



THE VOICE OF CHANGE



Swaying to the tune of hope: Thousands gather in Rundu to celebrate the dawn of a new era in Namibian politics...!

Our Country Is Bleeding; Our People are Suffering!

Just look around. The general decay, the worsening standard of living, rising unemployment, the weakening standards in education, health and service delivery.... The list goes on. What is frightening is the attitude of the Swapo led government towards the prevailing situation. There is no focus, a sense of urgency or realisation of the suffering of our people. And to cap our despair, we hear daily of government officials involved in corruption cases amounting to millions of dollars.

It is as if the Swapo government has adopted a belief that the poorer people are, the more they turn into squatters, the weaker they are – the better they will vote for the ruling party.

The most important asset in any country are its people. That seem not to be the case in Namibia!

If an uninformed person observes the city centre of Windhoek, he or she will see a semblance of economic vibrancy, wealthy well-dressed people driving expensive vehicles; the shops are first world standard and business seems to be thriving....

However, this picture changes the moment one moves to the suburbs of Katutura and beyond. Huge sprawling squatter areas have mushroomed after independence. People are flocking from other areas and settling like flock of birds in areas such as Havana, Freedomland, Sevende/Agste laan, etc.

Here the people are dressed in rags; children pushing containers after collecting water from some faraway spot; men and women idling away time with cheap alcohol, their faces reflecting despair and desperation.

It is the new sad face of Windhoek!

They came to Windhoek with hopes of better life. They heard of the promise—and indeed were part of the struggle for human emancipation and independence—and came to fetch it. They come from everywhere and their lives has grinded to a halt. Go to any other town and village and count positive changes after independence. You will be lucky to use all the fingers of your one hand. In most cases, the count will go into minus since the colonialists left!

The promise at independence was exciting new life: Better education, health, jobs, and houses for all. Yes, we could only do better than the hated apartheid colonialist.

Now our people are chasing a mirage, hoping to find it in the capital and to end up in a little shed with no running water, electricity or sanitation. And even that is rudely abolished by the city fathers in the middle of winter, “Old Location” style.

The RDP is deeply concerned and pledges on improving our people’s well-being and to reconstitute the Namibian dream.

The RDP was born to lead us out of poverty into the promised land.

RDP Launches Manifesto Thousands come to listen to the message of hope

The RDP had a series of successful public meetings over the past months. Our correspondent from the north reports RDP Ohangwena and Rundu Rallies overwhelming.

Thousands of people from the Ohangwena region came to witness the launching of the new RDP election manifesto May 2, 2009. They came to hear what their party will do for them if they elect it to power.

They came in thousands: the “born frees”, public and private workers, business people,—not children under voting age. They came on foot, by bicycles and a

vehicle convoy stretching over 10 kilometers.

RDP President Hidipo Hamutenya said that it was a shame that the Swapo Party gave the people a review of an old 2004 election manifesto and that it was even a bigger shame to state that everything in the old manifesto had been achieved.

That rally solidified the open secret, the fact that the Ohangwena region had become RDP country. It also wiped out the fear of being an RDP member and in fact after that rally thousands of new memberships forms were arriving daily all

across the country.

The following month, on the 20th of June 2009 RDP again held a successful rally in Rundu, Kavango Region at the Rundu Sports stadium. The stadium was filled to capacity.

In his ‘message of hope’ speech RDP President Hidipo Hamutenya said according to the figures produced by the National Planning Commission, the Kavango region had the highest poverty rate of all the 13 regions in the country, followed by the Ohangwena region. Yet he said the region has the potential to overcome poverty in a short span of time as it has fertile agricultural land and an abundance of water resources. These are the resources needed to make the region the nation’s food basket. In other words, the Kavango region has the potential to produce enough food to feed the whole of Namibia.

“The Swapo government has failed to take advantage of this region’s great potential and to turn the area into the productive Garden of Eden and thereby create jobs for the inhabitants of the region.

The RDP government will immediately and unfailingly set about to work to translate the productive resources of this great region into wealth and prosperity for the people in this region. It will give priority to the much talked about Green Scheme. This priority will be in terms of budgetary allocation, aimed at researching increased use of fertilizers, irrigation and development of high-yield varieties of food crops. This will mean

OFFICIAL CORRUPTION BECOMES ENDEMIC IN NAM

“The absence of a competitive political process has created a fertile ground for runaway corruption in Namibia”, writes RDP Pres. Hidipo hamutenya

The on-going exposures of major scandals, involving crimes of massive theft, large-scale fraud, kickbacks, bribery and money laundering by public officials, underlines the extent to which official corruption has become frighteningly pervasive in Namibia.

It is of little comfort nowadays to argue, as some high government officials like to argue, that in Namibia corruption is not systematic or rampant.

It is time to say that official corruption was only marginally prevalent in the country during the first decade of Namibia’s independence. But beginning with the third term of SWAPO’s rule, the country started to drift towards a discernible culture of graft. And as this insidious phenomenon of corruption began

to significantly permeate the nation’s state structure, Namibia’s political and management processes were becoming less and less transparent.

What started off as a promising democracy, the Namibia political system soon began to degenerate into an autocracy. Being a government in which one person rules with virtually unlimited power, autocracy is a manifestation of bad governance. Like elsewhere that a system of government was allowed to establish roots, in Namibia autocracy has been accompanied by cronies, i.e. sycophants, for its operation and survival.

In making appointments to public office, autocracy does not look for competence and relevant qualifications.

Continue on pg. 2



A picture from the Old Location in 1959? No, this is today in Windhoek’s Havana informal settlement. There is little sanitation, no basic infrastructure to support the thousands of ‘squatters’ and kids have to go far to get to a waterpoint. What is the future of our youth....?

The RDP youth members who conduct mobilization campaigns in the areas of Ondangwa, Oshakati and Ongwediva reported to Head Office that in the first week of August, within only eight days, they have registered 562 new members for the party.

“This strategy of house-to-house visits has left some regional councillors in a limbo and confused state as they are unable to draw a line between their personal emotional fear versus the constitutional rights of citizens. Now they are resorting to intimidation and scare tactics”, comments Cde. Martha Hamalwa, the Youth Secretary of Information & Publicity.

As the number of youth activists are growing daily, a need for a proper induction program was realized by the regional party leadership. An Induction Workshop was convened for 65 youth ‘foot soldiers’ on August 7.

The Workshop deliberated on topics such as, RDP Code of Conduct (i.e. expected behavior from RDP members in public, disciple, respect and integrity) and



OSHANA RDP YOUTH ENLIST 562 NEW MEMBERS IN 8 DAYS

the RDP Election Manifesto.

“Our party and its youth are well organized, well informed, disciplined. We are professional when in public places and when visiting the public at their residences. The regional Swapo leadership must leave us in peace and face the reality. We are an alternative working

towards the good of Namibia and that’s a fact they must just accept”, concluded Cde. Hamalwa.

House-to-house mobilisation was a successful strategy during the struggle days. Swapos have become fat cats who cannot take the extra walk from their BMWs to conduct a normal practise as in the old days.

OFFICIAL CORRUPTION

from pg. 1

Rather, it looks for those who display groveling loyalty to the autocrat, that is, those who make self-serving efforts to ingratiate themselves with the one man rule, through flattery and praise-singing.

Moreover, in Namibia, the autocratic rule has ensured that its cronies are enabled to obtain preferential government tenders, jobs and business contracts. Through this sort of patronage the SWAPO government has been able to instill in the Namibian population a rather servile mentality such that, in general, the people in this country are reluctant to openly speak out against social evils like fraud, theft, kickbacks, money laundering, and bribery.

Only few in civil society organizations and the private media are prepared to speak out openly against such social evils.

It is ironic that while the Namibian

political culture, that has been evolving over the last 20 years or so, could not foster a vibrantly critical public opinion, those close to the autocratic rule became fairly quickly corrupt. They took advantage of their relatively exclusive position to embezzle public funds for self-enrichment. Despite the fact that media reports of corruption cases having become frequent, measures by the government to combat corruption have remained lax. Indeed, hardly any of the reported high profile cases of corruption has resulted in stiff penalty with people going to jail.

Corruption in Namibia state structure has become a low-risk and high-return activity. Laws, rules and directives on the state books are ineffective and spotty to serve as full-fledged measures needed to ensure success of the government’s efforts.

As official corruption becomes endemic in Namibia, so much so that even relatively low-leveled officials can amass illicit fortunes in hundreds of million Namibian dollars, the phenomenon

has begun to exacerbate the country’s already very high rates of socio-economic inequality.

Corrupt officials have, in the meantime become more and more audacious with the display of their ill-gotten wealth posh cars and luxury houses. Corruption has become one of Namibia’s top public challenge and concern.

The Namibian people are beginning to realize that when hundreds of millions of dollars are being embezzled by government officials, incalculable social injustices is being committed against the people of this country, many of whom who eke out subsistence life under extreme poverty, is a serious case of social injustice.

To effectively combat the scourge of mounting corruption in this country, the authorities must aggressively mobilize the power of the political parties and civil society forces, in addition to the efforts of the government agencies tasked with this responsibility.

RDP Rallies

From Pg.1

increased application of scientific and technological methodologies to agricultural productivity. We will initiate an irrigation agricultural belt which will stretch from Katwitwi in the western part of the Kavango region to the Namibian-Zambian borders in the east”, said the President.

He said that the Kavango region has considerable opportunity for manufacturing of wood products, such as, furniture, carvings and ceramic manufacturing which can be seen in towns like Windhoek, Okahandja, Rundu and Cape Town. But there is no government support for local entrepreneurs.

The President said that in terms of population, the Kavango region is the second largest region in Namibia. It does not only have great potential in terms of fertile land and an abundance of water, but also human resources needed to provide the required labour for the development of its natural resources.

The RDP-led government will translate the dream of the Trans Caprivi Highway into a concrete reality by completing the Elundu (in Ohangwena region) to Rundu in the Kavango region during our first year in office. This is another firm commitment we are making to the people of the Kavango region.

Widespread poverty in this country, and particularly in this region, finds its tragic expression in the unacceptable high rates of



failure, especially failure of grade 10 and grade 12 learners. Virtually, the majority of these failed learners find themselves jobless and loitering on the streets every year. Some of these unemployed youth find themselves forced to try to improve their literacy and numeracy skills through Namcol.

“But Namcol is nothing more than an admission by the Swapo government that its educational system has failed the Namibian nation. The RDP-led government will not need Namcol. Instead, as it will ensure that the educational system will be fundamentally transformed and made efficient, through a crash programme of training and re-training of teachers and school administrators,” said the RDP President.

The health sector in the country, specifically in the Kavango region, has been in a state of steady decay. Therefore, as we move to the end

of this second decade of Namibia’s sovereign existence, the improvement of the country’s health system must be undertaken with a view to reverse its current shameful deterioration in terms of infrastructure, medical supply, conditions of service of the personnel and the management of institutions. This is totally unacceptable. The RDP-led government will work to redress this sad trend.

The cardinal weakness of the Swapo government has been its inability to manage the affairs of government efficiently. There is no reason whatsoever for the people of this country to believe that they will be able to do better than what it has been able to do over the last 19 years”, said the President.

Meetings, attended by thousands, continued all over the country. See the back page for pictures that tell the story.

Why RDP is the choice and what are her plans?

[Excerpts from the RDP Manifesto]

DEMOCRACY & POLITICAL PLURALISM

The RDP espouses democracy as its beacon in the push for the development of Namibian society.

Democracy is referred to as “government by the people, for the people”. More broadly defined, democracy refers to a system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people. In other words, the masses of the people constitute the source of political authority in a democratic system.

In this context, the definition of democracy goes beyond the concept of government or the mere mechanism of ruling, administering, ordering and regulating public affairs.

For the RDP, governance is the process and skill to utilize collective power for the realization of common objectives. Such collective power has to be acquired democratically through elections.

When it is good, governance involves the actions and interaction of individuals and groups in diverse and dynamic ways.

Good governance entails discussion, consultation and consensus. It is a strategic precondition for success in the nation’s effort towards development.

This not only requires that the management of public affairs be conducted within the framework of the rule of law and ethical codes, but that such management is carried out on the basis of the principles of accountability and transparency. This reinforces the legitimacy of government and helps nurture trust between public officials and the people.

Accountability and transparency serve as a potent deterrent against corruption, which is a manifestation of bad governance.

Typical of bad governance is the existence of a cumbersome and ineffective regulatory framework which puts unnecessary hurdles in the path of both domestic and foreign investment flow into the economy.

RDP knows that being accountable has not been a distinguishing characteristic of the management of the country’s public affairs.

Accountability forms a central plank of the RDP’s political programme. Individuals and organizations charged with the performance of specific roles or delivery of particular services, will be held responsible for their actions or inaction and judged in terms of clearly stated legal and ethical codes of conduct; and required to respond to the legitimate requests and demands of citizens without discrimination or favour.

Since the private sector derives its support and profitability from civil society, one important function of accountability is the supply of reliable, sufficient, up-to date information on the performance of private enterprises and corporations. Research institutes also need reliable information on which to base independent and objective analysis.

Information flow is thus a very vital contribution to the country’s development and the flourishing of good governance in Namibia. The RDP therefore considers itself duty bound to foster a political culture where accountability is highly emphasized.

Also central to the definition of good governance is the principle of transparency, which involves making available information on all matters related to governance, including the duties and responsibilities of public officials and the manner in which they are performed.

For the RDP, openness and predictability, at all levels, constitute the essence of good governance. They are key to inhibiting corruption and stunting its growth; and also increasing public trust and confidence in those charged with the achievement of common goals.

The RDP is thus keen to enhance effective co-operation and partnership between the government, the private sector and civil society.

The RDP knows that in the highly competitive knowledge-based world economy, the availability of information is crucial to both public and private sectors.

It is thus committed to ensure the rapid building up of capacity to acquire, store, and disseminate information and knowledge necessary to enable Namibia’s entrepreneurs and business people to be more productive, innovative and competitive.

Accountability and transparency are important building blocks in the creation of constructive relations between people in a modern society or ‘social capital’. The RDP is thus committed to the cultivation of social capital as key to the promotion, sustainability and consolidation of both democratic processes and economic development.



Why Veterans of the liberation struggle move on...

Learn the untold stories of the past!



Why is it that a people who devoted their lives for the creation and strengthening of Swapo for over 40 years are leaving and finding a new home in the RDP? What went wrong? We are asking several veterans this question and will share their experiences with you henceforth.

Photo: The stalwarts who took the bold move to change the future of Namibia and formed the RDP. F.l.t.r: Hidipo Hamuntenya, Jesaya Nyamu and Kandy Nehova.

The Story of Jesaya Nyamu – Secretary General of RDP

The first person to be “fired” from Swapo in an independent Namibia is Jesaya Nyamu, then the Minister of Trade and Industry. This happened after the National Intelligence found “notes” in his Ministerial office.

“The real reason was that I supported Cde. Hamutenya as presidential candidate in the 2004 Swapo Congress. Sam Nujoma was enraged...” relates Nyamu.

“For Nujoma, it bordered to treachery that somebody can even entertain the idea that he is replaceable. He saw himself as life president, a messiah above everything and everybody. Besides, he lived all along with a suppressed hatred for Cde. Hamutenya.”

According to Nyamu, this hatred emanates from the days of Tanganyika (a reference to the head office of Swapo in Tanzania in the 1960-70’s). “There we had a very bright, charismatic and able leader in the name of Jacob Kuhangua. He was a graduate of the Lincoln University in the USA, a co-founder of OPO who had no high regards for Sam Nujoma whom he regarded as illiterate. In turn Nujoma feared

that Kuhangua was planning to overthrow him”.

Jacob Kuhangua (whom they started to term as CIA agent) was later stabbed by a Russian trained cadre, Mr. Loise Nelengani, in turn named as a KGB agent. This left Kuhangua paralyzed and he left for the US and eventually returned to Namibia where he died a broke man, and an unsung hero. It was suspected that Nujoma was behind it all, just like so many other cases of rising stars in Swapo who died in mysterious ways.

“Kuhangua and Hidipo Hamutenya were very close and so Nujoma always had a mistrust and grudge against the latter. When he looked at HH, he saw the shadow of Kuhangua and this made him uneasy. So when I sided with HH as candidate for the Swapo presidency, Nujoma regarded me a traitor who is bringing in an old enemy,” remembers Nyamu.

The Nyamu notes

After the rigged SWAPO internal election of 2004 which drew up the party list for the National Assembly elections, Nyamu said he started to ponder the new situation and scribbled notes in which he asked the following questions:

Option I Should we (as Swapo leaders) keep our silence for the sake of the Party, peace, continuity and let Nujoma carry on in his dictatorial style?

Option II Resign one by one from the Party in an effort to send strong signals about our dissatisfaction with the dictatorial tendencies of the old man?

Option III Altogether quit Swapo and start to fight it from the outside...?

These thoughts led to the dismissal of a Swapo stalwart and Minister of Trade and Industry.

But why want to fight Swapo after you them for over 40 years?

“I left the country in 1961 to fight the South African colonialism. I studied in the USA and since then contributed in many ways towards that cause. Among other, I opened and served as Swapo representative offices in Zambia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe. I returned to Namibia in 1990 with Nujoma. My record at contributing to the firm foundations of Swapo and contribution to Namibia’s independence is undisputed,” says Nyamu.

“There were many things that were not right in Swapo. However, all our focus was on the liberation struggle which required the foundation of unity. We could not allow that internal problems override that unity and the focus on the struggle. We dealt with problems silently but some became beyond us. Nujoma was at play,” said Nyamu.

But with independence, Nujoma having tasted sweet power, refused to relinquish it. Like all leaders who had a bad record in the past, he started to fear what may happen when they become normal citizens. And to stay on, they tend to use dictatorial means to suppress the rest.

Nyamu describes Nujoma as very “crafted, shrewd and vindictive”.

“He hides under his charming, innocent-like smile these dangerous qualities. Once he targets a person who he does not like, he will be very patient in getting to him or her. First he tries to get his opponents very close to him and work on ways to eliminate them. He had very few close friends and he kept one friend at a time. Those very close friends like Peter Nanyemba, Emil Appolus and many others who are all gone...” Nyamu said, stressing it is a long story to be told one day.

“And with independence, Nujoma

flexed his real muscles. He never listened and used us to approve his agenda; he had total contempt for the views of others. It is not possible for anyone to change anything for the better in Swapo. Even with Nujoma’s departure, that culture of intolerance, military formation and totalitarianism has been ingrained. “Swapo has played its part. But time has moved on and it is now the time for new ideas and the new generation to take their rightful place”.

Why form a new Party?

Nyamu explains:

The liberation movements were formed in a historical context for a specific mission. But when they are victorious and take state power, they tend to maintain their semi-military culture and style. By default, they are not democratic and cannot run civil machinery as it should be. This is a universal fact and at one time or another, the liberation movements – be it in SA, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, etc.—must make way for the new generation to run state institutions as it should be.

It is the logic of change and it is inevitable.

In Namibia, the opposition was too weak and discordant to challenge Swapo effectively. Change had to come from within.

This split is healthy for the sake of democracy in the country. The monolith of one party rule is broken forever and Namibians now have an opportunity to shop around for the party that genuinely address real issue.

Concerns around the upcoming elections?

“Swapo is shaken to the core. It is scared. They can see that RDP is unlike any other. It is a formidable political party and the corrupt ones who bleed this country are seeing the red light. Thus, we do expect that they will protect their status quo and ill-gains with everything at their disposal. This will include rigging of elections, intimidation of political opponents as we have already seen.

“We as a party are working hard to mitigate their dirty tactics. We must ensure they do not have an easy time cheating and bullying as they have always done in the past,” Nyamu said confidently.

“Swapo has played its part. But time has moved on and it is now the time for new ideas and the new generation to take their rightful place”



And who said RDP is for the old guard and for Kwanyamas?

Daily people are joining RDP like the former Minister of Agriculture, Anton Von Wietersheim who could not take Swapo’s nonsense some time back. (Photo: Republikein)

“Swapo is shaken to the core. It is scared. They can see that RDP is unlike any other. It is a formidable political party and the corrupt ones who bleed this country are seeing the red light...”



Come and join the fastest growing Party and secure a future for generations to come...

A shock is awaiting some parties in Namibia who aim for a 100 percent landslide in the coming elections. Perhaps they have not seen the the RDP crowds! *On the left column*, from above, RDP interacting in Ohangwena, Rundu, Windhoek. *On the column above*, masses of members as far as the eye can see in Eenhana, Ondangwa, Windhoek (Convention), Ohangwena *and below*, the RDP launch in Windhoek 2008. *You ain't seen nothing yet!*

