

Veterans Association condemns LPM leaders

Edson Haufiku

The leadership of the Namibia National Liberation Veterans Association this morning condemned the utterances of Landless Peoples Movement (LPM) leaders Bernadus Swartbooi and Henny Seibeb, made against founding President Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma in Parliament last week.

The LMP leaders referred to founding President as a thug, liar and loser during the discussion of the national reconciliation policy on 31 June 2020.

NNLVA President, General Officer Ben Shikovelo Shikongo accompanied by a number of former Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) combatants reminded the LPM leaders that SWAPO under the leadership of Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation Dr. Nujoma, introduced the policy of national reconciliation.

He opined that it is the policy of national reconciliation, introduced by Dr. Nujoma that has afforded every Namibian, including those insulting the founding President, to live in a just, fair and equal society, where every Namibian regardless of his/her political affiliation enjoys all the freedoms as guaranteed under the Namibian Constitution.

Referring to Swartbooi and Seibeb as ‘unprincipled and not so honourable’, the>NNLVA President warned that as the liberators of Namibia, the veterans of the National Liberation Struggle will under no circumstances tolerate such utterances against the founding President and current President or any other leader in the August House irrespective of the party they represent.

“Calling Dr Nujoma a "thug" and a "liar" in Parliament is unpardonable and must be vehemently condemned. To us veterans of the National Liberation Struggle whom the majority are former PLAN fighters, Comrade Nujoma is our undisputed hero and leader of the Namibian revolution, our treasure and germ and those political hooligans insulting him should take note that they are revoking the pain we endured during the bitter and long struggle where many of our brave sons and daughters sacrificed their precious lives” Shikongo said.

Visibly upset, Shikongo called on those elected to Parliament to fulfil the mandates of the electorate instead of wasting time and resources by disrupting proceedings.

“This nation has too many social challenges that require the Honourable August House to debate and solve for the betterment of the Namibian people than engaging in insulting our great leader who peacefully retired after having sacrificed his youth and the safety of his family and comrades in ensuring that Namibia is freed from the yoke of colonial rule by the racist South African regime” he further added.

At the same occasion, the>NNLVA President took issue with a statement reportedly made by the leader of the official opposition, McHenry Venaani on 17 June 2020. According to Shikongo, the leader of the People’s Democratic Movement (PDM) alleged that the former PLAN Commander, Erastus Negonga, who served as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence from 1995 to 2003, allegedly sold off

the Suiderhof Military Base for a billion Namibian dollars, the proceeds of which was purportedly deposited into Negonga's personal bank account.

“This accusation by Hon. Venaani seems to us was made to supposedly attest to corruption in SWAPO and the SWAPO led government. Our Message to the leader of the official opposition is that the veteran commander is disturbed by the malicious allegations made against him in Parliament, where he could not defend himself. Hon. Venaani is therefore called upon to render an apology to Commander Negonga using the same platform in Parliament” Shikongo concluded.

Photo caption:

UNITED: Ben Shikongo, the President of the Namibia National Liberation Veterans Association (NNLVA), seated second from the right, flanked by members of the NNLVA.

Photo: Edson Haufiku