

# NAMIBIA TODAY



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Khomas Star Rally on Sunday. It was the biggest ever.



VP Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, SWAPO's Presidential Candidate.

## 'Get out and vote,' Netumbo

*The hour has come*

By Staff Reporter

SWAPO Party Presidential Candidate and Vice President, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, rounded off her campaign for the highest office in the land with a fully packed star rally in Windhoek on Sunday, where she appealed to Namibians to overwhelmingly vote for SWAPO and its Presidential candidate for them to secure a massive landslide victory. The Sam Nujoma Stadium was a hive

of activities on Sunday, with attendees immaculately dressed up in party colours featuring various fashion designs, while singing and chanting slogans, dancing and prancing to different lyrics performed by several artists who graced the event.

Leading the pack was SWAPO Party's famous band, Ndilimani Cultural Troupe. The star rally was also attended by Namibia's political heavyweights such as President Nangolo Mbumba, Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila,

Deputy Prime Minister John Mutorwa and several Cabinet ministers.

Representatives from sister parties from countries such as Angola, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, South Africa, Venezuela, China, Russian Federation, Polisario Front of Saharawi Republic also attended the event.

"I strongly feel tall and proud as a leader and the Vice President of the SWAPO Party because we have arrived at a point where we can look back and be proud of

the long journey we have walked over the past few weeks to market our Manifesto to the Namibian people," she told the cheering crowd.

"During our long journey, we were able to engage our people and that made me believe that our efforts are not in vain. I must also say with pride that this Election Manifesto we are concluding today is based on pragmatic solutions for the

*Get out and vote page 2*

## 'Vote Netumbo, Vote Swapo,' Nekongo

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

As Namibia heads to the polls, Swapo Youth League Secretary Ephraim Nekongo has called on voters to give the SWAPO Party a two-thirds majority, stressing the importance of stability and progress under Vice Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's leadership.

In an interview on Swapo Talks, moderated by Esther Simon, Cde Nekongo urged Namibians to vote consistently for Swapo across all ballots,

cautioning against splitting votes between parties. Panellists included former Walvis Bay Urban Constituency councillor Knowledge Iipingene and former Landless People's Movement (LPM) deputy leader Henny Seibeb, who rejoined Swapo.

"If you give Netumbo power but you do not give her arms, it will be difficult for her to deliver," he stated. "Consistently vote for Swapo—ballot number one, ballot number two—vote for Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Look for the blue doek."

Cde Nekongo explained that a two-thirds

majority is vital for implementing laws and policies effectively. Using Windhoek's local governance as an example, he noted the inefficiencies caused by coalition politics.

"Swapo wants to electrify. Swapo wants to build the road. The decisions have been stalled because AR, DTA, and LPM are pulling in different directions," Cde Nekongo said. "Who suffers? It's you, the voters."

He also highlighted the party's manifesto as a blueprint for addressing pressing

issues like unemployment, poverty, and youth empowerment.

"Imagine as a young person, a musician, you come to a government-supported studio, record your album for free, and start performing. Imagine local content making up 70% of NBC programming. These are Swapo initiatives," he said.

Cde Nekongo dismissed the idea of a coalition government, asserting it is not suitable for Namibia. "We are not

*Vote Netumbo page 2*

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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President Nangolo Mbumba and his wife at Sunday's SWAPO Star Rally.

### Get out and vote from page 1

social welfare of our people, aimed at job creation and poverty eradication.”

The all-embracing Manifesto addresses critical sectors such as economic growth, agriculture and water, natural resources management and beneficiation, energy and infrastructure, youth empowerment, building a better future, quality education and training, as well as sports. The Manifesto cements achievement made over the years, while it strengthens mechanisms to produce desirable results to address challenges Namibians face.

It is built around Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's leadership vision, which is anchored on pragmatic leadership, integrity, accountability, meritocracy and inclusivity. She says while Namibians are proud of what they have achieved so far, they must also take care to address grey areas where the government can do better.

The Manifesto pays special attention to unemployment, especially among the youth, with a commitment to spend N\$85,7 billion over the next five years on projects that will create

over 550 000 jobs. These projects will go hand in hand with policies formulated to promote foreign and domestic investments, while placing Namibians at the center of ownership and management of the country's resources.

“Gone are the days when our people were only spectators condemned to the periphery of the mainstream economy. We want to broaden economic participation and more widely share benefits. We will accelerate policies that empower our people for full participation in the management and ownership across the country,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

SWAPO has recently experienced an unprecedented influx of new members joining the Party, while many others are returning almost every week to SWAPO from opposition parties. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah welcomed them all, saying that SWAPO had enough space to accommodate them.

“To those Namibians who have not yet made up their mind in this election, let me say this, ‘We at SWAPO are fiercely proud of our history. We are confident that our

record since 1990 will stand the test of time and history. We believe that our Manifesto fully justifies a renewed mandate to lead Namibia for the next five years,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“Yes, we are also humble, and mindful of our duties, above all, to you, the Namibian people. We know that our country faces challenges, and that in some cases, we have not done as well as we could. And that is why my pledge to you is one of a new social contract, a solemn acknowledgement that with power comes responsibility to live up to our words with deeds to always put you, the people, first.

“It is against this background that I am making a clarion call to those fellow Namibians who have not yet made up their minds to choose SWAPO and its Presidential Candidate, Yours Truly Ndemupelila Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, on November 27. In doing so, you would have chosen stability, economic growth, and a secure future for you, your loved ones and your country. The moment has come for the baton to be passed on. Let us seize that moment, for our country.”

### Vote Netumbo from page 1

South Africa. We are not Botswana. We are Namibians! With a unique way of doing things,” Nekongo said. “Coalition governments in Africa do not work. Just look at Windhoek,” he added.

In a rallying cry to the electorate, Cde Nekongo encouraged young people, who make up 71% of the population, to participate actively in shaping history. “Hashtag for the doek. Hashtag Netumbo for president. Hashtag Swapo has my vote. If not Swapo, who?” he asked.

With Election Day fast approaching, Cde Nekongo remains optimistic, predicting an overwhelming victory for Swapo and Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah. “We are going to win overwhelmingly with 90% or even 100%,” he declared. “Let's go out in big numbers and vote for Cde Netumbo. NNN is the only woman with a blue doek on the Swapo ticket.”

“We have challenges, yes, but these are challenges we are ready to face head-on. The bread is only here—with Swapo,” the SPYL Secretary said.

Meanwhile, Cde Ipinge reflected on Swapo's strong foundation rooted in the liberation struggle and driven by the workers' fight for independence.

“Swapo's independence-era programs were about adding value to the Namibian people. Over 34 years, this has been evident in initiatives aimed at improving lives across the nation,” he said.

He highlighted that Swapo's post-independence programs have consistently aimed to add value to Namibians' lives through initiatives spanning over three decades. “These programs were clear from the beginning—to enhance the quality of life for our people. This mission continues to guide us,” Cde Ipinge said.

Cde Ipinge commended Swapo's unique grassroots structures, which cover all 121 constituencies and 14 regions of Namibia, as unmatched by any other political



Ephraim Nekongo



Henny Seibeb



Knowledge Ipinge

party. Drawing from his experience as chairperson of the Constituency Development Committee in Walvis Bay Urban, he noted that these structures are essential for addressing community needs. “To achieve real development, we need a bottom-up approach. The involvement of people on the ground is crucial,” he said.

Cde Ipinge highlighted the importance of connecting with communities at the grassroots level. “Development must be a bottom-up process. You need people on the ground who understand and add value to these programs,” he asserted.

Addressing gaps in service delivery, Cde Ipinge acknowledged that the party's leadership and current manifesto are confronting inequalities between the “haves and have-nots.”

He applauded the leadership of Comrade Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah for addressing issues such as poor service delivery and advocating for practical solutions. “Swapo is not shying away from identifying its weaknesses and working on them. Honesty and focus on solutions resonate with me,” he said.

Cde Ipinge condemned opposition parties for engaging in reactionary politics, focusing on pointing out Swapo's shortcomings rather than offering tangible solutions.

“We know the challenges. But who is presenting actionable plans for housing,

infrastructure, and other critical needs? Swapo has laid the foundation; others only react,” he added.

Cde Ipinge also celebrated Swapo's legacy in fostering peace, stability, and freedom of speech in Namibia, noting these as foundational achievements that enable further progress. “Without Swapo's leadership and the robust constitution we have today, the programs we enjoy wouldn't exist,” Ipinge stated.

Cde Ipinge reiterated the importance of every member's contribution, from branch to national level, in ensuring Swapo's continued role as a driver of development. “Swapo's vision aligns with mine. Which is rooted in adding value to the lives of the Namibian people,” he said.

Seibeb has spoken out against coalition governments, calling them detrimental to progress and urging Namibians to vote decisively for the Swapo Party to secure an absolute majority in the upcoming elections.

“I don't wish for Comrade Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah to have any coalition government. There are a lot of pitfalls when it comes to coalition governments,” Cde Seibeb said. “It's difficult to be disciplined, contain, and implement your policies and laws.”

Cde Seibeb emphasized that Namibia must avoid a fragmented government, especially as the country stands on the

brink of transformative opportunities in oil, gas, and green hydrogen.

Cde Seibeb warned against federalism, describing it as a hidden agenda for regionalism. “Some political parties in Namibia are calling for federalism. The other word for federalism: is regionalism. ‘Let's have a federal government’ because there are oil and gas and green hydrogen projects. Many Namibians are going to be left out. So, therefore, let's reject it. Unity in diversity is what we should call for.”

Seibeb highlighted the youth as critical to the nation's future, urging the government to invest in youth-initiated programs and enterprise development. “It's 71%—that's the percentage of young people in Namibia. We need to empower them. The National Youth Fund should be created in order to fund youth-initiated programs and business ideas. I'm more for enterprise development.”

He stressed the need for a strong middle class and an agricultural revolution to address inequality and food security. “We need to invest in food production. Namibia is what I call a ‘super-marketisation.’ If South Africa closes its borders, we could only survive for five months. That's why we need agricultural sovereignty. Agriculture doesn't require a university degree—someone with grade five or six can contribute to food production.”

Cde Seibeb also called for greater focus on the creative arts industry, emphasizing its economic and cultural potential. “If we can transform and professionalize the creative arts industry, our artists, musicians, and architects will thrive. We can create a Namibian Hall of Fame. Imagine having our celebrities, like Michael Jackson or Beyoncé,” he said.

Reflecting on Namibia's progress, Cde Seibeb concluded with a call for unity and action. “Namibia needs to come together. We need to invest in our youth, our agriculture, and our creative industries to secure a brighter future for all.”



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Lt General (Rtd) Denga Ndaitwah arriving at a SWAPO Star Rally.

# Gobabis welcomes Netumbo in style

By Staff Reporter

SWAPO Party Presidential Candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, took her second last campaign trip to Gobabis, Omaheke Region, last Saturday, where she was welcomed by thousands of people.

Flanked by SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Sophia Shaningwa, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, highlighted some notable development projects in Omaheke Region which had been implemented there since independence, adding that more would follow once SWAPO's mandate to govern for the next five years was renewed on November 27.

Despite many economic and social challenges Namibians had faced since independence, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said the SWAPO-led government had made notable strides in bettering the lives of its people, which underlined its caring commitment.

Since independence, Namibia faced many health and economic challenges such as HIV/AIDS, the global economic melt-down, persistent severe droughts, COVID-19 pandemic and many others, but as a caring government, it managed to address those challenges, saving lives in the process.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said Omaheke Region had benefited from government development programmes like other regions in the country, which demonstrated the government's commitment to serving all its people.

There are 22 health and 50 educational facilities in Omaheke Region. There are also 1466 boreholes and 37 dams,

according to the 2022 development statistics. On road infrastructure, Omaheke boasts 5494 km distance roads, main roads distance covers 1390 km and district roads covers 3713 km. The Gobabis-Otjinene-Grootfontein road stands out as classic.

"We must feel proud that Namibia is rated as a country with the best roads network in southern Africa. These developments are just to illustrate that the SWAPO Party-led government is committed to taking development closer to the people," said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"I have been in this government since day one. I will take credit where things went well, as well as responsibility where things didn't go as planned. One thing is for sure, having been serving in government, it serves as a learning curve through which I gained more leadership and governance experience," she said.

A feasibility study is being conducted to develop irrigated pasture and crop systems in Epukiro, Okorukambe Constituency, and in the Aminius Communal Area, Aminius Constituency. These irrigation projects are designed to improve resilience against the effects of climate change, which have become increasingly severe in recent years. They will reduce the risk of livestock and human losses in the Omaheke Region.

Based on the strong foundation established at independence, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said the SWAPO Party had a responsibility towards its people. "Renew the SWAPO Party mandate to govern for the next five years. Vote for the SWAPO Party. Vote for Ndemupelila Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah."



## Zoom In

By: Asser Ntinda



Rowland Brown wrote a lengthy opinion piece which appeared in two local dailies last Friday, headlined "Moving Namibia in the Right Direction," with a strap that read: 'A run-off election between the top two candidates is likely.' The article centered around the outcome of Namibia's Presidential and National Assembly Elections, which would take place on Wednesday, 27 November. Like Henning Melber before him, Brown predicted that SWAPO would suffer the same fate as did the African National Congress, ANC, in South Africa and the Botswana Democratic Party, BDP, in Botswana.

"Our nationally representative polling on Namibia, the only such polling that exists, has repeatedly shown that SWAPO will fall well below 50% in the National Assembly election, possibly as low as 35%, and that Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah will likely be marginally less popular than the party, meaning a run-off election between the top two candidates is likely," Brown stated. He went on to argue that a large portion of those that voted for candidates that didn't make it through the first round will "shift their vote to Itula" (the other front runner).

Throughout his piece, Brown argued about change, reasoning that voters this time would vote "against the status quo" as they want "change." To incite the young ones to embrace "change," Brown said: As hard as it is to hear, some patience is needed from young people who have been left behind for so long. Turning the ship in the right direction can be done and done quickly, but reaching the destination will take a bit of time..... Change is coming, and all Namibians should be looking to use this change to better the country."

Brown clearly argues like a white man, enclaved in that assortment of uppity whites who still believe that civilizing the natives is still a white man's burden. He incites the young ones now to vote for "change." Yet, he doesn't define that "change." He just leaves it there hanging in the air. But we all know it's all about 'regime change.' Whites had had it easy, both in Namibia and South Africa before the end apartheid colonialism in 1990 and apartheid in 1994 respectively.

Their privileges were ended against their will. It is easy for them to embrace the "regime change" doctrine which calls for the removal of former liberation movements from power and replace them with stooges they can use to serve the interests of the former colonial powers. After all, they left their former colonies against their will. But be that as it may be, Brown should be told that Itula is no match for Mee Netumbo, He is just an intellectual adjunct pretending to be a game-changer, which he is not. Many liberal whites have fallen for his lies.

VP Nandi-Ndaitwah asked a pertinent question on Sunday when she addressed her last rally. "A point of interest, Namibia more than ever before has become an epicenter of foreign interests with regard to international media. This must serve as a wake-up call for all of us to be able to establish as to what has prompted such international media interest in our country. One may ask: is it because of the discovery of oil and gas or is it because of Netumbo?"

We take umbrage at these residual forces that find space in our midst, using our democracy in a manner that seeks to mollify their defeat at the hands of former liberation movements. They seek to punish us for correcting erstwhile colonial imbalances. Our problems started when Europeans robbed us of our land. We advise Brown to reach out to his white fellows to embrace the principle of "willing buyer, willing seller" to address the land question. Rather than calling for "regime change here, he should engage white compatriots to share land amicably. After all, they acquired it through colonial force.

To date, SWAPO remains the mainstay of Namibian politics. None of the aspiring presidential candidates has addressed fully packed rallies in all the 14 regions, as Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah has done. Brown is better advised to take a closer look at those rallies. Itula might have exploited and benefited from serious problems that existed in 2019. The people you see in their thousands at SWAPO rallies across the country are people who have grasped and fully understood the corrective measures SWAPO has taken since the 2022 ordinary congress. SWAPO is back on track. No amount of misinformation will change that course. The question is no longer whether SWAPO will win these elections or not, but by how many margins. This will be a landslide victory. It is an overwhelming avalanche.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah has captured the imagination of the nation. The thousands of people who attended her rallies did not come for show. Their presence demonstrates what they will do on November, 27. Brown should know that SWAPO remains true and loyal to its form and content. No devious stratagems and spin-doctoring will break its defence system.





SWAPO Party Youth League Secretary Ephraim Nekongo

# 'SWAPO is the people, and the people are SWAPO,' Nekongo

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

In a recent episode of SWAPO Talks Igniting Conversations of National Interest with Swapo Party, the party's program aired on Tuesday last week, returning members and Swapo Comrades Henny Seibeb and Knowledge Ipinge shared their reasons for rejoining SWAPO.

Held under the theme "Unity in Diversity: Natural Resources Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development," it was moderated by Esther Simon, Swapo Party Youth League (SPYL) Secretary Ephraim Nekongo, with Knowledge Ipinge, a member of the Swapo Party, and Henny Seibeb as a panellist.

The discussion also highlighted SWAPO's commitment to supporting orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), senior citizens, and infrastructure development. The speaker emphasised, "You can't do it outside the frame of the SWAPO party."

Cde Ipinge highlighted the party's role in Namibia's development and its commitment to unity. He described his return as not just a personal decision but a reaffirmation of the belief in SWAPO's vision for a better Namibia.

Speaking about their political trajectory, Cde Ipinge explained, "I've been a card-carrying member of the SWAPO Youth League since 2001, when I was still in school. The sin I committed was running against the SWAPO party in the elections. So by default, I had to be conscious that I ran against the party."

However, Cde Ipinge stressed that his roots always lay with SWAPO. "The only political home I know is SWAPO," he stated, attributing his renewed membership to the party's manifesto and

the visionary leadership of Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"About 85% of my motions brought to the regional council were passed unopposed, mainly because they were driven by Vision 2030, NDP5, and related frameworks that exist within the party itself."

This synergy, Cde Ipinge says, has reaffirmed his belief in the party's unequalled ability to champion sustainable development and tackle issues like poverty, corruption, and unemployment.

Delving into the broader meaning of returning comrades for SWAPO's mission. "SWAPO is the people, and the people are SWAPO," Cde Nekongo said.

"All the people here are Swapo, even those who are running now, Itula of the IPC, and PDM; they are Swapo members. The only difference is that at one point you go back and you realise that the only thing we can do is better ourselves and come back and contribute to the development of our country," Cde Nekongo said.

"If we all unite and vote for Dr. Netumbo and vote for the Swapo Party, we can achieve a lot. The coming back of our brother has been the realisation that I think we are following the wrong man, a man who popped up and started running around," Cde Nekongo said.

"Let's reject division and champion the development we all aspire to," he added.

As the country gears up for the upcoming elections, party members underscored the significance of unity, with Cde Nekongo stating, "SWAPO is the people, and the people are SWAPO. The only platform we have to champion the development we want for our country is SWAPO."

Reflecting on challenges, Nekongo

addressed corruption candidly, stating, "Challenges could be corruption, and we cannot shy away from it. But if we fight corruption and create employment, what else will people talk about?"

The candidacy of Cde. Nandi-Ndaitwah as Namibia's first potential female president was a central point of the discussion. "If you educate a woman, you educate the nation," Cde Simon said.

To this, Cde Nekongo said, "Look at how many men are uniting to defeat a woman. Let's reject them and vote for Cde Netumbo."

Reflecting on political values and institutional capacity, Cde Seibeb underscored the Swapo Party's internal democracy and socio-economic agenda as critical reasons for aligning with the party's vision.

When asked about transitioning from the Landless People's Movement, LPM, back to SWAPO, Cde Seibeb echoed the social and family ties that influenced the decision. "Most of my families were in SWAPO, and we were always talking," he explained, adding that they shared philosophies, such as those on poverty alleviation and social justice.

"Swapo's internal democracy is unmatched. You can even take the party to court, yet you are not expelled," Seibeb remarked. "But what I've witnessed among the opposition parties is that once you seem to have a different opinion with your party leader, then it's a one-man show. You are kicked out with immediate effect. You are not even notified."

Highlighting areas of alignment, Cde Seibeb praised Swapo's commitment to youth and women's economic empowerment, as well as its focus on

rural development and addressing the plight of marginalised groups. "Looking at the plight of small-scale miners, single mothers, and the electrification and water debts discussed in Parliament—Swapo's social justice agenda resonates deeply with me," he said.

Cde Seibeb further emphasised the importance of leveraging Namibia's emerging oil and gas revenues for poverty reduction and equitable development. "If we can use the oil and gas funds to solve the hunger and starvation crisis, it would make a meaningful difference. We need to invest these proceeds in the right corners of our society," he asserted, adding that a ministry dedicated to oil and gas could enhance these efforts.

Reflecting on Swapo's institutional strength, Seibeb noted its capacity to deploy human resources effectively. "Swapo can deploy amongst its vast membership any time, anyone. Even if you remove all the cabinet ministers now, you'll be able to replace them within 12 hours or even five hours. That's the vastness of the party," he stated.

Contrasting this with opposition parties, Seibeb criticised their limited human capital. "If you look at the opposition parties, for example, you only find the party leader. The rest have no capacity," he said.

On broader challenges, Cde Seibeb urged action against gender-based violence, inequality, and unemployment, underscoring that hunger and poverty must be addressed "tooth and nail."

"Capacity, capacity, capacity is what we are preaching. The honest and robust conversation we are having here is exactly what we need—truth and honesty without fear or favour," he said.



Scenes at SWAPO Star rally in Gobabis.



SWAPO's top guns. Comrades VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and SG Sophia Shaningwa.



The last SWAPO's star rally sent a clear message: SWAPO will win. Netumbo will be President.



Scenes at Khomas Star Rally.



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

# Why SWAPO? A Youth's Perspective



By *Evian Armando Pieters*

The question "Why SWAPO?" often arises in today's politically charged environment. As a young supporter and member of the SWAPO Party, I can confidently say that my allegiance is not without reason but rooted in a careful consideration of what the party represents and delivers for Namibia.

Firstly, let us consider the current political landscape. Opposition parties seem fixated on one objective: defeating SWAPO. Their platforms often lack the substance needed to address the real challenges facing Namibian youth,

focusing instead on tearing down the achievements of SWAPO without offering viable alternatives. By contrast, SWAPO remains steadfast, prioritizing Namibia's progress over petty rivalries. This maturity resonates deeply with me as a young Namibian seeking a party with a vision that extends beyond short term political gains.

SWAPO's track record speaks volumes. Through the party's policies, I received quality primary education and had a seamless transition to higher education, supported by initiatives such as the Namibian Students Financial Assistance Fund, NSFAP, loans and grants. These programs exemplify SWAPO's commitment to making education accessible to all, recognizing it as the ultimate equalizer in our society.

Economic resilience is another hallmark of SWAPO's governance. While no economy is without its challenges, Namibia has demonstrated remarkable strength in weathering global economic pressures. Under SWAPO's leadership, our nation continues to pursue sustainable growth and innovate in sectors such as renewable energy and infrastructure development.

Healthcare is where SWAPO's commitment to its people truly stands out. As a beneficiary of the state healthcare system, I must commend the SWAPO led government for providing quality healthcare at no cost. Yes, I say quality, and I speak from personal experience. You will only truly appreciate this system when you have a dying family member saved by a state healthcare facility. I have seen the dedication and skill of our medical professionals firsthand, and I am deeply grateful for a system that prioritizes life over profit. Unlike many other African countries where basic healthcare services require significant financial resources, Namibia ensures that no one is denied treatment due to their economic status.

Furthermore, SWAPO has consistently championed youth empowerment. Initiatives such as allocating fishing quotas to youth, investing in green hydrogen scholarships, and creating opportunities for skills development reflect the party's understanding of the diverse needs of Namibian youth. The appointment of young leaders like Comrades Emma Theofelus, Patience Masua, Sharonice Busch, and the likes, demonstrates the party's recognition

of youth potential. Most recently, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah acknowledged this further by appointing Cde Fenny Tutjavi, a dynamic and talented young leader, to the party list for Parliament.

Critics may argue that SWAPO is not without its shortcomings. Yet, as a party with a proven track record of over three decades, SWAPO has shown resilience and a willingness to learn and adapt. The same cannot be said of opposition parties whose foundations often appear reactionary and unsustainable.

SWAPO's commitment to decentralizing services further illustrates its dedication to inclusivity. From mobile clinics to accessible home affairs offices, the government ensures that rural and urban citizens alike benefit from essential services.

In conclusion, I choose SWAPO because it is a party grounded in principles, dedicated to nation-building, and committed to creating a future where every Namibian has the opportunity to thrive. While others focus on dismantling, SWAPO chooses to build a legacy I am proud to support as a young Namibian.

## The Role of Youth in Namibia's Development: Building on SWAPO's Legacy



By *Valmary Jantje*

It is of utmost importance that young Namibians actively participate in nation-building. In fact, young Namibians should be at the forefront of these efforts. Nation-building starts with the individual. If one has the opportunity to pursue education, it must be seized—whether at the primary, secondary, or tertiary level. At whichever stage of education one finds themselves, it is vital to identify a field of study that resonates with one's passions and commit fully to it.

Moreover, we must encourage our

children to love school and help them discover their passions early on. This grooming will ensure that they grow into young professionals ready to contribute meaningfully to society. Namibian students organizations should also advocate for free education at the tertiary level. Many of our youth face immense stress and challenges in securing funds for their studies. Youth leaders must push for policies that guarantee free education for all Namibians, regardless of socio-economic status. As the saying goes, "An educated nation is an empowered nation."

On the entrepreneurial front, Namibia is blessed with innovative youth bursting with brilliant ideas to empower their communities. However, many lack the necessary skills and resources to bring these ideas to life. Some youth do not know how to type a CV, apply for jobs online, access universities, secure NSFAP funding, or write business proposals and plans.

As young leaders, we must take the initiative to guide and assist our peers. Many youth are unsure where to begin or who to approach for help. Let us be the bridge, sharing opportunities and knowledge actively within our

communities. Youth should not be discouraged by the lengthy processes involved in registering businesses. Instead, they should stay committed and see the process through to completion. This is our time, and we must be prepared for the opportunities coming our way!

Regular engagement between young adults, adults, and elders is also vital. Such interactions can reduce crime rates, foster mutual respect, and create a sense of unity. The youth must take the lead in organizing community engagement meetings to foster dialogue on improving livelihoods. By bringing communities together, we can identify solutions to shared challenges.

Workshops and skills training tailored to address gaps in various industries should also be prioritized. SWAPO's vision for sustainable development is rooted in youth empowerment. Many opportunities have been created under SWAPO's leadership, but often these opportunities are missed due to a lack of information or engagement. Youth leaders must go the extra mile to seek out and disseminate information, ensuring that it reaches as many young people as

possible.

The SWAPO Party Youth League, SPYL, has been pivotal in empowering Namibian youth. It has created platforms for young talent to shine and prosper. Through SPYL's initiatives, youth can showcase their capabilities via online talk shows and other avenues. SPYL has established businesses run by young entrepreneurs and nurtures existing relationships while forging new ones to provide training and global exposure for Namibian youth.

Additionally, SPYL facilitates valuable platforms where youth leaders can gather to discuss pressing issues, develop resolutions, and map out their implementation to uplift every Namibian child. These efforts are clear examples of how SWAPO continues to invest in the future of the nation by empowering its youth.

It is now up to us, the youth, to seize these opportunities, equip ourselves with the necessary skills, and drive Namibia's development forward. Together, let us ensure that no young Namibian is left behind.





President-elect Donald speaks Todd Blanche, his personal lawyer turned deputy attorney general. Fascist Sebastian Gorka is in the back left with the red and black tie. [AP Photo/Curtis Means/Dailymail.com]

# Trump's cabinet: A blueprint for authoritarian rule and social counter-revolution

World Socialist Web Site Andre Damon

Only three weeks after his narrow but decisive victory in the 2024 presidential election, President-elect Donald Trump has rapidly selected virtually every nominee for the top positions in his incoming government, including all his cabinet secretaries, all his top White House staff and many top sub-cabinet positions.

Trump's choices confirm the fundamental character of the incoming government as one of, by and for the financial oligarchy. This is not just a phrase but a literal description of a government whose leaders consist of aides and acolytes of the billionaire Trump, employees of the billionaire media mogul Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of Fox News, and a half dozen other billionaires allied with Trump and Murdoch, including the richest man in the world, Elon Musk.

Perhaps the most important feature of the new administration is its extreme personalism. Personal loyalty to Trump, the Führer principle in all but name, has been one of the main criteria for selection, especially to positions in the White House and the Department of Justice, which Trump aims to wield as a weapon against his political opponents.

The nominees for the top four posts at the Department of Justice are all former or current legal representatives for Trump. Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, who was a Trump attorney during his first impeachment trial in 2020, is tapped for US Attorney General, replacing Matt Gaetz, Trump's initial pick.

Bondi's top two deputies would be Todd Blanche and Emil Bove, who represented Trump in the federal case arising from the January 6, 2021 attempted coup. The solicitor general would be John Bauer, who argued Trump's side in the Supreme Court last summer, resulting in the notorious decision in *Trump v. United States* that an American president has

absolute immunity from prosecution for any official actions, no matter how violent, illegal or unconstitutional. Trump will be covered by that blanket immunity as soon as he takes the oath of office next January 20.

The White House staff is headed by Susie Wiles, manager of Trump's presidential campaign, with anti-immigrant fascist Stephen Miller as deputy chief of staff. Will Scharf, another Trump lawyer, will be White House secretary, handling the flow of paper, while Sergio Gor, a partner of Donald Trump Jr. in publishing books glorifying Trump, will be White House personnel chief, in charge of vetting nominations for lower-level positions.

Two more fascists will hold influential White House policy positions: Tom Homan, author of the family separation policy for arrested immigrants in the first Trump administration, will be "border czar." Sebastian Gorka, a member of the Hungarian fascist Order of the Vitez, was booted out of the first Trump White House in 2017 because he was considered too extreme. He will be "terrorism adviser" in the second Trump White House.

Four other cabinet nominees were members of the House of Representatives who served on Trump's defense team against impeachment in the 2020 Senate trial. Elise Stefanik of New York will be UN ambassador, John Ratcliffe of Texas will be CIA director, Lee Zeldin of New York will be EPA administrator, and Doug Collins of Georgia will head the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An entire group of cabinet and sub-cabinet officials are being imported from the America First Policy Institute, which was co-chaired by pro wrestling's Linda McMahon, chosen as secretary of education, and run by Brooke Rollins, a former Trump White House domestic policy adviser, picked as secretary of agriculture.

The Fox News employees and pundits are equally numerous, while also overlapping

with the Trump loyalists. These include longtime talkshow "hosts" like Pete Hegseth, nominated to head the Pentagon; Tulsi Gabbard, the former Democratic congresswoman-turned-Trump advocate, nominated as director of National Intelligence; former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, chosen as ambassador to Israel; former Trump White House aide Scott Turner, picked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; former congressman and reality TV "star" Sean Duffy to head the Department of Transportation; and Dr. Janette Nesheiwat for surgeon general.

Trump picked former Democrat and anti-vaccine conspiracy theorist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to head the Department of Health and Human Services, rewarding him for abandoning his independent presidential campaign to endorse the Republican. The other top positions in healthcare are being doled out to equally extreme enemies of public health: celebrity TV doctor and defeated Republican Senate candidate Mehmet Oz to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; COVID lockdown and masking opponent Dr. Martin Makary to run the Food and Drug Administration; anti-abortion doctor and former Republican Congressman Dave Weldon to head the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Multiple media sources reported Sunday that Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a leading advocate of the "let it rip" COVID-19 policy and co-author of the anti-public-health Great Barrington Declaration, would be picked to run the National Institutes of Health.

While these figures are ideologically committed to the destruction of public health, there are profound social reasons for this wrecking operation, rooted in the profit interests of the super-rich. For the top one-hundredth of one percent who rule American society, all federal spending on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, food stamps and other services

to working people, their children and their retired parents represent a deduction from the wealth that could be funneled into their own pockets.

This social layer is directly represented in Trump's cabinet, in the person of half a dozen billionaires, led by the richest individual, Elon Musk, with a current estimated fortune topping \$300 billion (many billions of which depend on government contracts or subsidies). Musk and gen-tech billionaire Vivek Ramaswamy have volunteered to form Trump's "Department of Government Efficiency," whose stated goal is to slash \$2 trillion in federal spending—more than a quarter of the budget—and eliminate hundreds of thousands of federal jobs.

A billionaire will hold the key position of Secretary of Treasury: hedge fund boss and former Democrat Scott Bessent, chosen after wrangling between Musk and even more powerful Wall Street interests. They opposed—as voiced by the editorial page of the *Wall Street Journal*—"economic-policy disruption for its own sake. ... Steady and knowledgeable economic policy hands are needed if Mr. Trump wants to succeed."

In particular, the *Journal* was concerned that the incoming Trump administration should ensure the extension of his 2017 tax cuts for the rich, which are set to expire early in 2025. There were also concerns that rival billionaire Howard Lutnick, Musk's proposed Treasury chief, was too committed to promoting crypto currency investment through his Cantor Fitzgerald brokerage firm. Lutnick was given the Department of Commerce as a consolation prize.

Other billionaires in the cabinet include fracking mogul Chris Wright for the Department of Energy ("There is no climate crisis," he declared last year); North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, an IT billionaire, for the Department of Interior; as well as Linda McMahon for the Department of Education.



Smoke rise from Israeli airstrikes on civilian buildings in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024. [AP Photo/Hassan Ammar]

# Israel responds to ICC ruling with bombings in Lebanon, mass expulsions in Gaza

*World Socialist Web Site* Andre Damon

Israel has responded to last week's arrest warrants by the International Criminal Court against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant by intensifying its rampage throughout the Middle East.

On Saturday, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 29 people and wounded more than 68 in the Basta al-Fawqa neighborhood of Lebanon. That day, 84 people in Lebanon were slaughtered in Israeli bombardments, with dozens more killed on Sunday.

To date, 3,754 people have been killed and 15,626 wounded in Israeli attacks on Lebanon since October 2023, according to the health ministry. Nearly one-quarter of Lebanon's population has been forced from their homes.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that Saturday's airstrike was an attempt to kill Mohammad Haidar, a Hezbollah military commander, but the attack was unsuccessful. Firass Abiad, Lebanon's health minister, said that the strike targeted a multi-story building that was home to at least 45 people.

"Beirut, the capital, woke up to a horrific massacre, as the Israeli enemy's air force completely destroyed an eight-story residential building with five missiles on Al-Mamoun Street in the Basta area," Lebanon's official National News Agency reported.

Ongoing strikes on Sunday "caused massive destruction over a large geographical area," reported the NNA. "A series of violent strikes are targeting Haret Hreik, Bir al-Abed, and Ghobeiri in the southern suburbs of Beirut."

Al Jazeera's Zein Basravi reported that Saturday's strike "marks at least the fourth Israeli strike this week carried out in central Beirut." He added that the Israeli attacks involved "multiple strikes, no warning, on an area that is densely populated with missiles meant to penetrate deeply."

Among those struck in the attacks were Lebanese troops, at least one of whom was killed. While the Israeli military is nominally targeting Hezbollah, and not the Lebanese government, Israeli politicians are openly advocating strikes on Lebanese government buildings. "The Lebanese government is allowing Hezbollah to operate freely. It's time to take strong action against its infrastructure and assets," said Israeli opposition leader Benny Gantz.

Israeli media publications are going even further, with an op-ed in the Maariv newspaper suggesting the bombing of Lebanon's parliament building. "The parliament building is part of Hezbollah's political infrastructure and could serve as a refuge for its members," wrote military analyst Avi Ashkenazi.

The massive bombardment of Lebanon has been accompanied by the expansion of the ethnic cleansing campaign in Gaza. The Israeli military issued a new set of expulsion orders for the Shujaiya neighborhood in northern Gaza, forcing large numbers of people to flee. Social media posts showed hundreds of people leaving the neighborhood in donkey carts and on foot.

Avi Dichter, a member of Israel's security cabinet, made clear that Israel intends to occupy Gaza for years. "Gaza will never be a threat to the state of Israel, no matter

how long it is going to take. ... I think that we are going to stay in Gaza for a long time. ... I think most people understand that that will be years," he said.

The latest mass expulsion orders are part of a systematic campaign, known as the "Generals' Plan," to fully ethnically cleanse northern Gaza by withholding food and supplies and to treat all those who remain as enemy combatants subject to be killed.

The escalating war against Lebanon and ethnic cleansing campaign in Gaza is accompanied by sweeping domestic repression inside Israel itself. Over the weekend, the Israeli government levied sanctions against Israel's oldest newspaper, Haaretz. Earlier this month, Haaretz published an editorial accusing the Israeli military of "conducting an ethnic cleansing operation in the northern Gaza Strip."

Israel's genocidal rampage in Gaza is relentlessly targeting healthcare and humanitarian workers. Palestine's Wafa news agency reported that Israeli bombings in Gaza have killed more than 1,000 doctors and nurses. "Over 310 other medical personnel were arrested, tortured, and executed in prisons," medical sources told Wafa, adding that Israeli troops "prevented the entry of medical supplies, health delegations, and hundreds of surgeons into Gaza."

In a statement Friday, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said that 2024 has become the deadliest year on record for humanitarian workers, with 281 aid workers killed globally, the vast majority of them by Israeli forces in Gaza.

"Humanitarian workers are being killed at an unprecedented rate, their courage

and humanity being met with bullets and bombs," said Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. "This violence is unconscionable and devastating to aid operations. States and parties to conflict must protect humanitarians, uphold international law, prosecute those responsible, and call time on this era of impunity."

Amid the perpetual bombings and mass starvation in Gaza, there are continuing reports of Israeli forces carrying out mass summary executions. The Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor reported, "Among the numerous atrocities committed by Israeli forces—ranging from bombing homes with residents inside, to mass killings of displaced civilians in shelters, and the targeting of gatherings and vehicles—Euro-Med Monitor's field team documented harrowing incidents of direct killings and extrajudicial executions of civilians by Israeli soldiers, carried out with no justification whatsoever."

The Euro-Med team "documented the killing of Khaled Mustafa Ismail Al-Shafai (58) and his eldest son Ibrahim (21) by Israeli forces. They were shot inside their home in Beit Lahia in front of their family on Wednesday, 13 November 2024."

On Tuesday, the International Criminal Court issued warrants for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. US officials responded by condemning the ICC, with the White House saying it was discussing sanctions against the ICC proposed by Republican senators, at least one of whom has threatened military retaliation against countries cooperating with the ICC's case.