

What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

◆ **Posted by Cde. Vilho**
I also think it is not right to refer our natural resources to as Abandoned, but rather Underdeveloped.

◆ **Posted by Cde Axasman**
It is time for us as members of the SWAPO Party to make sure that Kunene Region is in the right hands after the regional elections.

◆ **Posted by Cde Mayor Masa**
Dear Comrades, I am writing to invite debate regarding the use of the concept of "abandoned natural resources" which has become so popular amongst some our leaders. According to the International Law Dictionary, by L B Curzon, Fifth Edition, the word "abandonment" means 1. surrender or relinquishing of a chattel, right or claim, with the intention of not reclaiming it; 2. An action in the high court is considered abandoned when a notice of discontinuance is served; 3. In the case of a constructive total loss in marine insurance, the assured may

abandon the subject matter to the insurer and treat the loss as if it were an actual total loss; 4. abandonment of a child means leaving it to its fate". The concept of "abandoned natural resources" is frequently used in speeches to indicate that Africa or Namibia in particular has a variety of abandoned natural resources, which need to be developed to the fullest. While I agree that Africa or Namibia has a variety of natural resources that need to be developed, I disagree with the notion that such resources have been abandoned. In my view, africans or Namibians in particular have never abandoned the natural resources of thier land with the intention of not reclaiming them. The fact that such resources are underdeveloped or underutilised does not mean that we have abandoned them. If we continue to tell the world that Afican or Namibia in particular, has abandoned natural resources, then we are sending a very wrong signalout there, because we are actually telling the world that we have abandoned our natural resources with the intention

of not reclaiming them, and therefore, they (foreigners) can come and take ownership of such resources. Therefore, I wish to suggest the use of words such as "underutilised" or "underdeveloped" or "undeveloped" natural resources. This goes together with our economic development policies which are aimed at sustainable utilisation or development of our natural resources for the benefit of all Na

◆ **Posted by Cde. Quezy S. Gariseb**
I also agree that Kunene should come home under the able and tested leadership and governance of our Mighty SWAPO, the emphasis should however not only be on Kunene but also on Erongo, especially Daures Constituency as people are misled and made empty promises for too long thus suffer tremendously under the incompetent leadership of the opposition/UDF which absolutely does NOTHING/ZERO

Village-Region-Country-Continent and then Global warming.. Poriedge and water-Jacket and Blankets-shoes and clothes- Body spray and caps- Hope it helps

◆ **Sioni Aluta likela**
A very interesting topic to digest on indeed. I believe in national unity meaning if we are united as Namibians than we can grow our country together. Our being proud to be Namibians give us our national identities in our continent, Africa. The more we are proud to be Namibian, the more we are proud to be African. Our country of birth give us a ... See Moreface of being African. Some of us are sturbonly proud of being identified us either a Namibian or African. These things of Aawambo, Hereros; Kavangos, Namas, Caprivis, Ovambaderus united to me is a down fall of national identities. We should not see ourselves on tribal lines. Unity amongst communities is honestly needed but we as a nation must not be overwhelmed by this. I will be happy if we see and regard ourselves as Namibians as opposed to being tribal this and tribal that. We must have a national unity of purpose as opposed to the tribal unity, but we must work together in communities to develop our community. I am happy to say I see myself as Namibian belongs to SWAPO party and a Kwambi but I will not just call this community nor Aawambo to unite instead I will say we as a nation must unity for communal prosperity... God bless Namibia. Good topic to debate my Comrade...

◆ **Lydia Aiping**
national unity is what we all aspire! but that doesn't mean we cut ties of who we are nor does it makes one tribalistic. how we construct our identities matters for in it lies values for relating to others and the national values!

◆ **Imms Shawana Nashinge**
Western politics that Govern us PLUS Apartheid and colonialism



◆ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare:**

Just wondering: is tribal unity the same as national unity in Namibia or Africa? In other words, is our being wambos, kavangos, hereros, damaras, namas, caprivians, basters, coloureds, twanas, afrikaners, germans or english in Namibia more important than being Namibians and our being Namibians more relevant to being Africans: what is your honest opinion?

◆ **Lydia Aiping**
At each level, the relevancy and importance is different for many various reasons: past experience, traditional principles, values, etc. For my generation and the generations before me, tribal unity was and is still regarded more important than anything else... It's where we draw values for national unity and how we relate to other tribes/nations! ... See Moreand the national values we have as Namibians influence our relations to BEING Africans! I regard myself first Omumbaanhu, Omuwambo then a Namibian and African! But probably my son will not define himself that way! He might skip the first or second definition; he might tell you he's a Namibian who speaks Oshiwambo and Rukwangali...that's because he grew up differently, in an era where nationality tops everything than

tribal relations!

◆ **Cuana Angula**
Being an African living in Namibia!!

◆ **Shakes Lungile Mbanganyati**
honestly, tribal groups will be always there and ththe affection among tribesman will be there, however we need to learn from the histry that in national intrst at first or els we might as wel intrdus tribal govemments.

◆ **Eras Merashy**
I recognise the importance of tribal unity but for me being a Namibian is more important. Being an african comes on its own.

◆ **Job Shipululo Amupanda**
Parents-Household-neighbour-



Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda



With so many deaths caused by the misuse of firearms, licenced or unlicenced, in the country, it has become increasingly urgent and important for Namibians to start debating this issue, from the point of buying a firearm to the last point when a licence is issued and the firearm finally acquired.

Daily police crime reports make tragic reading. If such trends continue, the future is just too ghastly to contemplate. You read horrific deaths of mainly innocent women and children, shot by their boyfriends and fathers. The reasons given are usually flimsy and ridiculous.

I know that the death penalty will never be introduced, largely because it is part of the chapter that is entrenched in our Constitution, hailed nationally and internationally as one of the best constitutions in the world. But it has also allowed thugs to ruin others' rights to life because they know that the doctrine of an "eye for an eye" does not apply.

Article 6, which falls under Chapter 3 reads as follows: "The right to life shall be respected and protected. No law may prescribe death as a competent sentence. No Court or Tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No executions shall take place in Namibia."

Well and good, but here comes Chapter 19 which finally seals Chapter 3 by entrenching fundamental rights and freedoms. Article 131 reads as follows. "No repeal or amendment of any of the provisions of Chapter 3 hereof, in so far as such repeal or amendment diminishes or detracts from the fundamental rights and freedoms contained and defined in that Chapter Three, shall be permissible under this Constitution, and no such purported repeal or amendment shall be valid or have any force or effect."

But how do you explain a person who shot an innocent person to death and tell the nation in a court of law that he mistook that person for a baboon? How do you explain a person who shoots his girlfriend and a baby to death and then shoots himself to death as well and leaves a note that he did not want his "baby to suffer" on earth and that they should all go?

Think about a man who shoots his girlfriend to death because their relationship has broken up? Or a man who shoots his wife to death and claims that the gun "went off" accidentally? Two weeks ago, a man shot his girlfriend to death and turned the gun on himself, killing himself and closing the case!

There have been several debates, with some people calling for the introduction of the death penalty to serve as a deterrent. Others have even called for a national referendum to overturn Chapter 19 altogether and have it removed from the Constitution, a move which will then allow the death penalty to be introduced and properly deal with some of those heinous crimes perpetrated on innocent people.

Legal gurus have argued for and against the death penalty, depending on which side of the legal divide they are on, with some pointing out that there is really no comprehensive study conclusively showing that the death penalty has ever acted as a deterrent. Others have argued that what do you do if you sentence a person to death by hanging for murder and execute him, only to learn later in years that he was not the one who committed the murder and the real murderer is alive and kicking?

Those are moral and legal questions that can go to the core of the debate, but to shoot a person to death for a love relationship that has gone sour is utter rubbish. It is for this reason that I suggest that maybe the Firearms Act must be revisited and new provisions added to help save innocent lives.

There are just too many guns, licenced or unlicenced, in the hands of people who have never been trained to use them. They only know how to use them from what they have seen in those violent cowboy movies where every quarrel is always solved with a bullet. We have created a generation that cannot take "NO" for an answer from a woman. That is dangerous.

While the death penalty may never come back, and with so many guns in loose hands, the Firearms Act must be amended to include a one-month basic training course on how to use firearms. A licence should only be issued upon completing such training where the rules of handling firearms and the danger of using them unnecessarily. Those who have already licenced firearms, too, must be compelled to undergo such training. Such training will certainly make the work of the Police a lot much easier as the doubts of a gun "going off" accidentally will be drastically reduced. That training should also teach licence holders that the firearm is really for self-defence and should never be used on the spur of emotions. People should be taught to reflect before they act, and not when they have acted. People used to fear God, but today they fear fellow human beings.

Never before has the fate of innocent woman and children been at the whim of irresponsible few. Those innocent women and children have the same rights to life as enshrined in Chapter Three. Their lives should be respected and protected. Society must do something to help the vulnerable ones. No training, no licence. Period.