

ZAPU and Racialism

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Article in Zimbabwe Review (Lusaka), 9 April 1966.

Many times Rhodesian white settlers have tried to denigrate the Zimbabwe African People's Union by calling its officials and members black racialists. This has been done both in the minority House of Assembly and at public meetings of the racist Rhodesian Front.

Of course the allegation is as untrue as it is weird because ZAPU does not believe in any form of racialism. ZAPU is anti-racialist. It is precisely because of this strong belief that ZAPU exists and is fighting tooth and nail to establish a fair social, political and economic situation in Zimbabwe.

ZAPU does not and will never believe in what is often termed multi-racialism because this is but a myth meant to cover up blatant racialism practised by Rhodesia's white minority settlers.

Lord Malvern and his political son, Roy Welensky, tried their best during their era to preach this myth under various names. They called it partnership at one time and multi-racialism at another but the myth was exploded once and for all by Malvern himself when he tried to define partnership in their now dead Federation as like that which exists between a rider and his horse.

Multi-racialism is nothing other than multiplied racialism. It is some artificial catchword aimed at enticing and capturing political opportunists and believers in political gradualism.

ZAPU's attitude towards individuals is not coloured by any form of racialism (either multi-racialism or anything else) but is based on the natural fact that a human being is a human being whether he is white, black or yellow and must have his full rights as a human being irrespective of his colour.

But this myth frequently called multi-racialism perpetuates racialism by making certain privileges for a certain race or races under various guises.

If equality of human beings is to be realised, then, it is high time it was realised that people are not better people just because they are white, brown or black. The only qualification for a creature to be called a human being is for it to be human and no more.

It is on this basis that ZAPU is prosecuting the struggle against British racialism in Southern Rhodesia.

The national leader of Zimbabwe, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, has said many times that the Rhodesian whites are an indivisible part of the community of our

country and must realise that they cannot succeed in creating an artificial community of their own by claiming racial superiority based on the colour of their skin.

No sane person can expect to forge a nation out of people some of whom are striving to create political, social and economic barriers against others just because they have a different skin-colour from their own.

A sine qua non political, economic and social set-up can be created only when everyone is granted his inalienable right to choose his or her own representative or representatives anywhere but not where oppression is adored.