

Merkel's remarks demonstrate fascist inclinations: Ndlovu

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The Minister of Information and Publicity, Cde Sikhanyiso Ndlovu, yesterday said President Mugabe's attendance at the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon, Portugal, made some European heads of state and his detractors look like dwarfs.

Reacting to remarks by German Chancellor Angela Merkel that the situation in Zimbabwe "damages the image of the new Africa", Cde Ndlovu said he was not amused as this was coming from a Nazi remnant. He said the remarks by Ms Merkel clearly demonstrated her fascist and racist inclinations. "She should shut up on Zimbabwe or ship out. President Mugabe is no doubt an indisputable icon of African nationalism, a pan-African, a revolutionary and liberator of Zimbabwe together with the late Dr Joshua Nkomo. "He has attended the summit in his own right as a statesman of repute. At the summit he has taken centre stage, making some of the European heads of governments and his detractors, including Angela Merkel, look like dwarfs." Germany, he said, had no business discussing Zimbabwe and should have stuck to the agreed principle of the summit. "Zimbabwe is not a colony of Germany. This is racism of the first order by the German head of state," he said. Cde Ndlovu said President Mugabe had no kind words for the German chancellor and that only Zimbabweans had the right to comment on matters about their country. He said the people spoke by endorsing President Mugabe as their candidate for the harmonised 2008 presidential, parliamentary and local government elections. "We are following constitutional prerogatives in Zimbabwe in whatever we are doing," he said. Ms Merkel had "dirty hands" and was not qualified to comment on Zimbabwe, the minister said, adding that she had demonstrated her Nazi inclination when she banned HobbitorScientologyChurch in German and Hollywood Star Tom Cruise from shooting a film on Klaus Schenk von Stauffenberg who attempted to assassinate Hitler in 1944. Germany, he said, needed a leader like Otto von Bismarck, who fought for its unification and eradication of injustices. "She needs to read German history and be oriented," he said. Cde Ndlovu said Mr Brown had shot himself in the foot by boycotting the summit because President Mugabe was invited. He said Mr Brown did not snub President Mugabe but fellow EU leaders, who desperately wanted to create economic ties with Africa. The minister said the Western leaders were scared stiff of the China-Africa trade ties, which were rapidly growing and benefiting both continents. He accused former colonial masters of treating Africa as an extension of Europe as demonstrated by their attitude when dealing with the continent.

"They should know that Africa is free and independent and governments make their own decisions about their countries' political and economic affairs." Cde Ndlovu described the Lisbon summit as a second Scramble for Africa, in view of the EU policies which were skewed against Africa. He said it was a shame for Mr Brown to send Baroness Amos, a black sister and lesser representative to the high-profile summit. "If she has a soul, she would understand that she is being used by her master against her own people," he said. Cde Ndlovu also blasted some NGOs and some private newspapers in the country for backing Britain and its allies in demonising Zimbabwe. "Some NGOs and some imperialist megaphones from Zimbabwe sponsored the demonstrations against their own President in Lisbon. "Imperialist stooges had to go to Lisbon to demonstrate against their own leader singing for their supper."

