

Alienation and polarisation

Building a house requires synchronising the input of the customer, financier, architect, engineer, builder, workers, and several municipal departments, to mention a few stakeholders.

To build the Harambee House of Namibia, as propagated by our President, requires approximately 2.4 million citizens in an approach in which the foundation is a mixture of inclusiveness and mutual respect. Nobody should be excluded. All should be equals in contributing mutually towards the One House of Unity, One Nation and One Namibia. We have to face it, the family in our House is a patch-work family of divorcees, my children, your children and our children that have been traumatised during colonialism, Apartheid and the liberation struggle by violence and inhuman ex-



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ploitation.

Let us execute a pre-audit of the construction of our One House of the Brave based on the mixture of ingredients mentioned. We are not all born with equal competencies. However, all of us irrespective of our inherited abilities and developed competencies are entitled in terms of Chapter 3 of the Constitution to have equal opportunities to develop our competencies to the optimum of our potential.

As we develop our competencies, a natural hierarchy is created through competition to be the best (Peterson). Those with competencies that are more in demand than other competencies, are rewarded more in terms of money, titles and status.

Entrepreneurs take risks and are rewarded for taking such risks. The captains of industry in Namibia are much needed to create employment through adding value to products and services for export and to creating wealth to develop our economy and to fund the the never-ending maintenance of our Namibian House.

UNEQUAL ADVANTAGE

However, when some businessmen gain unequal advantage by means of corrupt deals with politicians and an

estimated 700% post tender inflation like on our white elephant in the front garden, Neckartal, the add-on cost contributes to less money for our sister Theopolina that are disabled and our brother Petrus that has a heart condition that cannot stand in the long queue of at the State Hospital.

Petrus read in the dailies that businessmen that served with his father in the liberation struggle forty years ago gained access to unequal opportunities through corrupt relations in the Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) scandal through half-baked business plans in a collusion between businessmen, prominent politicians and ruling party members. A substantial amount of the "lost" N\$660 million has been disinvested by "men without chests" as depicted by Nietzsche (Du Pisani) in flashy cars and with status symbols, an illustration of a bling culture of no permanence, no substance and immediate gratification. In a corrupt House such as Namibia, elites separate societies. They alienate people and polarise them in groups by labeling them (Gharadjedaghi, Coetzee). Labels such as "enemy of the state" for those who dare to question the waste of national resources as demonstrated in the dysfunctional state of our more than 100 State Owned Enterprises. The Namibian House is crystallised around the social power represented by a former libera-

tion movement and its symbols (Du Pisani) that are creating an unequal playing field.

SOCIALISM ON THE RISE

Increased patterns of socialistic tendencies are taking root in the back garden of our Namibian House, obscured from people in the street. Let us focus on the capital of pension funds. The Special Purpose Vehicles created in terms of Regulation 29 of the Pension Funds Act 24 of 1956 allowed a small number of Government approved equity investment firms to manage 10% of all pension fund contributions of all Namibians that contribute to pension funds in unlisted asset classes. These unlisted asset classes are high risk vehicles that are increasingly being used to move money away from especially the middle class, that are able to contribute more to pension funds compared to lower end earners and/or the affluent. Both the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance were involved in the recent increase to 10% allowed in terms of the Special Purpose Vehicles. Equity firms are laughing all the way to the bank. They are allowed to make investments in high risk start-ups with political connections without any consequences. Unlisted mandates are supposed to finance Greenfield startups (high risk) for economic development and job creation

but are doing low risk Brownfield investments instead?

How long will the foundation of the Harambee House hold before the structural cracks become so de-structural to the walls (the middle class metaphorically) that the roof collapse? The government is increasingly setting investment priorities and rules for pension funds without proper checks and balances. This means government is becoming increasingly unaccountable.

Another example is the Estate Agents Act 112 of 1995, in which government is increasingly taking over the private sector's control over private assets. Discretionary powers of ministers have increased in terms of the Fisheries Act, Environmental Management Act, the Namibia Investment Bill and the New Economic Empowerment Equitable Framework.

INCREASED AUTOCRATIC POWER

The increasing autocratic power of ministers in terms of these Acts and policies are illustrations of increasing patterns of socialism that have similarities with Zimbabwe and Venezuela. The political, economic and regulatory power are increasingly being fused by elites that is becoming more uncountable to those that stay in the Namibian House. The power of Big Brother is seemingly unlimited. Or is it? In building the One

House of Reconciliation, some people seem to be more equal than others, as Joseph Diescho once said. Structural cracks in the foundation of our Namibian House are obscured from the men in the street that passes our house every day. When will the tipping point be reached? As Du Pisani said: "When is passive resignation going to give way to indignation and anger?" Will we be able to hear and see when the roof collapse? Based on history, the tipping point of a dysfunctional state into complete chaos has never been common knowledge. What is your accountability to prevent such as collapse? Or are you still unaware about the cracks in our foundation?

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