



REMARKS ON THE DEBATE ON EDUCATION

BY

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SWAPO PARTY

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Honorable speaker, honorable members of this August House.

I rise to add my contribution towards the topic at hand: for government to avail more apparent adequate resources towards the betterment of our public schools to equal private schools.

Honorable speaker, Honorable members the Swapo led Namibian Government is one of the most responsible Governments which is aware of the importance of the society it serves and the responsibility on the development of our beloved country and that its future depends on a well-educated nation.

Dear Honorable members we should also not ignore the fact that the Swapo party as a liberation movement made lots of sacrifices on various fronts during its quest for liberation and one such front was the diplomatic front, where it was accorded a seat as observer and opportunity to petition and to take the Namibian case to the United Nations, what an achievement.

Honorable speaker you are one of those who played also your part as a freedom fighter and a diplomat of note, to make the Namibian peoples cry of freedom to the outside world next to great gallant sons namely the Hage G Geingobs, Theo Ben Gurirabs and The Hidipo Hamutenyas let their gentle souls rest in eternal peace be known.

Now honorable members as the say goes that Namibias independence became a reality through international solidarity mid-wifed by the United Nations why would the Swapo party led Government not respect an honor one of the most important principles of the United Nations called Human rights, for the owner of this topic/motion to remind our government about the right of education as a human right, and that is why the human rights chapter is well respected in our country.

Honorable speaker I need to be made to understand by the mover where he has been before and upon independence and what age if he is not aware how the two different education systems have been like, I am referring to the colonial Bantustan education system against the white segregation colonial education system against what he is today witnessing, as I believe him being a product of the education set up of the Swapo party governance, maybe he does not believe in him selves for have been trained trough the same system and resources he disregard and criticized.

Honorable speaker the apparent issue is public school resourcing and funding against private school set up. We must be pragmatic and not forget that the Government is responsible over the broader public's wellbeing and cannot be compared to a single business /commercial entity called a private school (Do we have any idea how much it cost to keep a child at these private entities? you can do your own investigations dear members) it is shocking.

With all due respect on the existing private schools am I having experience of well-equipped and resourced Government schools, it's only the ignorant who don't have an I to see.

I don't doubt the capacity of Government schools against the private school set up, and if one argues on the number of public schools by the year 2022 was at 1947 from 1723 during the year of 2013, a very fair achievement not to add to the additional schools constructed during 2023 to address the classroom shortfall and I am referring to top good quality schools and I believe there are still more schools to come, and for your information the current school intake stands at more or less 96%

And for your information honorable members our public schools are accommodating around 830,000 learners if not more as I haven't come across any complain of children without classroom not ignoring the fact that we are a growing nation, the last census got the statistics.

Honorable speaker if you have 600 learners per school than each school at least benefits a 180,000 Namibian dollars per learner from the NS300 annually which is possibly not enough but adequate to take care of basic needs like stationery from the state to the learner. The claim on hostel tenant meals being provided by the parents is false as we are all aware of the award of tenders through procurement to cater for this aspect.

On the issue of poor performance during covid should not be generalize and perceived as an all along phenomenon as we all know the trauma and difficulties this nation went through, not to ignore the improvement on performance that all of us witness during the last results, there is really a positive pick up.

The pass mark or rate of most of the so-called private schools are questionable as they let not well-prepared learners to the next grade to satisfy the high spending parents. I can challenge you my honorable dear brother that we can run a test of one on one by having a private school learner against a public-school learner on basics and you will be proven wrong.

Fundraising activities has been championed by the very private schools that you are praise singing it was this very entities who brought this fashion not to mention raffle tickets, so I don't see any wrong doing if a public school management can also practice the same to meet Government hallway through this type of positive initiatives.

Honorable speaker I would than like to request this august house not to entertain this type of wastage of precious time, by further entertain this topic and remove it from the order paper and let the ministry of education under the able leadership of the minister and her deputy carry out future ministerial plans in order to shape the future of our country. Let Honorable Hamata arrange with the Ministry an appointment over a cup of coffee for more clarity as he seems to be ill informed on the subject matter.

And with these few remarks,

I thank the ,Hon.Speaker