

What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

◆ **Posted by Cde. Elia**
Ipinge, having people from else where to come do research in our own motherland is just ridiculous!

◆ **Posted by Ipinge, Ongwediva**

Colonial times was tough. We seem to be forgetting as the time pass by. Very little is written out of a rich history. Hitherto much only circulating and disseminated orally with a bit in literature. Well, we praise those who had access to education for having recorded what they could. Many interesting experiences are still untold, even our leaders would be fascinated by the still unheard stories. Where is our researchers, historians, poets, novelist, singers, scriptwriters, academicians, reporters and others? Why our literature not reflecting post war thinking. I would praise political and church leaders for playing their role to tell history as is. Why should we have people from outside to study about us and tell us their discoveries in us?

We should interview our people in rural areas, plan fighters (we heard a bit from commanders but not much from low ranks still), about their war experiences and record it. Our young and future generation seems to fail to understand the rationale about why do we believe in SWAPO!

◆ **Posted by Kenny Absalom**

SWAPO Party, always victorious! Come November we will show them once again.

◆ **Posted by shilongoh-shafiishuna**

Their precious blood waters our freedom. It was the morning of 26 Aug that our garrant sons and daughters met the satanic and colonialists SA apartheid forces barrel to barrel, hence the lightening of the touch for our struggle toward independence..... This day gave us a chance to reflect on the past for us to march into the future, with the understanding that not only is it im-

perative to know what the past has done for us but as well what we can draw from the past to match it through the future. May the ALMIGHTY GOD be with this beautiful nation of ours forever. May HE be with all our leaders and all peace loving Namibians... Struggle for economic emancipation hence continue through SWAPO party.

◆ **Posted by cde Kanamutenya, Windhoek**

Please I salute you all comrades who perished for the noble cause of our country for us to enjoy the freedom and independence, I therefore urge all Patriotic Namibian to honor heroes day and more special for the young ones to study hard and continue were our forefathers left, I'm inspired by the words of Comrades Robert Mugabe the president of Zimbabwe, we African should unite and stand on our own to build this beautiful continent of ours! Their Blood Waters Our Freedom, VIVA 26 August!

View Point

By Nancy Nyamhunga

Education: Biggest sanctions buster

SOMETIMES we spend too much of our time dwelling on negatives, weaknesses and setbacks to such an extent that we fail to notice, let alone take time to celebrate our achievements.

The importance of celebrating our successes and victories is that it boosts our morale, motivates us and inspires those around us to do the same.

Success is a sign that our hard work is paying off and we are making progress.

As Zimbabweans, we have been too critical on our national leaders without appreciating how some of their policies have changed our lives and, by extension, saved our country from becoming another statistic — one of several “independent” developing countries that only serve western puppet governments.

Just recently, the United Nations had to remind us that Zimbabwe had the highest literacy rate in Africa — at a time when the country is under an illegal economic embargo from western countries.

None of us had taken notice. We were busy complaining about what was wrong.

It is not only this official acknowledgement by the world that should excite us, but the fact that the huge investment in education by the first independent Zimbabwean Government has already started to bear fruit, as can be evidenced by the fierce resistance put up by liberated Zimbabwean souls to defend the economic independence of their country.

All known formulae that have been used elsewhere by imperialists to force a change in government in developing countries have so far failed to work in Zimbabwe, leaving a wearied, frustrated “donor” community asking the question: “Why is it that despite all conditions favourable to mass uprising existing in Zimbabwe, Zimbabweans have not taken to the streets to make the country ungovernable?”

This frustration is understandable.

The regime change machinery had invested heavily in propaganda, taking along with it some of our young and finest journalists, our brightest lawyers to defend their cause, our trade unionists to dismantle the workers’ rights, our business gurus to sabotage our economy; but still failed to win the hearts and minds of the Zimbabwean people.

Poisonous propaganda was and is still being spread; through NGOs, churches, student organisations, etc.

Luckily, the timely intervention of wise Zimbabwean and Southern African leaders led by the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, managed to contain what would have otherwise been an untenable situation.

As part of the “soft power” strategy, economic sanctions were imposed on Zimbabwe with the aim of converting the middle working class anger triggered by the resultant loss of jobs, to political power which would then force them to go on mass demonstrations and make the country ungovernable.

The failed “winter of discontent”, “final push” and other strategies were supposed to be a result of these synchronised actions and events.

But the problem the strategists encountered is that they did not know, or chose to ignore, the fact that Zimbabwe is unique and its citizenry is a rare African breed blessed with an immense spirit of resilience and innovativeness. Zimbabweans believe that if one door closes, a better one will open somewhere.

The first black Government in independent Zimbabwe empowered its citizenry through education.

A record number of schools and teachers’ colleges were established across the country in the first decade of independence, and most people proceeded to higher education or went into gainful employment.

So when this middle class was exposed to the threat of joblessness, they simply migrated to other countries where their skills were sought, rather than engage in regime change uprising as expected by the west and its agents back home

As part of Zimbabwean culture (ubuntu, hunhu), we look after our extended family members.

So the remittances (in foreign currency) that were sent home to cushion our families and relatives against the harsh economic environment became critical in sustaining the national economy, thereby rendering sanctions less effective. A well executed “coup” against sanctions, if you ask me!

Even those who stayed at home knew there was nothing to be gained by staging a mass uprising because the majority can read and write and therefore able to critique some of the propaganda spewed by these agents.

For instance, Zimbabweans across the political divide agree that land reform is necessary although they debate about how it should be done.

A significant number of Zimbabweans have gone into farming and are already beginning to appreciate the meaning of land reform as they begin to reap the financial rewards.

Some were forced to become entrepreneurs when companies colluded with foreign governments to shut down and make the “economy scream”. They have since awoken to the fact that ownership of the means of production is where real wealth lies.

The recently introduced Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act is complementing a revolution that was already happening.

Economic independence safeguards national security.

The artificial food shortages experienced in Zimbabwe in recent years were part of a well coordinated economic sabotage that was orchestrated by people who did not feel connected to the native people and therefore could not share the pain that came with it.

Their stay in western countries gave them the opportunity to scrutinise how these western systems treat Africans and other ethnic minorities (in terms of human rights and equal opportunities).

For example, diasporans make comparisons between the US system designed to condemn black men to prisons rather than to college. They, therefore, question that country’s sincerity towards human rights in Zimbabwe.

Likewise, the UK can no longer claim a moral obligation on human rights for those Zimbabweans in Zimbabwe, when its immigration holding centres are notorious for illtreating Zimbabweans in their care by labelling them “failed asylum seekers”, a derogatory term that automatically criminalises them.

This hypocrisy caused many Zimbabweans to distrust the western politicians and many Zimbabweans chose to quietly pursue their careers than try to effect regime change at home.

This was a victory for Zimbabwe because the propaganda machinery, having unleashed its weapons of mass deception to portray the western world as holier than thou, failed to alter the minds of the Diasporas.

A significant number of Zimbabweans in professional employment abroad have also been investing in different projects back home.

Even the misguided talk of military intervention in Zimbabwe that was once mulled by the New Labour government would have faced fierce resistance on its doorstep, for Zimbabweans across the political divide close ranks on that issue.

Ideologically, most Zimbabwean Diasporans are what Professor Jonathan Moyo called “Zanu-PF at heart”, except that most are not aware of, or choose to run away from, that fact for convenience’s sake.

Many Zimbabweans are shining in various sectors in the Diaspora, with some holding senior managerial posts in blue chip companies, are senior lecturers in decent universities, or are lawyers running their own practices.

The UK and US health sectors are also filled with Zimbabweans. You walk into a ward and find at least a Zimbabwean nurse in there.

The only Zimbabweans one is likely to come across here in the UK not in training or gainful employment are those who are restricted by immigration laws or other natural factors.

Such is the indisputable success story of Zimbabwe’s educational policy.

Perhaps one could argue that despite that education and their personal career successes, Diaspora Zimbabweans have not done enough for the national agenda, for example in calling for the removal of sanctions.

One could blame the education system which presented the world from a western (or Caucasian) point of view, rather than from an African point of view.

It is well known in the Diaspora that most black people who are afforded senior decision making roles go on to become instruments of oppression against their own people on behalf of the establishments they serve.

Despite the setbacks, Zimbabwe has encountered in pursuit of economic independence, in the very near future we will be celebrating the success story of the land reform policy and Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act which will undoubtedly bring real change and social justice and will lead to permanent good race relations within our community.

”By the time a man realises that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he’s wrong.” — Charles Wadsworth.

Nancy Nyamhunga writes from Leicester, United Kingdom. She writes in her personal capacity and this article is reproduced from www.talkzimbabwe.com