As Namibians celebrated the country’s 20th independence anniversary last Sunday, people were taken aback by a senseless invasion of land around Windhoek, which, to all intents and purposes, seemed only to have been politically motivated and fuelled by disgruntled politicians. The person or persons responsible for such a heinous act must be pursued and face the wrath of the law. The last thing Namibia needs is lawlessness.

True people need shelter. But they must be shielded in an orderly and lawful manner. Taking the law into their own hands is no solution. While the seriousness and gravity of the need for shelter is understood, this invasion must be looked at in the context in which it was spearheaded and spread. The invasion is serious enough, but so, too, is the source of the rumour.

That some could stand up and drive around Katutura telling people that President Hifikepunye Pohamba was planning to “occupy any land in and around” Windhoek and build their “shacks and shebeens” is outrageous and despicable. That a person, too, could craft a serious rumour tailored around the President, who a few minutes earlier, had taken an oath to uphold and defend, as supreme law, the Constitution of the country, is an unpardonable insult and ridicule of the Highest Office in the country.

While I do not entirely blame the innocent people who were lured and got trapped into this nonsensical “independence gift” from President Pohamba, the Police must take this rumour as a serious offence and thoroughly investigate it and bring the culprits to book.

The fact that a political party has been fingered as a source of this rumour should not be brushed aside as just a mere rumour. We have disgruntled politicians who would want to see instability and lawlessness in this country. The Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, must come clean on this issue and refute such rumours, rather than condoning it by simply saying that “people need land.”

The comments by RDP’s Secretary for Information and Publicity, Jeremia Nambinga and National Society for Human Rights, NSHR’s Phil Ya Nangoloh, justifying “land-grabbing” are unfortunate and irresponsible. Ya Nangoloh’s remarks that “whether it is a rumour or not, time is now and people need shelter” reek of double standards and recklessness. Ya Nangoloh claims that he is a “human rights campaigner,” how can he incite people to break laws which he is supposed to uphold and protect? Will he be comfortable if landless people— and they are many— invade and occupy his farm and settle there? Will he say “the time is now and people need land?”

Laws are made to control behavior. As responsible citizens, we should learn to respect laws that we have passed to control our behavior. It is very unfortunate that Ya Nangoloh, instead of condemning the source of the rumour and the people who carried out such a reckless act, is actually encouraging people to take the laws into their own hands! Where will that lead us to? Seeing that Ya Nangoloh and RDP are like Siamese twins, is he inciting people to break laws for political expediency?

Look at Nambinga’s craps: “They (SWAPO) told the people that if they vote for SWAPO, on the day of the inauguration people will be allowed to build on open space. So the people were just doing what they were told.”

I do not know whether Namibia has lost his sense of order or the order of his sense or both. That a politician could stoop so low and make such remarks defies understanding. Who else can believe such a pathological liar? Who in SWAPO sense or both. That a politician could stoop so low and make such remarks defies understanding. Who else can believe such a pathological liar? Who in SWAPO