

Politics and Church through the eyes of Dr. Abisai Shejavali

By P.Haindongo

Is Dr. Shejavali preaching the word of God or political theology? Dr. Shejavali has been overhead agonising at funerals whenever people turn up in SWAPO colours. I thought colours are objects and do not offend anybody, unless you find them offensive based on what they represent.

What shocked me and other people as well, were Dr. Shejavali's accusation at a memorial service for the late Dr. Hendrick Witbooi, that SWAPO had betrayed him. I thought Dr. Shejavali is against funerals not to be turned into political events, but then he had just done the opposite to what has been preaching. Then one has to ask where do we go from here, politics or religion?

The creation theory in book of Genesis teaches us that in the beginning, God created the heavens and

the earth. When everything was done and finished God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was beautiful. The world is beautiful because it is full of wonders and mysteries. In Psalm 24:2 we are told of the beauty of the earth that God has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

The creation theory further teaches that God made the beast of the earth of different kinds, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creeps upon the earth after its kind. One of the mysterious animals created by God is a bat and I believe it is beautiful; but the only problem is we do not know in which category it belongs. It has wings like birds, but it is not a bird and it has appearance of a mouse, but it is not a mouse. It is a creation of God and I dare not question the hand of He who sits on

high throne. But something bothersome whenever I listen to Dr. Shejavali, he acts almost similar to the characters of a bat.

I personally have high regard for him, as a man of the cloth. I have respect for our religious leaders but I also know that the first coloniser came with a bible on one hand and a dagger on the other hand. Hence anybody using religion as a cover for political objectives without disclosing it, that person serves two masters at the same time. Religious leaders are human being and are entitled to their political views, but not in disguise, except when their lives are in danger. I thus respect all those who respect themselves. Nevertheless, respect is earned and not inherited. When a man of the cloth acts like a bat, which does not know whether it is a bird or a mouse, he must be

treated as such.

If Dr. Shejavali is a man of principles and clear conscience, let him challenge himself and come out clean about his political stand point and declare that he is a member of this party or the other, then we will continue to respect him. However, if he continues to act like a bat, which hangs during the day with its head facing down and wings wrapped around its head pretending not see anything, then flies as a predator during the night, obviously he will remain as mysterious as a bat. What he said about the late Dr. Witbooi was not appropriate at the time he said it. The late Witbooi lived a life for which he was honoured and as the theme of his funeral, "he fought the good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith. Finally there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to him on that day, and not only to him, but also to all who have loved his appearing".

I do not want to say more I have to show sensitivity towards the family and the entire nation which still in a period of mourning. Dr Shejavali failed to show that sensitivity. The late Dr. Witbooi was a SWAPO member from the day he joined until the day he departed this world. How can SWAPO betray him if he was part of SWAPO?

I recently came across a lengthy letter written by Dr. Shejavali pro-

testing the appointment of Solomon Hauuala as Commander of the Namibian Army in the early 1990s, he concluded with a quote from the book of Amos 5:24, "let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream". I have no capacity to pass judgement on any fellow human being and I do agree as stated in the book of Isaiah 11:3 the "He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears" Nevertheless, I write this with a question posed by Psalm 24:3 at the back drop of my mind "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?" The answer we are told by same Psalm 24:4 "He who has clean hands and a pure heart, he who has not lifted up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully."

Are trees not known by their fruits? Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? **The sphere of politics is open to all those who wish to get their followers into politics but political homicide disguised behind the religious cloth is the worst form of backstabbing and must be treated as such.**

I want to conclude with a phrase of Dr Martin Luther King about what Jesus said to Nikodemus, when he wanted to know what he should do in order to be saved.

"One night, a juror came to Jesus

and he wanted to know what he could do to be saved. Jesus didn't get bogged down in the kind of isolated approach of what he shouldn't do. Jesus didn't say, "Now Nicodemus, you must stop lying." HE didn't say, "Nicodemus, you must stop cheating if you are doing that." He didn't say, "Nicodemus, you must not commit adultery." He didn't say, "Nicodemus, now you must stop drinking liquor if you are doing that excessively." He said something altogether different, because Jesus realized something basic - that if a man will lie, he will steal. And if a man will steal, he will kill. So instead of just getting bogged down in one thing, Jesus looked at him and said, "Nicodemus, you must be born again."

I am not saying that Dr. Shejavali is a liar or a cheater but I have a problem of distinguishing whether he is of politics or religion. He is entitled to his views and I respect that, but I do not expect him to force his political sugar-coated with religious flavour on the throats of others. He must be politically born again if he wishes to enter politics. **Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.**

P. Haindongo is a Namibian citizen; he expresses his democratic right of opinion and thought as he sees the happenings in the world. These views are entirely his.

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stronger and democratic society to which the Namibian Heroes and Heroines have dedicated their lives.

"We have a historic and national responsibility to ensure that Namibia should forever remain sovereign and independent.

"Our political victory can never be reversed", said Comrade Pohamba, adding that "we have regained our nationhood and dignity. Our task now is to work tirelessly and in unity to consolidate the gains of our independence and to work tirelessly to keep alive the ideals of our heroes and heroines, the martyrs of our revolution. Their sacrifices must always encourage us to achieve more for our nation".

The Head of State said that since 1990, the SWAPO Party Government has embarked on the second phase of the struggle. That is the struggle for economic indepen-

dence in order to eradicate poverty, disease, hunger and ignorance and to ensure the social and economic development of all our people.

"The late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi was one of the foot soldiers in this struggle. His involvement in the socio-economic welfare of the Namibian workers and other disadvantaged groups bears testimony to the trade mark he left behind in this regard", he said.

The President upholds that the peace and stability that Namibians and all who live in it (Namibia) enjoy today will have to be accompanied by sustainable economic growth and social justice.

"It is, therefore, our collective responsibility, as a people, soaked in the sweat and blood of our heroes and heroines, to lay a strong social and economic foundation on which future generations will build a prosperous, stable and peaceful society.

"I believe that through hard work

and commitment, we can ensure that our people receive efficient and effective services and enjoy equal access to social and public amenities and thereby improve their living standards.

"It is only" states the President, "when we achieve this noble objective that we would have met the expectations of our heroes and heroines such as the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi. They dedicated their lives to ensure that Namibia remains stable, peaceful, and secure. They equally dedicated their lives and energies so that all Namibians enjoy the fruits of independence without exclusion".

Comrade President called upon all Namibians to rededicate them to the policy of National Reconciliation. He further urged the people of this country to rededicate them to the motto of One Namibia One Nation and insist on them to always remember, "their blood waters our freedom."

Witbooi

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well as training other comrades inside the country, including the Late Comrade Reverend Hendrik Witbooi himself, Comrade Willem Biwa and many others", said Dr Nujoma.

Today, SWAPO enjoys over-

whelming support in the Hardap and Karas regions because of the late Witbooi's mobilization work and a solid foundation that he has laid. Because of his unwavering and able leadership, he was elected Acting Vice President of SWAPO in 1983, the position he held until 1997, when he was elected Vice President of SWAPO Party until 2002, recounts Dr Nujoma.

"He was on several occasions ar-

rested by the enemy and imprisoned at Osire. He never betrayed the revolution until the final victory was achieved on 21st March 1990.

"The Late Comrade Reverend Hendrik Witbooi was a true and dedicated leader who served our country and his people with love and devotion. Indeed, the lion of the Karas Region is no more. However, his legacy leaves on forever", concluded the Founding President..

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cent on the previous year's health budget of N\$2,13 billion. Spending on road construction and rehabilitation amount to close to N\$1,4 billion in 2009-10.

◆ **Posted by Tala**
Let facts speak for themselves! For the 2009-2010 financial year, Government has budgeted more than N\$850 million for social pensions through the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, over N\$193 million for maintenance grants and foster-parent allowances through the Ministry of Gender Equality

and Child Welfare, and about N\$220 million for veterans through the Ministry of Veterans' Affairs. These social grants total more than N\$1,26 billion.

◆ **Posted by ndeshy**
 viva swapo we swapo poeple e know wwe will win no matter what it cost .ONGONYO M O M B A D A UUSHAKENENO KO MAHOLOLO ALUTA CONTINUE VIVA SWAPO!!!

◆ **Posted by Ali Dharani**
for perfect business enviroment peace, stability, and good governance is re-

quired and u have done it congratulations swapo party please do it again. viva swapo

◆ **Posted by ASHOK IYER**
VIVA SWAPO!! NO MATTER HOW HARD THE ENEMIES OF NAMIBIA, ALONG WITH THEIR NAMIBIAN AGENTS, TRY TO DISCREDIT SWAPO AND THE NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT, THEY WILL NOT SUCCEED. FOR ECONOMIC & SOCIAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, THERE IS ONLY ONE SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA AND THAT IS SWAPO. VIVA SWAPO!!