



**RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF “NAZY SYPHATHIZER”
LEVELLED AGAINST HONOURABLE FRANS KAPOFI, MINISTER
OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, BY THE LEADERSHIP OF
THE LANDLESS PEOPLE’S MOVEMENT**

20 April 2022

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

During the afternoon of Tuesday, the 19th April 2022, after I have tabled the Budget Statement for the two Votes (Votes 8 and 31) allocated to the Ministry of Defence and Veterans, I received a statement from the LPM Parliamentary Spokesperson, Hon Utaara Mootu, titled; “**The Minister of Defence Frans Kapofi a Nazi sympathizer**”. I would like to state at the onset that I have never, I do not, and I will never sympathise with, nor support the Nazi ideology.

When I presented the Budget Statement of the Ministry that I have been entrusted to lead, I shared with the Honourable Members the long view of the ministry’s assessment of the threats that are likely to be faced by our country in the future, and how the Namibia Defence Force (NDF) may be transformed to continue guaranteeing national security. I spoke about the need to rejuvenate the NDF by recruiting educated young cadres, the need to acquire new technologies and the need to improve infrastructure, which will facilitate the provision of the all-round defence of the territorial land mass, airspace and the national maritime domain.

The NDF is a constitutional creation with a sole mandate to defend the territory of Namibia and national interests. One of the major national interests of this country is its national security which the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs is mandated to guarantee. There is not a Namibian definition for national security. There is also not a universally accepted definition for national security. Hence, nations, in articulating their national security issues, rely on the work of acclaimed scholars of International Studies and International relations.

Arnold Oskar Wolfers (1892-1968) was one of those acclaimed scholars whose research work in national security and foreign policy analysis have enriched the disciplines of International Studies and Political Science. Arnold Wolfers was a Swiss born to an American father and a Jewish mother. I do not dispute the fact that he worked in Germany during the time the Nazi came to power and that, like most German scholars at the time, initially, sympathised with Nazi policies before 1933. It is also true that it was because of his realization of the danger of the Nazi ideology that he left Germany to be domiciled in the USA where he excelled in academics as a Professor at Yale and at Johns Hopkins Universities, respectively.

As a scholar, Arnold Wolfers' work is peer reviewed and is widely cited in many scholarly works in the fields of International Studies and Political Science. See for example, Ronald J. Yalem's review of "The Theory of Ends" of Arnold Wolfers, first published in 1960 in the Journal of Conflict Resolution Vol. 4 Issue 4 pp: 421-425. See also *Discord and Collaboration: Essays on International Politics* by Arnold Wolfers, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1962. These are influential works of Arnold Wolfers who held a professorial seat at Yale University until his death. Read of Martin L.W. (2008) Arnold Wolfers, 1892–1968: Member of the ISS Council, 1964–68 published online: 03 Mar 2008.

These scholars praised the intellectual prowess of Arnold Wolfers. He was never among Nazi supporters tried during the Nuremberg trials. He was never declared wanted for any involvement with the Nazi regime. He could not have held a professorial position at

Yale- an Ivy League institution, nor appointed Director of the Washington Center for Foreign Policy Research.

He could not have been accorded much respect and recognition in the US if he was a Nazi supporter as alluded to by the LPM.

It is therefore from the point of his stature as an authority in National Security that his definition of national security was adopted as fitting to the situation of Namibia's National Security.

I would like to bring to the attention of the LPM that, the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs' undertaking to recruit educated young cadres was born out of the realisation of the importance of education to defence and security. We started the process initially with the establishment of a Master's Degree Programme in Security and Strategic Studies at UNAM in 2006. This was followed by the establishment of the School of Military Science in 2010, also at UNAM, that runs a Bachelor's Degree Programme in Military Science as well as a Post-Graduate Diploma in Security and Strategic Studies.

The work of Arnold Wolfers and other scholars is widely used in those programmes. Armed therefore with the knowledgeable officers who graduated from those programmes and similar programmes offered by sister institutions in countries such as Botswana, Brazil, Britain, China, India, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the USA; this puts MODVA on a right course to reimage in order to adequately guarantee national security and national sovereignty through and through.

While agreeing with the LPM that "Nazis committed the most horrific crimes against humanity, a Holocaust against the Jews, in

honour of German white supremacy and racist chauvinism”, I found the motive behind the utterances associating the MODVA Budget Statement with Nazism to be bound not only on deliberately discrediting my person, but also on suppressing the good intention of the ministry (MODVA) to facilitate a smooth transformation process of the NDF and developing it into a formidable force to be reckoned with.

The LPM’s insinuations demonstrate their lack of understanding of the importance of national security. It is not the first time that they have launched unwarranted scathing attacks on individual prominent members in the ministry. This youthful leadership of the LPM, instead of appreciating MODVA’s resolve to empower the youth with the responsibility of the defence and security of this country, they chose to divert the attention of the house to Nazi rhetoric. One wonders what their vision is for the security of our country and whether they have the capacity to drive the national security agenda.

The LPM’s piece attacking me was therefore clearly based on superficial knowledge of Arnold Wolfers and perhaps lack of knowledge of leading authorities in the field of International Relations, Defence and Strategic Studies.

I thank you!