What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

♦ **Posted by Julius Edward, Omakondo**

I challenge the western of attacking Libya by having coward excuses which is to protect the civilian! who are the civilians by the way? are they not going to kill civilians too? let Africa to be for Africans! long life Africa, If Col Gaddafi will be held before court for the claim against humanity, then let Mr Bush and Blair be held first for the crime against humanity in Iraq and Afghanistan! AU, SADC stand up and we must have AU Army, SADC army. VIva Africa!

♦ **Posted by Mukono Kamwi**

21 years of hard won independence .Congratulations on your coming of age Namibia. However it saddens me that some comrades who should be leading by example are doing otherwise. The Namibian newspaper is anti-government and it does not take Einsten to prove this theory. One needs to look at the Friday column "The Rambler" to get first hand experience of how the Namibian Newspaper operates. In this article the columnist refers to Government Ministers using demeaning terms. He or she does not end there. The columnist refers to His Excellency our President in the most degrading of terms. I will not even mention the cartoonist whose sole objective seems to be to make a mockery of every senior SWAPO official. Given this state of affairs at this daily i find it strange that senior party figures can pose with the Editor of the newspaper let alone share a table at whatever function.

♦ **Posted by Esther David**

America and Western countries are using the resources they tapped from Africa to kill Africans. All African countries should take a step ahead and, peacefully, close all American embasies in their countries. Africa can do without them. Blood is thicker than water, please. United we stand, Divided we fall.

♦ **Posted by Greed Mulihole**

Viva tatekulu wetu Sam Nujoma viva. Long live Namibia. Thank u for the 21 years of independence if weren't for u we couldn't be free. We will praise sing u for many years to come. No to imperialism, hypocracy, hibernators, traitors. We defeated them and they surrendered thanks to resolution 435 else we couldn't celebrate our independence.

♦ **Posted by Cde Kapiye Timotheus**

ong live the Founding president and the father of Namibian nation Dr, hero, Cde, his excellency, commander, tatekulu Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma. Tatekulu we love you.

♦ **Posted by Mbulunganga**

We need an amicable solution regards our squandered pension at the hands of GIPF.

♦ **Posted by Cde.Katusha kaNamibia**

Cde.Kiiyala, buiding dams to haverst water alone cannot be a solution.The roads and bridges should be properly built as well, to allow the water to flow free.Government should built bridges at the same level and quality of those bridges were built before indepedence.Government or Road Authority shoud stop using inexperience contractors to build roads and bridges that always go under water during the rain season.Four underground canals should be built at Oshakati to take water out of Oshakati.A proper bridges should be built at Oshakati,Omeege,Ompundja and other places and villages.A big dam should be built at the desert to haverst water that can be used for irrigation scheme to produce food and create employment for our youth.Aluta Continua!!

♦ **Posted by Kunyanano**

Lets not destroy SWAPO by supporting and protecting our currupt comrades, lets show them that we do not allow corruption in Swapo

♦ **Posted by Katusha kaNamibia**

I think African leaders should pull out from the United Nations,as decisions in this body are manipulated by the Europeans and United States of America or otherwise Africa should be given two seats in this body without delay.Why Africa is the only continent without permanent seats in this body called United Nations?Is it a United Nations for the Europeans and United States of America?Africa should rather pull out of this body and concetrate more on African Union.Africa had enough from this imperialists and their cohorts.The young generations should be ready to defend Africa from the imperialists of this World.VIVA Libya!VIVA Comrade Qadaffi!Victory is certain!Aluta Continua!!!!!!!!!!

♦ **Posted by Elago Kiiyala**

The best alternative way to prevent future flood in the north part of the country is for our government to build dam to receive water pouring from Angola. The government should come up with a budget to tackle this serious issue.

Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Morgan Tsvangirai, was in Windhoek this week to brief President Hifikepunye Pohamba on the situation in Zimbabwe and how the inclusive government is working. President Pohamba is the Chairman of the Southern African Development Community, SADC. Photo by Levi Upula

Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda

Harold Evans, one of Britain's greatest editors, whose writing and editing skills have made *The Times* of London what it is today, once said that journalism is an honourable profession, if not sacred. It is so honourable and sacred that those who eke out a living from it are held to certain standards, largely because the whole profession depends and feeds on honesty, integrity, accuracy, as well as balanced and fair reporting.

The last edition of *Insight* magazine had a scorecard, rating the entire cabinet, starting with President Hifikepunye Pohamba himself as class captain. President Pohamba, according to *Insight*, has performed so "poorly" that he is graded with E. Newspaper scorecards are very subjective, and at times, misleading anywhere in the world. It caused a national uproar in South Africa last year.

It was heated because the South African Cabinet – always at the receiving end of the Euro-centric media in that country, just as the Namibian Cabinet is here – has never been rated fairly and objectively. So furious was the South African Cabinet that it also threatened to come up with its own scorecards, rating and grading journalists in that country. Media houses there screamed at the top of their voices, describing the move as a threat to that hackneyed phrase "press freedom."

I do not know what indicators *Insight* used to measure the performance of the Cabinet and arrive at the grading as published in the magazine. But the grading has raised more fears than it has allayed. There is nothing convincing in the magazine telling us why those graded poorly deserve such ratings. Needless to say that the whole grading process was informed by sheer anti-Pohamba tantrums. There is no way an informed and balanced mind could fail to arrive at that conclusion.

And Tangeni Amupadhi should know better. One of the reasons President Pohamba kicked Amupadhi out of State House last year, and vowed never to speak to him again was precisely because of such unfair reporting and bad coverage. The problem starts when a journalist uses his or her pen to bring down a person he or she hates by all means possible. It is an unwise war to start, and it has always boomeranged.

We have enough journalistic carcasses here to prove that point. The late Chris Coetzee exponentially used the *Times of Namibia* to bring down the SWAPO Party government shortly after independence. His negative bleating and constant smear campaigns were so dismal that Namibia's first Minister of Finance, Dr Otto Herigel, dismissed his "economic reports" as lacking elementary economic grounding. Coetzee died a hopeless man, having dismally failed to achieve his objective.

Hannes Smith, then Editor of the *Windhoek Observer,* took over from where Coetzee had left off. He recklessly took on Dr Sam Nujoma, then President of the country, believing that he had a "good cause to pursue" to the end. He twisted facts to fit his cause. One of his headlines screamed: "Nujoma, I don't fear," and vowed to "bring down the Nujoma government." Smith left the stage without concluding his show. He now rests in peace.

Max Hamata tried and failed to use *Informante* to bring down Founding President Nujoma. He never spared him. He fabricated stories to advance his agenda, which eventually flopped when he was forced to resign as Editor of *Informante*. The owners of *Informante* could no longer take the heat. So Amupadhi had to go. But Namibia, it seems, is not in short supply of such people.

Amupadhi has now resuscitated the ghosts of Coetzee and Smith, seeing nothing "good" in President Pohamba. Or does he have a score to settle with the President for having chucked him out of State House? Insight's grading is grouped in seven categories: A=Excellent; B=Good, C=You are okay, D=Average. E=Poor, F=Hopeless, U=Ungraded.

President Pohamba is graded E=Poor. "Going to a school for people with special needs might help. But in this class you don't belong. Resign immediately" were the parting shots by Insight on President Pohamba. Knocking African leaders has always been a favourite past time for western journalists looking for cheap laughs. Of course, they have their agendas, but when local journalistic greenhorns start practicing it, one wonders where we are heading to.

To suggest to the Head of State -- elected by more than 75 percent of the voters – that he should consider "going to a school for people with special needs" is to suggest that the man is mentally not fit to hold a public office. That is downright insulting. Even if *Insight*, under Amupadhi, hates President Pohamba as a person, it should, out of courtesy and decency, respect the Office he holds. For, he was put there by the people. And do not tell me that Insight is cleverer than the people who voted for President Pohamba.

True, press freedom and free speech are fundamental pillars of democracy. As such, they should be maintained and protected. That is also the reason the founding fathers and mothers of Namibia's Constitution thought it wise, and rightly so, to include them in that supreme document – the Constitution.

But it is one thing to stand up to those rights and express one's views in a manner deserving of one's standing in society. It is quite another to rise and skirt around those fundamental rights and start insulting people. The first can be a preamble to what press freedom is. The latter is downright gutter journalism.

True, Journalists can, and should be vehement and resolute in their quest to tell the truth. But twisting facts, insulting people and casting aspersions on others' persons in the name of press freedom is the worst form of journalism. After all, President Pohamba has recently been ranked as the fifth best performing African Head of State in Africa by an *East African* magazine!

We all crave for press freedom and human rights, but telling President Pohamba to consider "going to a school for people with special needs" is to test someone's patience to the limit. I will never be convinced that such degrading remarks fall within the ambit of press freedom. But now I understand why President Pohamba has chucked Amupadhi out of State House and vowed never to speak to him again.