**What people say**

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

- **Posted by Tala**
  This man never joined a party. He formed a party. This man was born in a colony. He founded a democratic Namibia. While Mandela became president at 75, this man retired at 75. This is our all the way tested Nujoma. Happy birthday our Leader. Your leadership is second to none! Let this be known!

- **Posted by Naboth Umomma**
  WHO ARE THE HEROES IN THIS COUNTRY? IS DANGER NOT?

- **Posted by David Itia**
  I was shocked to hear of the sad demise of Cde. Danger Ashpala. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. I pray to the Almighty Lord to give his family and friends strength and support.

- **Posted by Secretary General**
  I have learnt that an article in the Informante of last week had linked Mrs Pendukeni Tivula Ithana to the sale or ownership of a certain Service Station in Oshakati belonging to John Andjamba and Iivula Ithana. En route to Namibia.

- **Posted by Carlos Naulaya**
  Dr Tobei Aupindi, you are such a role model to us Namibian youths.

- **Posted by Lenga**
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**View Point**

**Rule of law alive, well in Zim**

THE acquittal yesterday of MDC-T treasurer-general Roy Bennett has been received with joy in Western capitals. It is the kind of joy that suggests that in their view, Bennett should not have been tried at all.

He is supposed to be above the law because he is their kith and kin.

Meeting Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai in Washington on Monday, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton started the conversation by congratulating Mr Tsvangirai on Bennett’s acquittal, to which the Prime Minister gratuitously responded by saying, Bennett was “being persecuted and not prosecuted”.

This is precisely what Mrs Clinton and the American establishment wanted to hear; that Mr Tsvangirai still sings from the same hymnbook as his handlers.

The Prime Minister missed an opportunity to affirm the rule of law and freedom of the judiciary in Zimbabwe.

What the Roy Bennett trial proves is that Zimbabwe’s courts are free to handle high profile cases and reach a decision based on the merits and demerits of the evidence placed before them.

In this particular instance, the State did have a prima facie case against Bennett, which, according to the judge, it failed to prove on a balance of probabilities thereby entitling Mr Bennett to his acquittal.

There was absolutely nothing wrong with Mr Bennett going to trial.

The State case collapsed because their key witness, Michael Hischmann, turned hostile and gave unfavourable evidence.

This is a fact acknowledged by the trial judge Mr Justice Chinemibiri Bhunu in his ruling.

Mr Bennett was facing serious charges of terrorism, banditry, insurgency and trying to depose a constitutionally-elected government and it was only proper that he be cleared by the courts after the State’s arguments had been heard.

Mr Tsvangirai himself has previously stood trial before the same court facing serious charges of subversion and was acquitted after a fully contested trial.

The right of the Attorney-General to prosecute anyone that in his learned view believes to have committed a crime must not be tampered with, in the same way that a judge of the High Court must remain free to convict or acquit an accused person without outside influence.

This our courts have done consistently.

Yet Zimbabwe has been vilified for reforming its judiciary and appointing judges like Justine Bhunu who have liberation war credentials.

Only now, dust is being raised over unconfirmed rumours of moves to appoint former Zimbabwe Electoral Commission chairperson Justice George Chiweshe to a higher office in the judiciary.

Again, this opposition is because he is perceived not to dance to the tune of the West.

So a judge is only deemed to be fair and just when he upholds western values and thinking, and not necessarily because he or she is an expert in interpreting the law of his land.

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We congratulate our judiciary for refusing to be patronised by the West and for continuing to assert its independence.