

Namibia/2003/22

## DTA on 'destruction'

NAMIBIA'S independence should not be turned into a "nightmare" and it was of crucial importance that the economic policy of Namibia be devised in such a fashion as to encourage growth, wealth and employment without any delay, acting president of the DTA Mishake Muyongo told a public rally in Katutura on Saturday.

Muyongo said the DTA, as the official opposition in parliament, was prepared to collaborate with the governing party as far as the development of the country was concerned, "but we will never be partners in destruction".

The DTA, he said, reiterated its earlier demand that money pledged by the South African government to ex-SWATF members be paid out.

Muyongo said if Swapo was afraid to tell its ex-Plan fighters where the money originated, the DTA would tell them that it was not Swapo's money but money from the former coloniser, South Africa. "Who are the puppets now?" he asked.

Swapo's Moses Garoëb earlier said it was because of the policy of national reconciliation that the Swapo government did not take "revenge" on and arrest opposition leaders like

Muyongo and DTA chairperson Dirk Mudge.

To this Muyongo said it was only his respect for the survival of democracy in Namibia that prevented him from being provoked by the deplorable remarks emanating from Garoëb and Information Minister Hidipo Hamutenya.

"I want to make it very clear to Swapo that this country is not Uganda under Idi Amin. This country is not Lubango."

In his speech, Dirk Mudge threatened to take Swapo's Garoëb to court for alleging on NBC-TV that he and Muyongo were "liars".

"The days when Swapo was throwing its political opponents in jails and in dungeons are past long ago. This is no longer Angola, but Namibia," Mudge commented.

Referring to what he called the hypocrisy of Swapo, he said he was afraid that the organisation did not understand the real essence of democracy and reconciliation.

"When Swapo is in the National Assembly they vehemently criticise the DTA and call its leaders all sorts of names. When we react to that in the public they say we shouldn't do it. It's not democracy," said Mudge.



DIRK Mudge at Saturday's DTA rally.



PART of the DTA audience.