms? I guess Muyongo had seniors within his separatist group, we want to hear an out cry for amnesty by those people of wanting to come forward, toward the implementation of TRC, surely there will be consequences. Only then us the Namibian people "Il ask the government do something. I think there is peace and Government is continuing to making sure that it prevail in the whole Namibia. For now, let's not hold the government accountable for reconciliation, the human right body, TRCs should facilitate the process. In my view..I may not have all the detail and facts:-

◆ **Hobie Clark**

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Medvedev won't compete with Putin in 2012 presidential election



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev (L) meets with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin at the presidential residence Gorki outside Moscow January 14, 2010.

MOSCOW, — Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Monday he would not compete with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in the 2012 presidential elections. "I don't want to see a power struggle. It would be bad for Russia," Medvedev was quoted by RIA Novosti news agency as saying. He said he did not know who would run for the elections. "It might be Medvedev. It might be Putin and

it might be someone else," he said, adding that whoever wins should be devoted to promoting Russia's stable development as both he and Putin had done. "The country must have an opportunity to develop stably. The country must live under a predictable scenario," Medvedev said. Putin has not made his decision either but he has said that, before 2012, he and Medvedev

will reach an agreement on the issue. As Putin's hand-picked successor, Medvedev was inaugurated in May 2008 as the then president Putin's hand-picked successor. Putin became the prime minister one day later. In a poll last week, 27 percent of the 1,600 participants said they would vote for Putin and 20 percent said they preferred Medvedev, the Levada polling center said Monday. (Xinhua)

Iran has defensive plans to face any attack: defense chief

TEHRAN, — Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi said Tuesday that Iran has prepared defensive plans to face any threats by the enemies and to make them regret attacking Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen said Sunday the United

States has a plan in place to attack Iran, if it is necessary. "Military actions have been on the table and remain on the table" for curbing Iran's nuclear ambition, Mullen, the highest ranking U.S. military officer, told NBC's "Meet the Press".

Talking to reporters, Vahidi referred to Mullen's claims and

said drawing up an attack plan on an independent country and threatening them is flagrant violation of the UN Charter, the report said.

"Such statements not only associate with fascist literature and contradict their (Americans') peace-seeking claims, but also indicate their failure against the Iranian nation's strong will," local satellite Press TV reported. (Xinhua)