

THE NAMIBIAN

Wednesday October 21 1992 5, I
1 sible for the maltreatment ' of detainees; that those de- -
In al report into the com-
plaints of its fomier detainees
the African National Con-
gress has accepted ultimate
responsibility for the human
rights abuses thich took
place in the movements
settlements dun'n g its years
of exile.

In an approach which
differs markedly from the
way Swapo regarded its own
former detainees the AN C
has recommended that ur-
gent attention be given to
dealing with those respon-
tained without trial should
have theallegau'ons against
them withdrawn and de-
served a clear-lapology for '
allfthose who suffered mal-
treatment should receive
monetary compensation.

ghe ANC's commission .
into the detainee lssue also
said that an independent
structure which could docu-
ment cases 'of abuse and
investigate allegations of
murder and disappearance
should be considered

The commission found the
itgravest abuses" had been
. perpretrated in the ANCis
camps in Angola, Tanzania.
'and-Uganda against sus-
pected infiltrators and
agents. -

Those detained in the
ANC s Quatro camp in-
Angola were kept without-
trial for long periods under
shocking physical conditions - i
and were denied adequate
health treatment. iiThe
inmates, _ whether convicted
of any offence or not, were
'denigrated;humiliated and
abused, often with stagger-
ing brutality. "

The repon also reveals that
after the 1984 Quatro mu-
tinythosewho rebelbdwere V
suminanly executed. The
cOmmissiOn added that it
ANC faces up to its tdetainee saga
heard harrowing accounts
of torture to extract confes-
sions from detainees.

Former MK chief of staff
Chris Hani described to the
commission his revulsion on
learning in the mid- 1980s
about detention without trial
in the camps. He described
some of the members of the
ANC's security department

as wreally vicious".

iiWe were left with an
joverall impression that for
the better part of the 1980 3
there existed a situation of
exnaordinaty abuse of power
and lack of accountabilityfi
said the report.

.: Head .of the xANCis a
i Deaptrtrnent of Intelligence
an'd Security untilj'1987,i
MzWai Piliso, candidly
admitted to the commission
hispersonalparticipationin
the beating of suspects in
1981 saying" it was justi-. ,
tied 011- the basis that he
wanted information at any

1 .—

COSI,,.

Piljso 3 name was the only ".
one released in the report in : A
connection with abuses, but
the report emphasised that
several people against whom ,5
serious allegations of bru-
tality had. been levelled were
currently employed in the
AN C s security department.

SA Communist party
chairperson Joe Slovo said f
at Mondayis press confer- 3"
'ence that the task of decid- 7;:
ing guilt should be under- 3:
taken by an interim g'ovemL
ment.

He called on the National
Party government to follow
the ANCis example and
annOunpe their crimes and
accept colleective responsi-.'
bility for them; ANC Secre-
tary General Cyril Rama-_
phosa said the ANC was
morally ifhead and shoul-
ders above the government"
in terms of honesty and
openes's'.

t TODAY: STATE HQUSE

MM-M.M.N_,_.W-. ,.

, JOSEF MOUNGA

SPURRED on by the ANOs handling of its detainee issue, two organisations representing ex-N'am'ibiandetainees yesterday urged Swapo to come to grips with its own tspy dramat once and for all;

The Patriotic Unity Movement (PUM) and the Political Consultative Committee (PCC) of ex-detainees have urged the ruling party to follow the MOS example in South Africa.

Last week an internal ANC commission recommended that those wxongly imprisoned and mistreated in its camps should have all allegations against them dropped, receive a formal apology and financial compensation. The organisation also said it was considering recommendng an independ_

51R: E162?

ent investigation into the whole issue.

In line with this, Swapo should set up an investigation into its imprisonment of Namibiens in camps in neighbouiidg'bounuiethe two Namibian groups said. They are also demanding damages.

Yesterday PUM President En'c Biwa told The Namibian that be appreciated the hbalaticed and mature step taken by the ANC".

hWe believe that Swapo continued on page 2

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1 SPY DRAMA s

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will take advice from the
ANC and follow suit," Biwa
added.

He claimed PUM was in
possession of "inside infor-
mation" which suggested
that; g, Swapo, "during the
movement - the own ispy
drama" in the 1980s. had been
advised to "restrain certain
ispy" by the ANC, which
charged it had more infor-
mation about their activi-
ties.

Now the ANC had started
investigating the "abuse of
human rights within its own
ranks," Biwa noted.

Commending the ANC for
the irreversible process it
had set in motion, Biwa said
despite the "pitiful failure-
ism," this was the only way
the ANC could cleanse it-
self and solve the problem.
Biwa accused Swapo of
"playing ostrich politics"
over the ispy drama... ;
"hiding its head in the sand
pretending - nothing was
wrong in the hope that time
will weather away the prob-
lem".

He said the ANC's cour-
age in openly dealing with
the matter should serve as
an eye-opener to Swapo.
Biwa also accused Swapo
of double standards. He said
while Swapo had persistently
ignored calls to clear the
names of ex-detainees, they
had offered many of them
jobs in government.

He concluded by saying
that the solution to the (lee-
tainee problem lay with
Swapo and not international
organisations like the Red
Cross, which he argued, were
basically powerless.
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