

NAMIBIA TODAY



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SWAPO Vice-President, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, in Katima Mulilo with Chairperson of National Leaders assigned to Zambezi Region, Cde Erastus Utoni.

Zambezi throws its weight behind NNN

By Staff Reporter

Thousands of people in the Zambezi Region have thrown their full weight behind the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

As November 27 draws closer, SWAPO Party Vice President, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, continues to capture the imagination of many Namibians ahead of the Presidential and National Assembly elections.

Katima Mulilo, the capital of the great Zambezi Region, was a hive of activities on Saturday as people came out in their thousands to show their support for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah told the cheering crowd, dressed in the SWAPO Party regalia, that the time had come for Namibians to renew the Party's mandate to govern the country and further accelerate its development agenda for the betterment of the Namibian people.

"Our Election Manifesto is based on prudent financial, microeconomic management, social welfare of our people, aiming at job creation and to take our people out of poverty. It further aims at value addition to our natural resources, land reform, infrastructure development among others," said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"Our Manifesto is therefore designed to strengthen where we did well and fix where things are not producing desirable results. It is also crafted, having in mind possible

challenges faced by our people, that includes unemployment and poverty."

Zambezi Region, as one of the 14 regions in the country, has benefitted from the country's economic development programmes since independence. These include the construction of roads, bridges, health and educational facilities, and rural electrification.

Examples include the Trans-Caprivi

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Respect ex-PLAN combatants, says Namandje

By Staff Reporter

SWAPO Party Politburo and Central Committee member, lawyer Sisa Namandje has called on Namibians to respect and recognize contributions and sacrifices made by former combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, during the armed liberation

struggle and after independence.

Addressing a SWAPO campaign rallies in Ondangwa, Oshana Region, last Saturday, Cde Namandje said it was often very sad to see former PLAN combatants being mocked and denigrated by members of the public, not appreciating the hardships they had gone through to bring about Namibia's independence in 1990.

Flanked by Lt General (Rtd), Martin Shalli, Cde Namandje said these people crossed many rivers of blood, others laid down their lives for Namibia to be free and for Namibians to enjoy the democracy they so cherish today.

"We must not forget the sacrifices these combatants have made. It was not easy to set this country free. Those combatants

could go without food for days, sleep in the forests dodging dangers that come with nights. They deserve our appreciation and respect," said Cde Namandje.

PLAN was the armed wing of SWAPO during the liberation struggle. General Shalli was PLAN's Chief of Operations

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VOTE SWAPO PARTY AND ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CDE DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH 27 NOVEMBER 2024

SWAPO PARTY

UNITY IN DIVERSITY: Natural Resources Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development

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Highway and the Zambezi and Ngoma bridges, which have transformed Katima Mulilo into a vibrant economic hub and a gate-way to all the member states of the Southern African Development Community, SADC. Zambezi boasts 120 educational facilities, 38 health facilities, which includes 33 clinics, four health centers, and one hospital. These facilities are supported by several outreach points.

Cde Ndaitwah said the SWAPO Party government was committed to improving on such infrastructures to ensure quality education and health services. Some clinics in the Zambezi Region would soon be upgraded to health centers and district hospitals. The region also boasts a N\$60 million Zambezi multipurpose hall at the Zambezi Vocational Training Center, which was constructed under the National Technical Vocational Education and Training, TVET, expansion programme.

“Rural electrification represents a transformative shift that enhances livelihoods, empowers communities, and unlocks economic potential in areas that have long been marginalized. This year alone, a number of rural electrification projects can be noted in the Zambezi Region, such as the installation of transformers to supply electricity at Mukorofu, Nankuntwe and Namiyundu schools at a cost of N\$4,5 million,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“The installation of a transformer at Liashulu village as well as the completion of

rural electrification projects in flood prone areas is also completed. As outlined in our SWAPO Education Manifesto, we commit to ensuring the security of energy supply and key to that is to increase rural quality service delivery.”

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said water security and access to safe drinking water remained a priority area. As such, the government would accelerate the provision of portable water to rural communities through excavating, expanding and rehabilitating earth-dams, drilling rigs and borehole units in constituencies to ensure water security for human consumption by 2027.

NamWater has upgraded the Katima Mulilo Raw Water pipeline and the Katima Mulilo-Sibbinda pumping capacity. The Katima Mulilo Raw water pump has also been replaced. NamWater will also construct Katima Mulilo Treatment Plant, which will replace and extend the capacity of the bulk water supply components at Katima Mulilo to meet the increasing water demand and ensure water supply security. A consultant on this project will be appointed soon. These water supply projects will cost N\$1 billion.

Conservation tourism fuels the regional economy, making Zambezi Region one of Namibia's biodiversity hot spots. Over N\$34 million was generated through conservancies in the last year alone, of which more than N\$12 million was paid out as total community members benefits in Zambezi conservancies. The government has also handed over N\$17 million to 12

conservancies through the Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia, POSCCIN. That money was set aside to implement human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures such as the election of predator proof kraals and provision of water points away from rivers.

Agriculture also plays a significant role in the regional economy, making it a key segment in the country's drive for food security and job creation. One of the government's priorities is accelerating the productivity of the Green Schemes to enhance national food production for food security and job creation.

The government has allocated N\$8 million to the Kalimbeza Green Scheme in the current financial year. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said this was proof enough of the government's commitments to agriculture. At full operation, Kalimbeza will create many jobs.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah has reassured the people that youth unemployment would be addressed head-on, through targeted interventions to create jobs for the youth. One key area here is to strengthen youth enterprises through access to support schemes and increasing the availability of financial products. Through such schemes, young and aspiring entrepreneurs will be empowered to participate in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and logistics.

The Vice President appealed to the people in the Zambezi Region to rally behind the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate and hand them a landslide victory on

November 27. The Zambezi Region has always been the stronghold of SWAPO and as such, efforts must be intensified to restore the confidence of the people in the SWAPO Party.

“In the SWAPO Party, we believe in transparency and openness. Hence, we come to you in daylight, not under cover of darkness. Hence, our presence here today. Remember, anything done in darkness has a smell of cheating and undermining the intelligence of the people,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“As a SWAPO Presidential candidate, I am here in the open for all the residents of Zambezi Region to know I believe in openness, integrity and people to people contact. I want to assure you, under my leadership, the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto is a living document that I will ensure its implementation.

“We are too few to be poor and by giving SWAPO Party and Netumbo a chance, you will appreciate equitable distribution of our natural resources under the theme: Unity in Diversity, Natural Resources Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development.

“We must be united as a nation. Our ultimate goal, we must intensify our campaign and go out door to door, house to house, village to village and rally our people behind SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate in order to ensure a resounding victory, come November 27.”

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until independence in 1990. With the establishment of the Namibia Defence Force, NDF, in 1990, he was one of the senior PLAN commanders who established the NDF. He rose through the rank to become Chief of the Defence Force, CDF, before he retired.

Cde Namandje said SWAPO, under the leadership of Dr Sam Nujoma, mobilized and trained thousands of men and women to take up arms against the apartheid regime of South Africa, producing some of the best, sharpest and fearless commanders Namibia had ever seen.

Names such as Peter Nanyemba, Dimo Amaambo, Richard Kapelwa, Phillemon Malima, Danger Ashipala, Raimo Movirongo, Ndenga Ndaitwah, Charles Daxu Namoloh, Shalli Martin, Erastus Negonga, Laurence Samupofu and many others come to mind.

“These are the combatants and commanders we should be proud of. What they have done is commendable. SWAPO had the trust and confidence of operational soldiers to launch life-threatening operations into Namibia for the purpose of liberating our country. They never feared. They never wavered. They gave up their lives for our independence. They were loyal and patriots of note,” said Cde Namandje.

General Shalli said the war which PLAN conducted was not a walk in the park. PLAN had to overcome many obstacles to achieve its main objective - the liberation of Namibia.

“We were armed to fight. We faced a formidable apartheid army of South Africa, well resourced. But in PLAN,



Cde Sisa Namandje

they found their equals. We forced them, through the barrel of the gun, to sit down and accept the implementation of Resolution 435. I was there. I know what I



Cde Lieutenant General Martin Shalli

am talking about,” said General Shalli.

“I see some people making disparaging remarks about the effectiveness of PLAN. I tell you, there was war there, serious war.

Had it not been for PLAN, Resolution 435 could not have been implemented. We liberated this country, and we will never apologize to anyone for having liberated this country.”

Cde Namandje said whether one liked it or not SWAPO liberated Namibia. After independence, SWAPO formed a successful government, dismantling the legacy of apartheid and managing the transition from a divided country to a flourishing democracy.

“There is now a functional democratic state in our country. There is the rule of law, there is separation of laws. Our parliamentary system works. Our courts are independent and effective and are dispensing justice without interference,” said Cde Namandje.

“There is a robust civil society taking up social issues and lobbying the government to improve. There has been a monumental investment in the health and education sectors. Devastating pandemics such as HIV-AIDS and other diseases have been managed.

“This is a SWAPO legacy. This is a SWAPO story. This is a SWAPO achievement. SWAPO wants to continue. With SWAPO in charge of the government, you know our country will never return to lawlessness, to devastating state of violence and to the injustice we saw in the past.”

Cde Namandje said SWAPO would protect all the gains Namibia had made since independence. Despite the challenges such as droughts, crime and unemployment, the SWAPO Party government had tried its best to address those challenges and would mobilize more



Cde Sisa Namandje welcoming new members to SWAPO. They came from PDM and IPC.

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resources to make further improvements.

Roads, Cde Namandje said, were being constructed. Water supplies were being built every year. Houses, health and educational facilities were either being built or improved.

Cde Namandje said SWAPO was going into these elections well prepared, and its polished candidate had an impressive record of achievements under her belt. Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah is a renowned diplomat who does not play dirty politics.

“She does not savage other people’s integrity and reputation. She plays it clean, with dignity, with care. That is why the nation loves her. With Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah at the epicenter of economic

power, which is still vested in monopoly capital, monopoly capital will be shaken. Mineral resources will trickle down to workers and the broader population.”

Cde Namandje said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah would also strengthen Namibia’s social safety nets on which many Namibians depended and drive the SWAPO economic agenda to create more jobs for Namibians. To achieve these objectives, she would need a stronger government with competent and skilled persons.

“The gift we can give our mother, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, is a landslide victory... Ondangwa, wake up, everybody. Bring along everybody registered to vote,” said Cde Namandje.

“Convince them that the best way to vote productively and wisely is to vote for SWAPO and Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.”



Cde Andreas Kalumbu at the SWAPO Party rally. Most of the new members came from his SWAPO Party Branch.



Zoom In



By: Asser Ntinda

It was imperial Germany’s Otto von Bismarck who once said: “politics is the art of the possible, the attainable - the art of the next best.” He should as well have added that it was also the art of ambition. France’s Napoleon Bonaparte, however, wisely cautioned that there should at least be modesty in ambitions. Without modesty, it all boils down to wishful thinking.

South Africa held its elections at the end of May this year, where the African National Congress, ANC, narrowly won the elections, but not with enough majority to form a government alone. Then boom! Uninformed commentators and armchair revolutionaries quickly combined with political greenhorns and unpolished academics to predict the downfall of SWAPO. ‘SWAPO will suffer the same fate,’ some argued. ‘The outcome of the elections in South Africa is a lesson for SWAPO,’ others sweetened the show. Suddenly, it looked as if Namibia was South Africa and SWAPO the ANC.

None of them accurately analyzed the underlying factors that informed South Africans to vote the way they did. The vicious internal power struggle among the ANC top leadership, especially between sitting President Cyril Ramaphosa on one hand, and former presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma on the other. It was a bruising fight that cost the ANC dearly. True, to a certain extent, economic and social problems facing South Africans might have played a role in influencing the outcome of the elections, but that role was minimal. There is, therefore, just no way that such elections would have multiplier effects on Namibia.

This month, the Batswanas went to the polls. The election results were as shocking as they were telling. The ruling party, the Botswana Democratic Party, BDP, in power since independence in 1966, suffered its worst electoral defeat, winning only four seats out of the 61 Legislative seats. The Umbrella for Democratic Change, UDC, took the largest share, 35 seats, and won the election. UDC, formed in 2012 by Duma Boko, is a coalition of three political parties, the Alliance for Progressives, AP, Botswana National Front, BNF, and Botswana People’s Party, BPP.

Like in South Africa, Botswana has its unique social and economic problems. Unemployment rates are high. The economy is not performing well. But Batswanas understood why the economy was not doing well. Botswana’s economy depends on diamonds. For the past few years, world diamond prices have not been well. Its economy has suffered as a result. That context is well understood there.

But these problems, too, like in South Africa, played a minimum role in influencing how the Batswanas voted the way they did. The outcome of the elections in Botswana reflects a vicious fight between the two giants - sitting president Mokgweetsi Masisi and former President Ian Khama. Masisi was handpicked by Khama in April 2018 as his successor. But the two never dealt with each other in good faith. They were only loyal buddies at face value. Khama thought that by handpicking Masisi, he would somehow control him and remain in the show. He was dead wrong. He stretched Masisi’s loyalty and discipline too far. Masisi played his cards closest to his chest. Like a mirage in the desert, Masisi tempted Khama towards him. Khama was naive to trust Masisi. As they say, it’s not the stab in the back that hurts. It’s when you turn around and see who is holding the knife. Khama learned the lesson the hard way.

Khama, too, as said earlier, was not honest with his hand-picked successor. As the former Army Commander of the Botswana Defence Force, BDF, Khama thought Masisi, a former school teacher, would keep his discipline and allow Khama to influence him and run the show behind the scenes. Khama started flying air force fighter jets without Masisi’s approval, as the new Commander-in-Chief, CDF, of the BDF. Masisi would have none of it. He flexed his muscles as the new CDF. Khama felt humiliated and betrayed. Masisi parked his politeness and dealt with him accordingly. Their relationship was deeply strained.

To make things worse, Masisi reversed one of Khama’s key policy decisions, lifting the ban on elephant hunting. Khama bolted the stable and quit the ruling BDP party, formed by his father in 1962. “We are a party welded together by patriotism and voluntary desire,” Seretse Maphiri Khama proclaimed then in 1962. BDP ruled Botswana for 58 years until his son’s quarrel with a sitting president disrupted that chain last week.

Khama did not just quit BDP in 2018. He went on to form an opposition party to fight BDP, the Botswana Patriotic Front, BPF, which, together with other opposition parties, ran against BDP and Masisi in 2019. Masisi survived and increased BDP’s seats by one. But the fight was not over. Masisi took revenge and started hounding Khama and his business associates. Back in 2018, when Masisi took over power, he sacked the head of intelligence, Isaac Seabelo Kgosi, Khama’s trusted security ally, accusing him and Khama of laundering \$10 billion from Botswana Central Bank in conjunction with the South African Reserve Bank. The accusation annoyed Pretoria, and Khama later fled to South Africa. “I made a mistake. I was very foolish (to have appointed Masisi,)” Khama lamented later to the media. “I have apologized to the nation that I regret my decision.”

While holed up in South Africa, Khama was frequently South Africa’s former president, Thabo Mbeki’s guest of honour. They were friends when they were in power. “South Africa has a responsibility to make sure Khama is well protected in South Africa,” Mbeki later told the media. Sure enough, from South Africa, Khama mounted his well-oiled international and national smear campaigns against Masisi.

Sadly, as a result, Masisi went into these elections tainted by embarrassing corruption scandals. He allegedly benefitted from irregular National Petroleum Fund, NPF, deals. He allegedly awarded himself prime government farmland. He also allegedly handed his sister, Phadi Mmutle, a \$50 million government contract without going through the tendering process. Whether these allegations were true or false, Masisi went into these elections a badly wounded president. His chances to win were thinning. With Khama openly campaigning against his hand-picked successor, opposition rallies were filled to capacity. All it tells us is that Masisi did not manage his fight with Khama smartly enough. In the end, that fight, rather than his battle against Botswana’s economic ills, cost him his second term. He has himself to blame. In fact, some political pundits have dubbed Khama as the “Jacob Zuma of Botswana.” Seeing what has happened, they were spot on.

It is thus naive to copy and paste Botswana’s case in Namibia. Our problems are not the same. We have no leadership crisis in the top leadership, as both South Africa and Botswana had. President Nangolo Mbumba once said: “Governance and nation-building are complex issues. No other party can compare to SWAPO’s track record in governance. We have maintained peace, stability, and security for 34 years. We have ensured smooth leadership transitions in both the Party and government. No civil wars. No political assassinations. We have held regular free and fair elections supported by the rule of law.”

One only needs to look at South Africa and Botswana to appreciate our achievements which we take for granted here. Leadership transition is not a walk in the park. We have managed ours robustly well. Give credit where credit is due. SWAPO will certainly not suffer the same fate as the ANC in South Africa and BDP in Botswana. Those who think so will be disappointed when SWAPO cruises to a landslide victory on November 27. Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has no predecessors to fight against. There is no embarrassing corruption scandal hanging over her head. There is no widespread discontentment against SWAPO. While we celebrate our achievements, we have also equally been honest and smart enough to acknowledge our failures. As a result, the 2022 congress took firm corrective measures to address such failures. The results are bearing fruits. SWAPO is solid and firm. Its rallies tell it all. Mee Netumbo is a new sheriff in town, firm and focused. We have successfully marketed our Manifesto to the voters. They will be alone on November 27. Therefore, to assume that SWAPO will suffer the same fate is as balderdash as it is wishful thinking.

We are Namibians, neither South Africans nor Batswana

By Joshua Razikua Kaumbi

We have seen seismic political changes in both South Africa and Botswana, some of which were projected, others that came as a surprise even to the then incumbent and succeeding regimes. We are, however, failing to acknowledge the different political environments of these countries. Comrade Lucia Iipumbu, former SWAPO Party Youth League leader and product of our movement when addressing a rally in Omaruru, stated that “the candidate we field is the one and we should thus be cautious not to compare apples and oranges.”

centers of power that have to be taken into consideration.. He departed from the established precedents and appealed more to the neighbouring countries and global audiences rather than his domestic challenges and agenda. Given the Botswana system, Masisi became an accidental choice for president when the former vice-president, Ponotshego Kedikwe, retired on health grounds. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah progressed through the ranks, on the back of decades of engagement at the senior leadership level, in a democratic manner.

Ramaphosa, a trade unionist like

The Swapo Party is ever-changing to meet the growing needs of our people. Our people continue to appreciate the seismic sociopolitical changes that the SWAPO Party has facilitated since independence, even though they are not completely happy with how things have been. It would be foolish and disingenuous of an analyst to say that people are happy to have things continue as they have been, as it would be equally foolish and disingenuous of an analyst to say that the party that brought us independence did nothing.

The Swapo Party believes that change needs to be meaningful in people's lives and the party has awakened to this. The party is preaching continuity regarding those things that are not broken and change for those things that we acknowledge needs a rethinking.

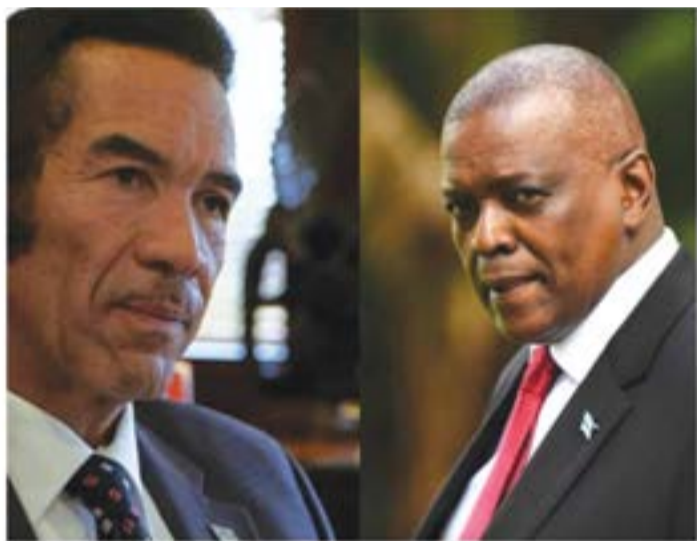
The Swapo party is ready to bring about major changes. The opposition parties on the other hand are too incompetent and fragmented even in managing their own parties to be able to bring about national change or to grasp the full extent of the issues at play.

political change has happened, it often happened suddenly with insufficient warning, like Zambia and Malawi. But that is the only takeaway. In those instances, there was often a bankruptcy of ideas, but that cannot be said of SWAPO, whose government has been at the global forefront of ideas around climate change, logistical pivoting for inter-Africa trade, and other progressive initiatives.

The party will have to capitalise on what Dumba Kwamwanyah regard as the appeal of Nandi-Ndaitwah's candidacy to those frustrated with male-dominated leadership and those young people wanting a more inclusive governance. Everybody feels safe with Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Taking a leaf from Comrade Nandi-Ndaitwah and Nahas Angula, my own friend, we should intensify our campaign on radio and television, engage more one-on-one, teach our people how to vote, project what we have achieved as a party, as well as our grasp of the problems that stand before us as a nation.

The Arab Spring only benefited Algeria, where it started, the rest are worse



How will the conflict between Masisi and Khama end?

In 2004, the BDP received 51.73 percent of the votes compared to the opposition receiving 42.68 percent, while the Swapo Party received 75.83 and the opposition 23.2 percent. In 2014, BDP received 46.45 and the opposition 42.48 percent, while the Swapo Party received 80.01 and the opposition 18.32 percent. The Swapo Party candidate scored the lowest in 2019 with 56.25 and the new kid on the block, Dr Panduleni Itula, then an independent candidate but still SWAPO, could only muster 29.37 percent, despite public dissatisfaction about the “fishrot” scandal. In 2019, BDP received 52.65 and the opposition 45.41 while the Swapo Party received 56.25 and the opposition received 32.82. Our decline came at a time when we let down our guards, which the party has since started to address in earnest as the Swapo Party has always been a self-correcting broad-based movement. It is my considered opinion that the ruling party of Botswana was never a liberation movement *stricto sensu*, hence its inclusion in the liberation movements club in recent years.

Masisi's reign threatened the fabric of the Botswana traditional political system, alienating stalwarts, and treating the party as his fiefdom and creating alternative

Chiluba, just like Masisi, unilaterally changed the script dealing with a former president and a populist par excellence. We knew from the moment Zuma was humiliated that the political scene in South Africa would change. Both these candidates, real or perceived, had allegations of corruption levelled against them. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah does not have allegations against her and has no intentions of interfering with state institutions or using state institutions to silence critics.

Good students of politics would inform us that Swapo has always been different from the ANC. Swapo as a liberation movement was more organised and structured in exile than the ANC. South Africa's movement towards multi-party democracy was triggered by our political independence. Visitors from South Africa would admire our road infrastructures and our twenty-four-hour electricity despite the size of our economy.

On the other hand, the change in Zambia happened many decades ago and at the time failed to spread beyond its borders. Zambia taught us that to vote in a Chiluba just for the sake of change is not beneficial to national interest.

How friends became foes in Africa's diamond state



You have leadership in other parties passing around fake and unverified news about the state of our country, creating the impression that they ought not to be trusted to sift through information to determine the best course for the country, if they are struggling to sift through the garbage heap of online disinformation. As Comrade Ngurare, former SWAPO Youth League Secretary and product of our movement, recently opined, the presidential candidates of our opposition parties don't have much to offer the electorate of 2024. They are either politically infantile or offer little substance past their tribal affiliations and most of the time fragmented as the wind in Alaska.

I am not naïve in knowing that where

off than when the change for change's sake happened. When asked about the Botswana lessons for Namibia, a Motswana academic stated that there were no lessons.

Herman Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo continues to teach us from his grave that we are Namibians and not South Africans [nor Batswanas]. Our dream is not deferred, and we dare not kill a dream that is alive. *Patria o Muerte.*

**Joshua Razikua Kaumbi is a holder of a BA in Political Science and Sociology (Unam), LLB (Stellenbosch) and an admitted legal practitioner.*



Zambezi youth push for growth in tourism

By Uaueza Kanguatjivi

At Kamunu Hall in Katima Mulilo on November 1, youth leaders, local entrepreneurs, and community members gathered for the “Youth Igniting Conversations of National Interest” event, organized by the SWAPO Party Youth League, SPYL.

With SPYL Central Committee Member and Zambezi regional leader, Owens Matengu as the moderator, the discussion gave Namibians a forum to discuss Vice President and SWAPO’s 2024 Presidential candidate Cde. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah’s vision for Namibia. Panellists included Naumi Libala, Founder of Women Unleash, Former SPYL Katima Urban District Information, David Mwiya, Director of Tourism and Gaming, Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Forestry, Sebulon Chicalu, and small-scale farmer Maria Mukena.

Known as Namibia’s “breadbasket,” the Zambezi Region offers plenty of chances for cross-border tourism and agricultural development due to its unique geographic location, which borders Zambia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe.

Young Namibians and panellists discussed issues impacting the region,

with a focus on women’s participation, unity, sustainable development, youth empowerment, and the transformative potential of tourism and agriculture in promoting economic growth.

To promote employment and self-reliance, Mukena encouraged young people to take advantage of the nearby rivers—the Kwando, Chove, and Zambezi—through tourism endeavours like guided boat trips.

The main topic of the discussion was the Kalimbeza rice project, a massive project in Zambezi that could provide over 3,000 jobs.

One suggested tactic was to use government procurement to help Kalimbeza produce rice, with organizations such as hospitals and schools procuring straight from the project to build a strong local supply chain.

Director of Tourism in MEFT Chicalu, highlighted tourism as a major economic contributor, generating N\$14.3 billion and supporting 5,571 jobs post-COVID. Chicalu emphasized the significance of diversifying tourism, particularly in underserved areas such as cultural and event tourism, which could capture Namibia’s heritage and community life.

He also pointed to the Zambezi Region’s strategic location at the heart of the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area as a unique tourism asset.

The session called for youth to capitalize on this potential, with Chicalu emphasizing the importance of tourism infrastructure development, including cultural tours and virtual reality experiences, to enrich the visitor experience and create jobs.

According to Mukena, Zambezi has fertile soil that can produce fruits and vegetables, but there are market issues and the need for cool chambers to keep goods so that it doesn’t spoil.

Mukena lists money and the redline as further market obstacles. “We are unable to sell our produce to Kavango or even Windhoek; instead, the produce will rot here.

“The Ministry of Agriculture used to provide subsidies in one way or another. You offer me a subsidy to keep five chickens, but they overeat, and I don’t make any money. What do I receive when I spend N\$800 on a feeder for those chickens?”

“On the ground, women are the only ones who suffer the most. If I don’t have

a boyfriend at Shoprite, how can I sell there? The ministries abandon us in the Zambezi region after purchasing in bulk from the regions.

Additionally, the majority of the hens purchased here are imported from South Africa, Botswana, and Zambia. They do not view us as entrepreneurs capable of advancing the agricultural industry,” Mukena continued.

The SWAPO Party’s guiding principles—unity, diversity, resource management, and empowerment—are essential to changing Namibia, according to SPYL Zambezi Regional Secretary, Elton Mowa, who opened the meeting by praising the youth’s zeal and commitment to creating a better future.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah called for collective efforts to build a more inclusive society, resonating with the youth’s aspirations for meaningful change. She also called for a collective effort to foster a society where every citizen, regardless of background, can benefit.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah advocated for greater local involvement in tourism infrastructure to address the potential

Zambezi Youth from page 5

of tourism in the Zambezi region. She pointed out that foreign investments predominate and urged the public to help small enterprises like guesthouses so that the area can flourish and develop its ability.

A former member of the SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL) commended the administration for its tourist capacity-building initiatives. The former SPYL member said that Ishu Investment, a company he formed, partnered with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to provide training to 28 youths last year.

This, he says, is an example of youth-driven ventures that help regional development. "We are adding value in tourism within the Zambezi region."

Ishu Investment also supports local agriculture through irrigation projects.

The age restriction (18–25) that is in place in government areas such as defence and correctional services was also the subject of an inquiry about employment practices from another party member.

"How do people between the ages of 26 and 45 fit into these employment policies?" he asked. He highlighted a worry over older people's reduced chances. Panellist representatives highlighted tourism's untapped potential in the Zambezi Region.

Responding to questions and equipping young people with business savvy and problem-solving abilities, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasized the government's initiatives to incorporate entrepreneurship into school curricula, beginning in the

early grades. She emphasized SWAPO's dedication to workable solutions. "When you are doing your training, you will have that concept of entrepreneurship, because basically in life, every person is an entrepreneur," she said.

She pledged to find a solution to the Zambezi Waterfront's persistent problems to optimize its advantages for the community. Zambezi was identified by Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah as a key location for agricultural production and processing, and proposals for job creation through tourism and agriculture were also presented.

According to Cde. Nandi-Ndaitwah, the goal of this strategy is to develop a generation that approaches all professions—including administrative ones—from an entrepreneurial

perspective, which will improve success in a variety of industries. She emphasized the government's commitment to supporting locally owned tourist infrastructure in the Zambezi Region by endorsing small guesthouses and other community-based establishments.

"A lot of money has gone into that infrastructure," she said, describing the Zambezi Waterfront as "a pain." It must be resolved for the benefit of the populace.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah reaffirmed the government's intentions to increase employment through regionally tailored tourist and agricultural initiatives. She reiterated the Zambezi Region's potential to develop into a hub for agriculture and tourism, saying, "We have to identify the strength of each region in terms of our economic activities."

Choose Unity Over Division



By Kristian Ngendina Auene

As Namibia approaches its pivotal elections on November 27, 2024,

voters stand at a crossroads. These elections are not merely about choosing a leader, they are also about defining the nation's values and character for years to come. It is crucial that Namibian voters reject the politics of propaganda, division, tribalism, and hate that have been propagated by some factions, notably the Independent Patriot for Change, IPC. Instead, they should rally behind the SWAPO Party and its Candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, a true unifier who embodies the multicultural diversity that is the essence of our nation.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah is not just a candidate. She is a beacon of hope for all Namibians. Her commitment to inclusivity and unity oscillates with the core values of our diverse society. She

recognizes that our strength lies in our ability to come together, moving beyond the divisions of the past and embracing a future where every voice is heard and valued.

The IPC's tactics, rooted in division and tribalism, seek to drive wedges between communities. This approach only serves to fracture our society and distract from the pressing issues at hand - economic growth, education, healthcare and social justice. History has shown that progress emerges from collaboration, not conflict. By choosing a leader who prioritizes unity, like Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, voters will make a statement that Namibia chooses harmony over discord.

Each vote matters in shaping our future. As citizens, it is our responsibility to

endorse a candidate who promotes peace, understanding, and collaboration, rather than those who exploit our differences for political gain. These elections present an opportunity to send a clear message: that Namibia stands united against the politics of hate and division.

Let us come together to support Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, a leader who has dedicated her life to fostering a sense of belonging for all Namibians. Let us choose a future where our diversity is celebrated and our differences are respected. Reject the rhetoric of division and embrace a leader who promises to unite our nation.

Vote for SWAPO. Vote for Unity. Vote for Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Hard work has just started

By Bob Kandetu

Yes, we all have worked hard to arrive and indeed we are almost there.

Our adherence to star rallies and mini star rallies notwithstanding, time demands that we take stock and do so diligently, as it were, to keep finger on the pulse.

SWAPO organization flows from Section through Branch to District, the latter as the overall coordinator of works. We need to consider proceeding as follows.

Every section must divide all its members by the number of the section executives. If we have 30 section members and five members of the executive, then each executive member will have six members on their notebook to work with.

There are several cardinal questions each member must answer: Are you registered to vote? Where is your card? Where will you be the week of the election? Will you need transport? Do you know how to vote? Do you know whom to vote for?

When all these questions are answered,

we are in business. We know the needs in our section. We know who needs transport, and we must arrange transport for pick up.

We know who can not vote/does not know how to vote, and we help them know how to vote and for whom to vote.

Members of the Section Executive by this time know all their members and their needs, and nothing can go wrong. We must focus and never assume. Check, recheck, and check again.

We must protect our rural voters as they are the most vulnerable and the least able to function independently. They will need guidance and even someone to keep their voters' cards. They will need assistance with mastering the voting patterns: how to vote and whom to vote for. Transport: What time to be picked up for the polls and when will they be dropped back. This is it, my leaders. There are no shortcuts to progress.





Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell R-Ky. speaks during a news conference about the election at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024. [AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana]

Republicans capture US Senate, near control of House of Representatives

World Socialist Web Site Patrick Martin

Along with fascist ex-president Donald Trump's victory in the presidential contest over Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, the Republican Party won control of the US Senate in Tuesday's voting and appeared to be clinging to control of the House of Representatives, where many close contests remain to be decided.

Control of the Senate will be critical to the installation of the new Trump administration, since Senate confirmation is required for every cabinet and top sub-cabinet official, as well as the appointment of federal judges and top military officers. At this point, the new Senate has a 52-45 Republican majority, which could go as high as 55-45 if the Republicans win all three of the seats that remain undecided. They presently lead in one of the three.

The position in the House of Representatives is currently less definitive. Republicans held only an eight-seat majority, 220-212, with three seats vacant, on Election Day. As of this writing, Republicans had won 216 seats and the Democrats 209, with 10 seats undecided.

There were 34 of the 100 seats in the Senate at stake, with 24 held by the Democrats and only 10 by the Republicans. Eighteen Democrats have won reelection or replaced retiring Democrats, while the Republicans retained all 10 of their seats. Republicans captured the open seat in West Virginia vacated by retiring Democrat Joe Manchin and defeated two Democratic incumbents, Sherrod Brown in Ohio and Jon Tester in Montana, for a

net gain so far of three seats.

In the three seats where no winner has yet been declared, Democratic Representative Ruben Gallego led Republican election denier Kari Lake in Arizona by 52,581 votes, but with only 69 percent of the votes counted. Republican hedge fund multi-millionaire David McCormick held a lead of 29,845 votes over incumbent Democrat Robert Casey in Pennsylvania with less than 5 percent of the vote still outstanding.

In Nevada Democratic Senator Jacky Rosen led her Republican challenger Sam Brown by 12,699 votes with 10 percent still to be counted.

The three new Republican senators-elect are all extreme reactionaries aligned with Trump, and in some cases personally chosen by him. The new senator from West Virginia will be Governor Jim Justice, a billionaire coal baron who is the richest man in the impoverished state. Bernie Moreno, the victor in Ohio, is a wealthy car dealer hand-picked for the race by Trump.

In Montana, the Republican winner, Tim Sheehy, is another multi-millionaire, a former Navy SEAL who made disparaging remarks about women and Native Americans in the course of the campaign. Only briefly a resident of Montana, Sheehy was imposed on the state Republican Party by the Trump campaign.

While the Democrats effectively conceded the West Virginia race when Manchin announced his retirement, their defeats in Ohio and Montana came despite vast outlays of campaign cash.

The Ohio contest was the most expensive in American history, with more than \$500 million spent by the two capitalist parties and their supporting Super PACs. The Montana race was even more expensive on a per capita basis, with more than \$250 million spent in a race where fewer than 600,000 people cast ballots—more than \$400 per vote.

Six-figure sums were expended in other close Senate contests: \$240 million in Pennsylvania and \$180 million in Michigan, as well as in Wisconsin, Arizona, Texas and Florida. In nearly every race, the Democratic Party raised and spent more money than the Republicans.

In contests for the House of Representatives—where the Democrats again enjoyed a sizable financial advantage—results were more mixed than for the Senate and added up to little or no change. In the Northeast and Midwest, the Democrats defeated three Republican incumbents in New York state, but lost two of their own seats in Pennsylvania and one in Michigan.

Five seats switched parties in the South, all because of changes in district boundaries, with the Republicans gaining three seats in North Carolina through a gerrymander, while Democrats gained seats in Louisiana and Alabama by court orders overturning racially biased district lines. Not a single seat changed hands throughout this vast region by a decision of the voters, so consistently are the boundaries drawn to protect incumbents.

In the West, Democrats captured a Republican seat outside Portland, Oregon,

but Democratic incumbent Mary Peltola in Alaska lost her race for reelection.

This patchwork of results left the Republicans with a seven-seat majority, pending the outcome of extremely close contests in Maryland, Iowa, Arizona, and Nevada and for six seats in California, where nearly all voting is by mail and the count has historically dragged on for more than a week. Democrats would have to sweep all the remaining undecided races to gain control of the House.

One feature of the congressional races confirms the steady rightward movement of the Democratic Party, which has more and more become an instrument of the military-intelligence apparatus, even as the Republican Party has become a fascist organization subordinated to the would-be dictator Trump.

The contingent of Democratic members of Congress with military-intelligence backgrounds—in most cases moving directly from the national-security state to the legislature—continues to grow in size and influence.

Two of the CIA Democrats, as the WSWS has labeled them, moved up from the House to the Senate, with former National Security Council official Andy Kim easily winning the open Senate seat in New Jersey, and former CIA, National Security Council and Pentagon official Elissa Slotkin narrowly winning in her race for the open Senate seat in Michigan. Former military officer and Democratic congressman Jeff Jackson won his race for attorney general of North Carolina.

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Republicans from page 7

All nine of the CIA Democrats seeking to retain their seats in the House won—Jared Golden in Maine, Jake Auchincloss in Massachusetts, Pat Riley in New York, Mikie Sherrill in New Jersey, Chrissy Houlahan and Chris DeLuzio in Pennsylvania, Dan Davis in North Carolina, Jared Crow in Colorado, and Sara Jacobs in California.

And two more such figures are

headed to Washington. Retired Army lieutenant colonel Eugene Vindman won a narrow victory in Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, which extends from northern Virginia to Richmond. Vindman and his brother Alexander were on the National Security Council in the Trump administration and played key roles in triggering the first impeachment of Trump in 2019 on charges of delaying military aid to Ukraine. Vindman will

replace Democrat Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA agent who stepped down in order to run for governor of Virginia next year.

In New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, retiring Democrat Annie Kuster will be succeeded by Maggie Goodlander, the wife of Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan. She is herself a veteran of the military-intelligence apparatus, including working

on the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee for senators John McCain and Joe Lieberman, and a decade in the Navy Reserve as an intelligence officer.

Another 21 Democratic candidates from military-intelligence backgrounds lost their races, some because they were running in heavily Republican districts, others in competitive races where they were swamped by the overall collapse in support for the Democratic Party.



Workers at the Cabinetworks factory in Thompsontown, PA [Photo: Cabinetworks]

Largest employer in Juniata County, Pennsylvania to close, costing 420 workers their jobs

World Socialist Web Site Frank Kapture

Cabinetworks Group announced on September 17 that it will close its Thompsontown factory in central Pennsylvania this December, laying off 420 workers. The Cabinetworks factory, part of the company's Master Woodcraft Cabinetry unit, is the largest employer in Juniata County as of the first quarter of 2024, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor Relations.

The news follows an August 6 announcement by Cabinetworks that 20 percent of their staff in Thompsontown would be laid off, as well as a July 15 announcement from the company that their facilities in Marshall, Texas and Jefferson, Texas would be closed, affecting another 350 workers.

Juniata County itself, located just northwest of Harrisburg, the state capital, is one of the least-populated counties in Pennsylvania, with approximately 23,500 residents. Thompsontown and nearby Delaware Township, where the Cabinetworks factory is situated, have populations of only 631 and 1,610, respectively.

Cabinetworks CEO Jeff Jackson has stated that the planned closure was due to "deteriorating market conditions" resulting in the company's "exit" of the multi-family direct sales segment of the business, and "retirement" of all product lines manufactured therein.

A company statement published in Woodworking Network notes "The multi-family housing sector has faced prolonged challenges, including significant year-over-year declines in housing starts which are expected to continue for the foreseeable future."

The Thompsontown layoffs are therefore connected to more profound economic causes: the rampant housing market speculation bubble—a primary driver of the crisis in affordable housing affecting working people—is collapsing, thus leading to a subsequent collapse of the building product manufacturing industry.

Cabinetworks, the United States' largest privately owned cabinet manufacturer with 8,000 employees in total, has been owned by Platinum Equity, an investment firm founded by multi-billionaire Tom Gores, since May 2021. Gores, net worth \$9.1 billion, is the owner of the Detroit Pistons professional basketball franchise and has a 24 percent stake in the San Diego Chargers football team. He is a previous owner of the San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper.

The Woodworking Network article notes that CabinetWorks "plans to work with the local union and its Thompsontown employees" in winding down the operation in Thompsontown. That the Carpenters and Joiners union is working with Cabinetworks to "help" its soon-to-be former employees in job training and résumé drafting is of little use, as the

closure will impact the largest employer in the county. The job losses will have ripple effects across numerous other businesses and industries in the area, ultimately costing other workers their jobs.

Rather than organize an industrial counteroffensive against the planned shutdown, union officials have capitulated and are facilitating these layoffs in the interest of the company.

Neither Donald Trump nor Kamala Harris, the Republican and Democratic nominees for President of the United States respectively, made a single mention of the pending Thompsontown layoffs during their dozens of campaign stops in the swing state of Pennsylvania. This was despite the fact both candidates campaigned extensively in Central Pennsylvania specifically, since the initial June 15 layoff announcement.

The Thompsontown closure is another in a string of plant closures and layoffs throughout Pennsylvania and more broadly. This includes the impending closure of a PepsiCo bottling plant in Harrisburg, affecting 127 workers; the June 2023 closure of Homer City Generating Station in Center Township, affecting 129 workers; and the planned closure of an Anchor Hocking plant in Charleroi affecting more than 300 workers. Pennsylvania has ultimately lost hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs since 2001, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This is part of a national and international wave of mass layoffs. Stellantis workers were just informed that 1,130 workers at the automaker's Toledo Assembly Complex will be laid off on January 5. This follows the layoff of more than 1,000 workers in the first phase of as many as 2,400 workers at the Stellantis Warren Truck Assembly Plant in Detroit, Michigan last month. General Motors has announced layoffs at its Fairfax Assembly plant in St. Louis, Missouri and is firing hundreds of temporary workers. Ford is also laying off 800 workers at the Rouge Electric Vehicle Center in Dearborn, Michigan.

Volkswagen has announced the closure of plants and firing of thousands of workers in Germany.

Last month, the International Workers Alliance of Rank-and-File Committees (IWARFC) issued a statement that said "[the] campaign against layoffs must be on a world scale because every industry operates using globalized production and supply chains. There is no such thing anymore as a 'German' or 'American' car. Instead, modern vehicles are a product of the coordinated labor of workers in dozens of countries, regardless of whether the corporate headquarters are in Wolfsburg or Detroit."

The layoffs in Pennsylvania prove that this struggle must be expanded to all sections of the working class.