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netman

## Seal rebels encounter resistance

SPEAK YOUR MIND PUBLISHED DATE OSWALD THEART HITS: 434



The publishing of an article "The Seals of Nam" activists are rebels without a cause' by Osw from Kasote Village near Rundu led to surprising interest shown by local and international for the Namibian seal issue. In the absence of a public forum to debate the issue, a Facebook di page under the name of "Namibian Seal Conservation" was opened. This quickly led to inter between "Namibian Seal Conservation" and activist groups such as "The Seals of Nam", and Francois Hugo of "Seal Alert".

It has been noted that there are some misconceptions in regard to what we stand for and wh against: NSC believes in conservation. Conservation can be described as the wise managem environment and its natural resources by mankind.

NSC strongly believes that Namibians have an inherited right to practice sustainable harvesti seals. Sustainable harvesting of animals has been practised since the origin of man. The dominium over animals and the right to their are considered as one of our rights.

Although we are a secular state and NSC does not want to beat the religion drum, it be must noted that even God gives us this right: ' said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the a the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1.2.

Namibians, being predominantly Christian, will understand this.

Art. 95 of our Constitution also recognises this right: "The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adop alia: 'maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of living natural re: a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future...' "

This right to harvest seals in a sustainable manner is also described in the Marine Resources Act.

The NSC further believes that although the current method of harvesting might appear to be cruel, it is described by scientists as the humane method available. It may need to be correctly applied through training.

However NSC wants to state that it is open to suggestions of even more humane methods of harvesting the seals. In this regard, we v lobby Government to use this more humane method.

NSC further believes that the Namibian Government has been successful in its efforts of the sustainable management of seals. Moreo also of the opinion that the large quantity of seals and their population explosion is causing harm to both the commercial and recreatio industry, hence our support for harvesting seals.

NSC will also work with like-minded NGOs to support seal harvesting.

One of NSC's main areas of focus is to counter what we consider to be the malicious and misinformed international campaigns agains in particular the 'Boycott Namibia campaign led Pat Dickens and his organisation. Such campaigns, we believe, can cause unnecessa our country, especially since these campaigns are manifestly based on falsehoods and emotions.

NSC not only intends to work closely with Government but also to appoint, where possible, independent researchers to further its cas providing scientifically sound arguments. We hope, with such action, NSC would be able to advise or lobby our Government.

As this is the first platform of its kind in Namibia, where all Namibians can openly discuss this falsely emotive issue and brainstorm on counter the campaign against Namibia, the NSC urges citizens to join our cause.

This can be done by visiting our FB page and by clicking on the 'like' button on the top right hand side. This will automatically render y supporter of our cause.

NSC is currently in the process of opening up a web site, which, we hope, will carry our campaign far and wide!

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