In THE SPOTLIGHT this time is:

A Namibian Political Satire

Hidipo Hamutenya

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For nearly 28 years, Namibia has been peaceful and stable. At independence in 1990, Namibia, under the leadership of Founding President Dr. Sam Nujoma, made a firm commitment that the SWAPO Party government would pursue the Policy of National Reconciliation as the only guiding light towards peace and stability.

At that point, Namibians emerged from a war that lasted for more than 23 years. It was a war imposed on the Namibian people by the former brutal and apartheid regime of South Africa. It was a traumatizing war through which thousands of Namibians were sent to their early graves, not because they had committed crimes, but because they demanded only one thing — freedom and independence and the right to determine and shape their future destiny.

I remember just that, they were arrested and sent to jail. Others, as I have said, were sent to their early graves. I remember people like the late Immanuel Shifidi, who was murdered by the security forces of the former apartheid regime in Windhoek. I remember people like Axel Johannes, who had to live without one of his ears up to his death, cut off by the same security forces. The list is endless. Our hearts bleed when such stories are recounted.

At independence, we said never again will such dark days, in which people mysteriously disappeared, come back to haunt Namibians. The Policy of National Reconciliation has been shaped and informed by such start realities. We wanted, and still want, our children to go to school safe. We want everybody to feel free to do their business in a legal and professional manner. That is the will on which National Reconciliation leans. For, 20 years since our independence, we have lived up to our solemn and sacred commitments.

But there are unscrupulous elements within our society who are busy trying to sow seeds of division, putting the peace and stability that we have enjoyed since independence in jeopardy. These characters must be taken to task before it is too late. Their lies are just going too far too be ignored. It is time someone stood up to them and threw their lies right back on their faces. I am talking about Marx Hamata, Editor of Informante, and Phil Ya Nangoloh, Executive Director of the National Society for Human Rights, NSHR.

These characters must be squared up with. Last week, Informante claimed that there was a hit list that included Hamata and Ya Nangoloh as targets for “assassination.” In the story, Hamata linked his alleged “assassination plot” to a meeting he had with the Inspector General of the Namibian Police, Li General Sebastian Ndeitunga. Hamata had a good opportunity there to discuss the “hit list” with the Inspector General during their meeting. He did not. He simply ambushed them and went to link the “hit list” story with the meeting he had at the Police Headquarters.

The question is: Why did Hamata not bring up the “hit list” issue with the Inspector General if he was so sure there was such a list? A few days later, Ya Nangoloh, a pathological liar that he is, expanded the story further, adding his own name on the “list.” Ya Nangoloh issued a press release headlined “I am not at all surprised.” The release said that those “targeted for physical elimination” included Ya Nangoloh and Hamata.

He claimed that a “clique” with the country’s civilian intelligence outfit, the Namibian Central Intelligence Service, NCIS, had been plotting to “eliminate” Hamata, Ya Nangoloh and several other perceived Government “critics.” Ya Nangoloh claimed that he had received “messages” from his sources telling him to be “extremely careful.”

At least two such sources have named former Namibian President Dr. Sam Nujoma as the spider at the center of the web of such plotting,” claimed Ya Nangoloh. “Specifically, the names of ‘Shilunga’, ‘Ndoze’ and ‘Pena’ have often also been cited as the implementers of this heinous scemeing. During the last eight years, people such as Malenga (2001), Shevanyenga (2003) and Ipanelgewa 2005, have been asssinated presumably also by NCIS agents.” I rubbish these allegations with the contempt they deserve. There is no iota of truth in them. But we should not just stop at condemning them. For, those are serious allegations which put the credibility of our state institutions at risk. When you have names cited as examples of people who were “assassinated” by NCIS “agents,” a casual observer may believe such crap. Institutions and individuals implicated in this omnious play should seriously consider taking stern legal action against Hamata and Ya Nangoloh to prove their allegations in a court of law. They must be held accountable for their lies. Letting such serious allegations go unchallenged, will in the end, cause some people to believe that such a “hit list” does really exist. There are silly allegations that can be ignored, but these ones have gone too far to be ignored.

The reputation and integrity of the NCIS and its officials depend on how firmly it dissects and shreds such allegations for all to see. Dissecting and shredding such allegations now means suing these bastards and have them show us the “hit list” in a court of law. The time to do it now. I do not know Malenga pictures. Nor do I know how they died. But I know Iapanese died in a car accident together with his son. To add his name to a shoddy list of people who were allegedly “assasinated” by NCIS “agents” is outright rubish. It is NCIS’s reputation that is at risk of being tarnished by these unscrupulous liars. NCIS has the resources at its disposal to hold such people accountable for their lies in a court of law. Sue them. And sue them now. They should not get away with murder.