

NAMIBIA TODAY



Solidarity • Freedom • Justice

'No decision will be made without young people' Nekongo

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

On October 23, the Swapo Party hosted the Windhoek East Youth Engagement at the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) in Olympia, under the theme "Youth Representation in Decision-Making, Targeted Skill Development Programs, Political Engagement, Youth Leadership, and Youth-Focused Policy Reforms Intended for Youth-Led Initiatives."

Moderated by Innocentia Gaoses and Ian Subasubani, the panel included notable speakers such as Ugandan entrepreneur Dr Hamis Kiggund, SPYL Secretary Ephraim Nekongo, a youthful parliamentarian in waiting Fenny Tutjavi, CEO of the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) John Steytler, and Filip De Bruyn, President of the

Namibian Electronic Sports Association. Youth in attendance proudly displayed the party's colours of blue, red, and green, creating a vibrant display throughout the conference hall.

Among the attendees were Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Information and Communication Technology Emma Theofelus, and special guests from East Africa.

The discussion included an interactive question-and-answer segment, where panelists engaged directly with attendees. This exchange allowed both the panelists and the youth present to discuss pressing topics, fostering a space for dialogue on



Panelists far right to left: SPYL secretary Ephraim Nekongo, Fenny Tutjavi, Ugadian Dr. Hamis Kiggund, and Filip De Bruyn

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Otjozondjupa cheers Netumbo



In their thousands welcoming VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in Otjiwarongo.

By Staff Reporter

As SWAPO Party Vice President and Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, winds up her star rallies and regional engagements to prepare SWAPO for a landslide victory on November 27, people in the Otjozondjupa Region came out in the thousands to register their support for the SWAPO Party and its candidate last Saturday.

Otjiwarongo's star rally was as fully packed as the previous ones elsewhere in other regions, with the popular blue, red, and green standards colouring the streets and settlements in Otjiwarongo.

As November 27 draws closer, Namibians are eagerly getting ready for the big day to cast their votes in such crucial elections. With more than 1,4 million registered voters, observers predict a high turnout.

With over 220 800 residents, the Otjozondjupa Region is one of the key regions that will have a significant impact on the outcome of the elections. Each political party wants a share of its vote.

For Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, Otjozondjupa is an extraordinary region that boasts several historical sites and legendary figures such as the battles of Ohamakari and Okandjira, heroic battles that inspired many Namibians to take up arms and fight for the country's independence.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah also highlighted some of the main targeted development programmes in Otjozondjupa that had been implemented since independence. The government has invested heavily in agriculture, water, electrification, education, healthcare, housing,

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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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youth representation, skill development, political engagement, and youth-focused policy reforms.

Responding to a question about youth representation in decision-making and what motivated her to pursue politics, Tutjavi stated that the Swapo Party's internal grooming and moulding were the reasons she entered politics.

"I was fuelled by the desire to contribute. I used to call myself the prime minister in high school and was already actively a leader. I have always been an active participant," she said.

Tutjavi added that, growing up as a pioneer within the Swapo party, she got to understand the Party's values.

Tutjavi outlined the Swapo Party's strategic approach to engaging Namibia's youth, stressing the importance of digital platforms in reaching younger voters

"I was impressed when the Swapo Party launched its campaign tools, which included the Swapo Party's newspaper, Namibia Today, programmes on Radio Energy, and our SWAPO Party website," Tutjavi explained.

Tutjavi stressed the need to connect with youth where they are, noting that "in today's digital world, young people are on social media." She encouraged active engagement, urging attendees to follow the Swapo Party Youth League's social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and X pages for updates. "We have seen that the Swapo Party Youth League has a social page... which actively updates on the activities of the party," she added.

Acknowledging the evolving communication landscape, Tutjavi asserted that traditional outreach methods are no longer sufficient. "Gone are the days where we can go to young people and say, Vote for the Swapo Party because the party liberated this country."

Tutjavi also added that not all young Namibians have equal access to digital resources. "We should not forget the young

person that is in Havana that does not have access to data, the young person that does not even have a phone," she cautioned. In response, she announced a new initiative to distribute radios to each constituency, ensuring that all youth can stay informed.

Tutjavi concluded with a call to action for party members. "It's one thing for me to be shouting on social media, but to be able to give the message to the next person... We must be very, very intentional."

SPYL Secretary, Nekongo said it was important for the youth to get involved in political matters. The youth league is a platform for pioneers. Young people must be included in positions of leadership.

Nekongo added that the results of the already concluded Swapo Electoral College speak volumes about youth involvement in politics.

"Young people are here and will be sited at the table; no decision will be made without young people," he stressed.

De Bruyn, guided by the metaphor of an orchestra, highlighted the importance of harmony among leaders: each playing a unique part, from the bass drum to the violin, to form a cohesive movement toward youth empowerment.

Underscoring data-driven decision-making, De Bruyn encouraged youth to adopt a mindset of actively seeking opportunities, similar to how they might notice specific colours when prompted to do so.

"The answer lies in a combination of answers. We have enough tools to reach the youth, but what matters is showing the youth that statistics matter," De Bruyn said.

In response to a question from Kauruumbua Koujo, who raised concerns over bureaucratic challenges hindering youth access to entrepreneurship funding, Steytler outlined steps to address these obstacles. Koujo pressed the government and Swapo Party on their approach to creating a more "conducive environment for the youth," specifically asking if they would "simplify and streamline" processes to make resources more accessible.

Addressing the issue, Steytler acknowledged the bureaucratic barriers that often prevent young entrepreneurs from accessing finance, stating that the party recognizes the need for reform. "As a party, and this is a commitment, we are going to review the conditions that relate to lending," Steytler said.

The planned adjustments will focus on improving the accessibility of funding within public financial institutions, particularly the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) and Agribank.

Steytlers stressed the importance of realism in entrepreneurship, stating that "not everyone is an entrepreneur... it is hard."

He addressed the misconception that dropping out, like Bill Gates did, leads to success. That is not always the case. These are exceptional cases."

Steytler proposed a strategy to digitize loan applications. "We hope Namibians can apply online for a loan in real-time." He also addressed the need for evidence in business decisions: "We need to drill into the data. How many times do we take in information without having evidence, especially when it comes to business?"

He pointed out the challenge of the digital divide, urging the audience to be proactive in seeking information. "It's up to us to be inquisitive and access information."

Kiggund shared his journey, rising from humble beginnings to establish a billion-dollar entity by remaining persistent and committed to a long-term vision.

"I became a millionaire from the age of 20 to 25. I want to talk to the minds of Namibian youth. It all starts and ends with a mindset. We are a direct reflection of who, where, and how," Kiggund said.

He added that he just completed a Confederation of African Football, CAF's approved multi-million stadium in Uganda using his own funds.

"Through reason, one gives a critical analysis. A point of hardship or a challenge can lead to individual prosperity, social

prosperity, and national prosperity," the Ugandan entrepreneur said.

Kiggund added that he, together with the Vice President and Swapo Party presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, wished to introduce a program called Operation Mind Change.

According to Kiggund, prolonged employment to a certain stage is mental slavery. "I came from 0 to US\$ 1,2 billion today." This, Kiggund says, is possible by making the right decision.

"The principles of reason are simple and clear. You have to take responsibility for your own life. I started by selling ladies' garments from China at a high price for profit. Before I knew it, I started going to China myself," Kiggund said.

"In school, we get informed, and when we become informed, we become knowledgeable people who have a lot of information. A person with wisdom is he who holds. Success is always an effort with reason.

"If there are rich people in the world, so our mental status right in the beginning, it all starts by believing in yourselves. You are the first line of defence for whatever happens in your life."

Kiggund also said with reason people have elements of persistence and consistency, urging the youth to keep an open and positive mind. "Whatever sector you can go in that positive mindset will allow you to make something out of it," he said.

"With reason, we have elements of persistence, consistency, and being patient with what you want to achieve."

Kiggund credited his success to resilience. "Right from the beginning, I didn't believe I would be a failure or a poor person... I knew I was supposed to be a rich man."

Nekongo added that the Swapo party has revived its social media platforms to speak to its members: "It should not be an issue of the government directing the party from now on; the party must direct the government."

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resettlements, and road infrastructure.

Otjondjupa boasts 36 health facilities, 27 clinics, four health centers, and five hospitals.

"Having the awareness of the challenges facing Namibians, as a Party, we remain committed to building on the strong foundation that we have created over the years to ensure prosperity for all Namibians throughout the country," she said.

Otjondjupa is one of the potential regions that can play a leading role in Namibia's quest to become self-sufficient in food production. Its residents heavily rely on agriculture, especially crop and livestock farming.

Many rural communities here depend on subsistence farming for their survival. The current drought has thus devastated many families. The government has launched a drought relief programme to support those who have been affected. So far, over 15 000 people in rural areas have received relief in Otjondjupa Region.

Water supply projects aimed at

increasing access to water supply and infrastructure efficiency through the drilling of boreholes and other upgrade works were carried out at a cost of N\$33 million.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said those success stories were a sign of the SWAPO Party's commitment to development. Commitments over the next five years will still be on economic growth, agriculture, water, energy, education and training, quality healthcare, and housing.

"I urge that you must all understand our Election Manifesto and my leadership vision as these are the most effective tools at your disposal to mobilize our people throughout Otjondjupa Region for the final victory," Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"Your vote will ensure that the SWAPO Party obtains a resounding mandate to continue building on the strong foundation it has created for the last 34 years."



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah arriving in Otjiwarongo.

'Every Namibian Can Benefit' - Kambanzera

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

On October 24, the Swapo Party Youth League (SPYL) hosted a discussion focused on shaping the national discourse around natural resource management and youth participation in Namibia's resource-rich sectors, including mining, oil and gas, and fisheries.

The discussion was moderated by Klaivert Mwadingi, the chairperson of the Advocacy and Planning subcommittee. Panelists included Eliphaz Hawala of the Swapo Party Think Tank, Regina Ambambi, a seasoned entrepreneur in the Technical Vocational Education (TVET) training sector, and Malcom Kambanzera, a member of the Swapo Party.

The panelists' analysis of the SWAPO Party 2025–2030 election centered on the need for creative policies to empower young Namibians and how the country's natural resources enable inclusive sustainable development and can fairly benefit its population.

"Sustainable development has two legs," Hawala said, outlining the party's multifaceted strategy. Along with the financial and social sustainability components, it has an environmental component.

Hawala highlighted the three-pronged approach to sustainable development—environmental, financial, and social—and the SWAPO Party's mandate on corporate social responsibility to guarantee that businesses directly benefit Namibians.

He underlined that SWAPO's goal requires CSR in the mining industry, stating, "Swapo Party intends to derive much benefit from mining by making sure that there is participation by our mining companies like Epangelo or Namcor in the natural resources space.

Socially, Hawala added, "We want to make sure that there is enough corporate social responsibility that is going to be mandated because, in the past, companies had to implement social responsibility on their own; there was no mandatory requirement in the law.

"In terms of the environment, we have to make sure that there are environmental impact assessments conducted," Hawala said.

Hawala says that the SWAPO-led administration plans to abandon the previous voluntary approach to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and require it for businesses in the natural resource industry. This guarantees that development projects provide resources to communities in a direct manner.

To empower young Namibians and stop exploitation, Kambanzera said that youth participation in resource management is crucial and that "sovereignty, capacity building, and funded participation" are necessary.

"When we're talking about young people, whether they'll be able to participate in the process of resource beneficiation under the Swapo-led government, there are so many avenues where young people are brought to the table under the Swapo-led government.

"There are institutions that are aligned for that specific purpose of bringing young people to the table. National Youth Council (NYC), the Swapo Party Youth League are here to hear young people's issues," Kambanzera said.

"NYC is there to set up that particular platform for young people to go and discuss on a policy level what the young people would want to achieve, of course," he added.

Furthermore, Ambambi described how technical education, with the help of Ministry of Higher Education initiatives, focused on skill development, prepares young people to work in resource-related industries like mining, oil, and fisheries.

She highlighted the strategic importance of empowering youth with practical skills through structured technical education and employment opportunities.

Ambambi further stressed the value of technical education and capacity building, which enable young people to work in industries like mining and oil as freelancers or entrepreneurs and open doors to self-sufficiency.

She pointed to Namibia's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) policy as a foundational step.

"Through the Ministry of Higher Education, we have policies such as the TVET policy and the Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) framework," she noted.

"These are specifically crafted to give youth access to industry-focused skills that will open doors to emerging markets."

The Namibia Training Authority (NTA), Ambambi added, is playing a pivotal role in curating training programs that align with market needs.

Ambambi highlighted a critical issue despite these initiatives: Namibian youngsters frequently lack the financial means to independently engage in-demand businesses. Ambambi contended that access to employability-boosting skill-building programs and entrepreneurship training is therefore the first step.

"By capacitating the youth with the necessary skills, they become employable or they gain the skills to participate through entrepreneurship in these sectors," she said.

According to Ambambi, this strategic focus would allow Namibian youth to actively participate in the economic change of their nation by utilizing its natural resources.

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Zoom In

By: Asser Ntinda



SWAPO does not need gold to glitter. Its rich and heroic history does that for it. And it does it so perfectly well that it sends opposition parties into panic mode. That rich history is the reason SWAPO mini and star rallies throughout the country are always fully packed to capacity. Even if all 20 political parties that will take part in the Presidential and National Assembly elections on November 27 combine, they will never draw as big a crowd as SWAPO does every weekend.

The reasons for that invisible strength and inspiring public appeal lie in its history. SWAPO is the only political party in the history of Namibia that took up arms, when all peaceful means to bring about Namibia's independence failed, and directly locked horns with the apartheid colonial army of South Africa. No other political party has that heroic legacy under its belt. That is exactly the reason opposition parties do not like SWAPO to talk about its history, especially the armed struggle. There is everlasting pride in taking up arms and risking one's life to bring about independence. Our opposition parties have no history to celebrate. The DTA, now PDM, was created and financed by apartheid South Africa. There is just no political party in Namibia that can claim to love Namibia more than SWAPO does. Namibians, too, know this reality. They are not in SWAPO for show. They are part of the history whose blood has watered our freedom as we know it today.

Apartheid South Africa had the most powerful and well resourced military machinery in Africa. It firmly believed in its military superiority that it never ever imagined it would be forced to settle for a negotiated peace plan for Namibia. It was the gallant combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, under SWAPO, who just did that between 1966 and 1989. For 23 solid years, brave commanders of PLAN, experienced fighters that they were, analyzed and compared strategic advantages guerrilla operations would have over South Africa's conventional army. They correctly spelled out the totality of forms, methods, and tactics for guerrilla operations to inflict heavy casualties on the SADF and its surrogate forces such as Koevoet and SWATF.

South Africa did all it could to break PLAN militarily, but it failed. It launched several operations in the 1970s and 1980s to break SWAPO's backbone. Operations such as Smokeshell, Protea, Askari, Daisy, and others were cases in point, but none ever achieved its objective. In fact, in the heat of all those operations, PLAN sustained the momentum and dynamism of the armed struggle until the famous Battle of Cuito Cuanavalle in 1988. The rest is history.

That is the history SWAPO had been steeled in. It relentlessly pursued the armed struggle until its logical conclusion, soaked in blood and sweat. That love for one's motherland is called patriotism. Opposition parties can rant and rage about this, and that, but they can't take away SWAPO's war cross because SWAPO earned that cross in battle.

Namibians, through SWAPO, love their country. For it, they took up arms to fight for their freedom and independence. SWAPO, as a liberation movement, defined and articulated the national and democratic content of the independence struggle, which broke the back of apartheid colonial oppression. Having stood unflinchingly on the side of the Namibian people, SWAPO was deservedly given a mandate to establish state structures and institutions in 1990 to steer the affairs of a sovereign and democratic Namibia. That mandate has been renewed since 1990. That mandate will be renewed again on November 27 because SWAPO's 2024 Election Manifesto sets out clear-cut commitments. We will continue growing our economy. We will continue investing in projects that create jobs for our people. By renewing its mandate to govern means Namibians are gardening their future.

As Namibians, their future has always been SWAPO's main concern. That foundation was laid at independence. A dream that was started with a national budget of N\$2,34 billion in 1990. Now, it stands at N\$100.1 billion. Budget formulations and policy interventions since independence have made the Namibia you see today

The SWAPO Party agenda builds on past achievements, which no one can ignore. Namibians themselves are witnesses of what SWAPO has achieved since independence. At independence, less than 20% of Namibians had access to clean water. Today, more than 83% of Namibians have access to clean water. Many villages and settlements in rural areas have been connected to the national power grid.

Our achievements over the past 34 years have been impressive, always striving for a better tomorrow. To bring about that better tomorrow, this year's budget allocates N\$18,4 billion to basic education, N\$4,8 billion to higher education, N\$10,9 billion to health and N\$8 billion to social welfare. A literate youth must be at the center of the economic agenda.

Our destination is a knowledge-based economy. Huge investment in education guarantees us a knowledgeable and technically skilled labour force that attracts both domestic and foreign investments. Just as we are proud of our past achievements, we are equally proud about a brighter future we are shaping and charting. Our destiny is our shared responsibility.

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Responding to Mwadingi's question on how the Swapo-led government plans to close the gap in skill development and empower local Namibians, Hawala stressed the need for targeted strategies to ensure that Namibians benefit from the country's natural resources.

"We are talking about skills development, necessary skills that align with the market, and educational institutes ensuring that programs match the demands of the job market," he stated.

Explaining the government's approach, Hawala pointed out the necessity of creating a favourable environment for investment. "First, we must create a conducive environment for foreign direct investment, which leads to new mines and opportunities," he said.

"Then secondly, participation through state-owned enterprises or as individuals. And then thirdly, we have to create what is called local content policies, which ensure that the companies that are investing in it don't just bring their economies; we have to enforce local content policies that require these companies to employ 90% to 95% Namibians, ensuring that our people are prioritized at all levels," he added.

Hawala highlighted Epangelos Mining's role as a state-owned enterprise in developing and supporting local mining efforts. "Epangelo operates across



Moderator Klaivert Mwadingi



Malcom Kambanzer



Regina Ambambi

the entire value chain and has been instrumental in discovering resources such as the Kokoseb gold mine," he said. "However, to maintain control and fully benefit, Epangelo must be adequately funded so it doesn't need to dilute shares to bring in outside investors."

Advocating for a robust funding strategy, Hawala said there was a need to revive the Mineral Development Fund to support local exploration and training efforts: "This is a fund created by an act of parliament. When you buy a map, at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, 2% of that money goes to this fund. The fund should be revived so it can help.

"We have seen that one of the big constraints is funding. So if we can solve the funding issue, we can assist quite a lot of people through their practice advocating in the SWAPO and Trade manifesto," he concluded.

Speaking on the management of Namibia's fishing resources, Kambanzer commended the Swapo-led government's progress in opening the sector to ordinary Namibians. "Historically, this sector was exploited by foreign multinationals," he stated, "but the government in the early '90s took a stand, saying, 'No, this can't be the way we operate.'" He stated that Namibians now have greater access to

fishing rights, a process previously limited to a select class.

"The process is now open," Kambanzer stated. "Any ordinary Namibian can take a pen and paper, apply when the allocation of fishing rights opens, and draw up a business plan to benefit themselves and others." He pointed to regional development as a priority, noting that allocations made should ensure "regional representation," empower communities directly. "If someone from Ohangwena, for example, is awarded a quota, it's not just for personal gain. There's an expectation of ploughing back—whether building a school, creating jobs, or opening a fish shop."

To ensure accountability, Kambanzer explained that the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources monitors entities through a scorecard system. "When you're tallied against that scorecard, it checks if you're meaningfully reinvesting into the industry and economy," he said. "If, over the years, you've just been pocketing money without any community investment—no school, fish shop, or even a new vessel—it's flagged. This scorecard is what decides future allocations."

In conclusion, Kambanzer, Ambambi, and Hawala stressed that the Swapo-led administration has established a solid basis for Namibians, especially the younger generation, to make use of the nation's resources.



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

What is next? Netumbo

By Staff Reporter

However impressive and impeccable SWAPO's achievements over the past 34 years may be like, the overarching question still remains. What is next?

That was the piercing question SWAPO Vice President and Presidential Candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, asked as she unpacked the Party's Election Manifesto at a public lecture in Windhoek last Sunday.

Held under the theme "Translating Vision into Reality," the public lecture brought together key stakeholders, policy makers, politicians, the youth, and local and foreign academics to delve into the Party's Manifesto that will propel SWAPO to a landslide victory on November 27.

On that date, Namibians will decide what direction the country will take as they choose from 21 political parties, which one will lead Namibia over the next five years and beyond. Over 1,4 million registered voters will cast their votes.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah had no doubt about SWAPO winning the upcoming elections, given the political and economic foundation the Party had laid at independence. She said true progress had always been built on the active engagement and participation of the people. That SWAPO would win, she said, was not in doubt. It's what SWAPO would do over the next five years that mattered

now.

"That is why this public lecture with its focus on translating vision into reality is very critical. Come March 2025, we must hit the ground running to make sure that we meet our commitments to our people," she said.

"We are here to turn policy into practice, to turn promises into deliverables, and to ensure that no Namibian is left behind as we chart the course towards sustained economic and social progress through social economic transformation."

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said that while it was true that SWAPO had been at the forefront of Namibia's economic agenda since independence, there had been challenges as well, which needed to be addressed.

Namibia has made significant strides in key sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and industrial development. The government has also expanded access to basic services, introduced key reforms, and laid the groundwork for future generations to thrive.

"But it is not enough to rest on the past achievements. We must now ask ourselves, what is next," she asked. "That's the question we must ask ourselves, individually and collectively, as we delve into this document."

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“The 2025-2030 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto outlines the SWAPO Party’s vision for the future. It is not just a set of ideals. It is a commitment to action, a framework designed to address the pressing issues of our time. It is a blueprint for inclusive economic growth, youth empowerment, job creation, healthcare, and social welfare.”

Namibia’s vision for economic growth is rooted in the principles of industrialization and diversification.

“The days of relying on one or two key sectors must be behind us. Through targeted support for Small and Medium Enterprises, SMEs, and focused industrial strategies, we can create sustainable jobs and ensure that wealth is spread across our society, rather than being concentrated in

the hands of just a few.”

What came under magnifying glasses at the public lecture were critical issues such as youth empowerment, infrastructure, housing, clean energy, land reform, and universal healthcare access.

“We will continue to expand access to quality healthcare services, improve public health infrastructure, and offer stronger social safety nets to protect our most vulnerable populations. Remember, a healthy nation is a productive nation. When we are not healthy, we can not be productive, hence our focus on ensuring that we have a healthy nation.”

Recommendations from the public lecture would be forwarded to relevant authorities for further expansion and implementation. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah wants the Manifesto to be properly

discussed and framed into benchmarks for easy implementation. All that the people needed was effective service delivery.

“We can not have a rich continent with poor people. In Namibia, we are just too few to be poor. Let all Namibians and their children enjoy the fruits of their God-given resources,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“Together, let us build a Namibia where shared, balanced prosperity for all becomes a reality. The foundations have already been laid by my predecessors. For us, it is to build on these foundations. We need to shape a Namibia that everyone wants to live in.”



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

It’s time for new song of unity



By Kristian Ngendina Auene

As Namibia approaches the significant date of November 27, 2024, the call for unity within the nation echoes louder than ever. This is not merely an election - a chance to embrace a new era of leadership

and inclusivity by voting for Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Swapo Party’s first female presidential candidate.

Namibia’s journey since independence in 1990 has been marked by substantial progress and development, yet challenges remain. Socio-economic disparities, youth unemployment, and the need for progressive governance are pressing issues that require fresh perspectives. In this context, electing a female president can signify a crucial step towards empowering women and fostering gender equality in the highest echelons of leadership.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah’s candidacy is not just a matter of gender representation. It underscores the importance of unity in diversity. Namibia is home to multiple ethnic groups, religions, and cultures. It’s vital that every voice is heard. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah’s leadership promises to unite

these diverse voices into a harmonious chorus, advocating for policies that reflect the aspirations and needs of all Namibians.

With a rich political background, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah has served in various capacities within the Namibian government, demonstrating her commitment to public service and her capability to lead. Her vision for Namibia includes sustainable economic development, education reform, and enhanced healthcare, which all aim to improve the quality of life for every citizen.

Voting for Nandi-Ndaitwah is more than just casting a ballot. It is about choosing a future where leadership is synonymous with compassion, understanding, and strength. It is about rewriting the narrative of what it means to govern in Namibia - fostering an environment

where collaboration transcends political divides and every individual feels valued.

As the election date approaches, it is essential for citizens to engage in meaningful dialogue, educate themselves on the issues at stake, and mobilize their communities. Young voters, in particular, play a crucial role in shaping the future and should be encouraged to participate actively in the electoral process.

The upcoming election on November 27, 2024, represents an opportunity for Namibia to embrace a visionary and transformational leader who embodies the spirit of unity and progress. By voting for Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, Namibians can signal a collective desire for a brighter, more inclusive future. Now is the high time to sing a new song of unity, hope and dedication to the principles that will guide Namibia toward a prosperous tomorrow.

Celebrating Mama Netumbo’s Leadership and SWAPO’s Legacy

By Daniel David Nghiwilepo

The anticipated victory of the SWAPO Party represents a monumental achievement—not only for VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah but also for the party and the people of Namibia as a whole.

It is a reflection of the unwavering trust that citizens have placed in her leadership, rooted in the enduring principles of SWAPO, which have guided Namibia’s journey since independence.

Having known Mama Netumbo personally since 1974, when I was a child in Zambia, I can confidently say that her lifelong commitment to liberation, peace, and national development makes her the ideal leader to take Namibia forward.

Mama Netumbo’s journey from exile to high-level public service serves as an enduring inspiration to all Namibians.

Her leadership embodies resilience, unity, and a belief in the country’s ability to overcome challenges.

As one of the few leaders with direct involvement in the liberation struggle, she brings both a deep understanding of Namibia’s past and a forward-thinking mindset essential for the future. This rare blend of historical awareness and modern governance will ensure that Namibia not only preserves its hard-won freedom but also charts a sustainable course toward economic prosperity and social justice.

Under Mama Netumbo’s leadership, Namibia will foster greater stability, address inequality, and expand opportunities for youth and marginalized communities. Time and again, she has proven herself to be a unifying figure—willing to engage in constructive dialogue across political divides.

However, she will not hesitate to act decisively against opposition forces that threaten the nation’s progress. With her wisdom and firm resolve, she will keep Namibia on the path toward becoming a more inclusive and prosperous country, undeterred by those who seek to derail her vision.

Her presidency offers an exciting opportunity to open a transformative chapter in Namibia’s history. With bold policies in education, healthcare, and renewable energy, her administration will not only improve the quality of life for Namibians but also position the country as a leader in Africa’s green economy.

Mama Netumbo’s extensive diplomatic experience will further enhance Namibia’s standing on the global stage, unlocking new partnerships and attracting foreign investment to drive economic growth and

job creation.

As Namibians, we are proud to witness the rise of a leader of such remarkable stature. Mama Netumbo will not merely hold the office of the President—she will personify the hopes and dreams of our people. Her election will be a symbol of unity over division, progress over stagnation, and strength over uncertainty. It will affirm that our nation is ready to meet the challenges of the future with courage and determination.

This victory belongs not only to SWAPO but to every citizen of Namibia. As we prepare for the next chapter, we embark on a journey of renewal, hope, and promise. Let us stand united behind our new leader and work together to achieve the greatness that Namibia deserves. It is a historic moment for Namibia.

More people rejoin SWAPO

By Staff Reporter

As the SWAPO Party intensifies its election campaign, more people are rejoining the party.

Among the latest to return is Ephraim Itha, a founding member of the IPC and former Chairperson for Karasburg West in the Karas region.

Addressing a cheering crowd, Itha

encouraged others not to hesitate in rejoining SWAPO.

“This is not the time to waver—we must vote for SWAPO, and we must vote for Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,” said Itha.

“This is our best chance for genuine change, which can only be achieved under the SWAPO government and with Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as President.”

Itha also urged all women in Namibia

to support Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, to help pave the way for a female President in their lifetime.

Speaking at the same event, Cde Charles Mubita, a Politburo and Central Committee member and SWAPO candidate for the National Assembly, called on Karasburg residents to unite for a resounding victory for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate.

He encouraged party members to recruit those who have been misled by opposition parties and urged them not to be deterred by provocations, such as the removal of SWAPO flags and posters.

Cde Mubita emphasized that SWAPO had a proud history and called on members and supporters to continue demonstrating political maturity.



Dr Charles Mubita and SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator, Cde Mathew Mumbala, welcoming new members from IPC.

It is Netumbo's time to lead

By Joshua Razikua Kaumbi

The country has entered the month in which we are to elect the next president of our Republic. Since 1989, we pledged to, through universal suffrage, change leadership or in conformity with our supreme law and not the court or the barrel of the gun. That said.

Many political parties have fielded candidates or what some may regard as such, but who could not muster the organizational wherewithal to legitimise their candidacy. With several entrenched structural challenges and a citizenry getting short on patience, my paper intends to focus on the competency of the frontrunner, and I posit the most capable of all, Cde Netumbo Ndemupelila Nandi-Ndaitwah. (N to the power of four)

Netumbo, as she is affectionately known, was born in Onamutai in the Oshana Region. As a daughter of a pastor, she learned at an early age to shun injustice and to love her neighbours as the Source would have intended. She joined Swapo in 1966 and very soon became the Chairperson of the Swapo Youth League. Her involvement in politics increased her prosecution by the illegitimate authorities of the time, resulting in her detention in Grootfontein. She left for Zambia in 1974 and returned in 1989.

Of all the candidates, Netumbo's devotion to an enduring partnership uniquely demonstrates the importance of family. She has been married to Lieutenant

General Epafra Denga Ndaitwah since 1983, a person with impeccable credentials of his own. Denga, as he is affectionately known by his peers, is battle tested as a former PLAN fighter. He retired with full military honours. The Ndaitwah couple thus stands apart as having never wavered in their level of service to the Namibia people, having fought for, liberated and established the necessary institutions of an independent Namibia. They both represent that important link between the past, present, and the critical need to endow the future with the promise Namibia's independence held for all of us.

After independence, Netumbo was appointed as the first Female Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. After being elected as the first female Deputy-Secretary General of the ruling Party, she was appointed the first Director-General (DG) of Women Affairs in the office of the Founding President in 1996. As the DG, she set up the first Ministry dealing with Women Affairs and Child Welfare and became its first Female Minister in 2000 until 2005. Having started from zero, she propelled the women issues onto the national agenda, along with strong advocacy for the grants for vulnerable children.

In 2005, Netumbo was appointed the first Female Minister of Information. During her tenure, she launched what would become known as the Cabinet



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

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Briefing, the interaction of government with the citizenry.

In 2010, Netumbo was appointed the first Female Minister of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism. Under her tenure, the country started to reap the benefits of tourism, with the sector contributing 12 percent of the GDP and entrenching economic rights and benefits for rural communities through conservancies, leading to a boom in community tourism.

Netumbo once again became the first female Minister of International Relations. As the Minister, she ensured resource mobilisation for the country during the Covid pandemic. She canvassed support from a diversity of countries across ideological lanes, putting national interest above pyrrhic dogma. Her plan also included drawing on historic relations to have a contingent of Cuban doctors attend to the shortage of medical personnel, effectively responding to the emergency.

Netumbo became the first female Vice-President of the Swapo Party. In 2017, I wrote that during this time, together

with Sophia Nahango Shaningwa, (lethal combination) they secured the victory of the Late President, Dr Hage Geingob, and ensured the unity of the party while serving with poise and patience, during some politically trying times.

After being nominated as the first female Presidential Candidate of the ruling party, Netumbo re-energised and revitalised the grassroots veins of the party. Acknowledging the grassroots origin of the party, she placed emphasis on the bottom-up approach interactions, mostly impromptu, on the outskirts of small towns, churches, and traditional authorities. All on equal footing. Reinforcing the heritage of Swapo, borne of transformational partnerships among churches, traditional authorities, youth, labour, and community actors.

With the untimely departure of President Geingob, Netumbo became the first female Vice President of our Republic.

It is clear from the above that Netumbo is a person of many firsts amongst the women. History has it that one does not get accorded so many firsts unless you

succeed first.

Deducing from her past achievements and contemporary public utterances, Netumbo's administration would be keen on prioritising ethical service, maximum equitable and inclusive benefit to all the inhabitants. It can thus be universally held that Netumbo is the embodiment of the highest standard of ethical, patient, considered, and accommodative leadership. Her calm demeanour and a sense of deep listening should in no way be construed as a walk-over. Believe you me, Netumbo can be a stern pragmatist. Our challenges as a country require maturity and acute emotional intelligence.

Hailing from a big family, she is well-equipped to harness our diversity into rekindling that grand vision and expectations the country was born with. Netumbo's leadership is one of hope and on what matters most, people. Whatever our differences, the love of family should lead all back home. Her earnest understanding of our democratic ethos and deep empathy for Namibians from all walks of life makes her the steady hands ready to make our resources work for us.

Netumbo is good at drawing connections between issues where other people might miss them, leading to more wholistic and sustainable solutions; and at remembering people very well, hinting at her people centered ethos.

In 2002, when interviewed by Gretchen Bauer and confronted with the question, Netumbo unknowingly stated that "I can not tell you when but definitely ...it will come.... [and] I just know that one day Namibia will have a woman President".

In the June 2017 edition of the Insight Namibia Magazine, the reader was asked ...Ndaitwah...the next President? We have that generational mission to answer that question in the affirmative come 27 November 2024 and allow Ndemupelila to pave the way to the Namibia that speaks to our social needs and meets our welfare expectations. Netumbo is healthy. It is now her time to lead.

*Joshua Razikua Kaumbi is a holder of BA Political Science and Sociology (Unam), LLB (Stellenbosch) and an admitted legal practitioner. His opinions are expressed in his capacity as a Namibian by birth.

Entrepreneurship is very holistic, says Netumbo

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

Swapo Party recently convened the Windhoek East Youth Engagement at the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) on October 23.

It was held under the theme "Youth representation in decision making, targeted skill development programs, political engagement, youth leadership, and youth-focused policy reforms intended for youth-led initiatives."

Attendees included Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Emma Theofelus, Swapo member Vicky Appolus, Deputy Ministers, Swapo Party District leadership, youth representatives, and special guests from Africa and High Commissioner Lebbeus Tangeni.

Delivering her keynote address at the Youth Engagement, Vice President and Swapo Party Presidential Candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, emphasized the significant impact of individual member states within the African Union, AU, on the continent.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said Agenda 2063 placed a strong focus on youth, urging African nations to prioritize three key areas: education, training, and entrepreneurship.

"These issues are clearly outlined as essential for empowering our youth and our people, and we must invest in these three areas," Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

She described entrepreneurship as a holistic endeavor, noting that "entrepreneurship is very holistic; one can be a sports entrepreneur, a



creative industry entrepreneur, or an IT entrepreneur. In everything, you can be an entrepreneur."

The Vice President expressed her satisfaction in seeing young people actively engage with the party's Election Manifesto, stating that "as party members, including supporters and sympathizers, we must own that document and implement it. We should make it our business, having created such a strong foundation in the past 34 years."

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah introduced the special Ugandan entrepreneur Dr Hamis Kiggund, highlighting his significant contributions to youth entrepreneurship. She drew parallels between Kiggund's initiatives and the Swapo Party's 2025-2030 election manifesto, emphasizing their shared commitment to empowering young people and fostering economic development. "Kiggund, a young entrepreneur at 40, has inspired me



through his books, including one titled Success and Failures. I believe in the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas, especially as entrepreneurship is central to our election manifesto," Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

The Swapo's presidential candidate added that Kiggund's books have been endorsed by Uganda's president for use in schools, underscoring the importance of his insights for Namibian youth.

"The theme of our campaign is not just a theme; it is a living statement, and I want each of us to live up to it. Those who will be elected must also embrace this," stated Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

She called for collective action, appealing to supporters and sympathizers to adopt a unified approach on economic issues.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah reiterated remarks made by Swapo veteran, Vicky Ya Toivo, highlighting that the core issue facing the

country is not a lack of financial resources but rather the effectiveness of service delivery to the people.

"If each of us commits to fulfilling our responsibilities to the best of our abilities, we can eradicate poverty in this country," Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

She said Namibia's abundant resources should be sufficient to prevent poverty, urging all Namibians, regardless of race, to unite in acknowledging their shared history and collective identity as Namibians.

"It is a shame for our continent that we have our young people who have to risk their lives going on a hiatus following their jobs when we send our raw minerals unprocessed."

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasized the Swapo Party's theme of "Unity

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in Diversity: Natural Resources Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development,” asserting that collaboration among diverse cultures and tribes is vital.

“We must add value to our natural resources and empower our youth holistically. Not just be empowered to be employed, the youth must drive socio-economic development,” she said.

Cde Nandi-Ndiatwah stressed the importance of shared prosperity, stating that although not everybody will be a millionaire, everyone deserves a place to thrive, to live and the right to quality education and healthcare.

She reiterated the need for elected officials to be accountable for implementing the Party’s election manifesto, saying, “there will be monitoring to ensure we follow through on our commitments.”

Delivering a statement at the event, Swapo veteran, Ya Toivo passionately reaffirmed her commitment to the ongoing struggle for liberation.

“We have not lost heart in our years of involvement.” Echoing Cde Nandi-Ndiatwah’s call for unity, she emphasized the importance of a united front, recalling

her activism that began at the age of 19 and became part of the international anti-imperial, anti-colonial movement in solidarity with African collaboration.

Ya Toivo reflected on her first meeting with presidential candidate Cde Nandi-Ndiatwah in 1985 as a young woman at a Nairobi Conference that marked the end of the Decade for Women.

After moving to Namibia with her late husband, Andimba Toivo ya Toivo in 1991, she became actively involved in the Okongova branch, witnessing its growth over the years as a rank and future member.

“Throughout history, our revolutionary leaders have been young, Swapo was a movement that was started by young workers, and it ended the contract labour system,” Ya Toivo noted

Highlighting the critical role of activism, Ya Toivo said, “to the young comrades, you have the power to either make it or break it.”

She urged party members to avoid using parliament for trivial guerrilla theater that we have experienced in recent years and to remain connected with the grassroots.

Addressing pressing social issues, she pointed out that “at least 25 percent of our children under five years are

chronically malnourished. This means when they grow up they will not reach their full potential they will have behavioral problems, cognitive problems and so forth,” stressing that prioritizing education and mobilization, rather than excessive funding, is key to eradicating this problem

Ya Toivo also expressed concern over the high levels of youth unemployment and under-education, calling for a focus on ongoing education, self-employment, and entrepreneurship.

“We want patriotic entrepreneurs. “We must commit ourselves to zero tolerance for inequalities that exist in our country today,” she asserted, calling for unwavering support for the new generation of leaders and change-makers.

“The unity of our people is the most important precondition to obtain the goals we have set for ourselves. We must cherish this unity and nature it. This means that tribalism has no place in our society. We are Namibians first and should not allow ourselves to be divided. The unity of our people also requires that we wage war against the vast gap between the few rich and poor masses of society.”

“The shameful inequality that exists in our country today undermines the dignity

for which we have struggled,” Ya Toivo said.

In addition to this Swapo Party Windhoek East District Coordinator Sakaria Uunona emphasized the importance of party unity, saying, “we in the Swapo Party represent three colours: blue, red, and green. If these colours are not there, it is not a Swapo Party. Young people are active and ready.” He encouraged open discussions within the congregation, free from fear or prejudice.

Former SPYL activist, and director of ceremonies Luise Shixwameni, highlighted the significance of youth involvement in politics, stating, “There are 8,2 billion people in the world, of those 1,53 billion are in Africa, and 70 per cent are living in sub-Saharan Africa. Recent statistics shows that there are close to 1.2 million youth in Namibia. You can see when you have the youngest population not only in Africa but in Namibia that the involvement of youth is crucial.”

“This country was liberated by the young people. If today young people choose not to involve themselves in politics then they are forgetting what the youth have done for this country. Every generation must handle its destiny, every generation must create its own heroes and heroines,” Shixwameni said.



Palestinians mourn their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip at a hospital morgue in Deir al-Balah, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024 [AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana]

Israel massacres 93 in Northern Gaza airstrike, bans UN humanitarian organization

World Socialist Web Site Andre Damon

In the worst single massacre since Israel launched its campaign to ethnically cleanse Northern Gaza this month, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) bombed a five-story residential building in the town of Beit Lahia Tuesday, killing 93 people, including 25 children.

That day, at least 143 people were killed in Israeli airstrikes throughout Gaza, with the vast majority—132—killed in Northern Gaza, Al Jazeera reported.

With the Palestinian civil defense almost entirely out of commission due to targeting by Israeli troops, dozens of people remained buried under the rubble, where they will most likely die awaiting rescue.

“A number of victims are still under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews cannot reach them,” Gaza’s health ministry said in a statement.

Mahmoud Basal, a spokesman for the Palestinian civil defense agency, said “There are appeals and stress calls for Civil Defense teams to save the wounded,” but civil defense forces have been either arrested by Israeli troops or “forcibly displaced due to the Israeli aggression in North Gaza.”

Witness Ismail Ouaida said in a video verified by Reuters, “There are tens of martyrs (dead)—tens of displaced people who were living in this house. The house was bombed without prior warning. As you can see, martyrs are here and there, with body parts hanging on the walls.”

Another survivor, a Palestinian mother, told Al Jazeera, “Both my sons with their entire families were killed. My unmarried daughter was also killed. And my other daughter with her five children. All killed. What wrong did they do? What did those innocent people do to be slaughtered like this?”

The health ministry said in a statement

Tuesday that the wounded will not receive medical care as nearby doctors had been forced by Israeli troops to evacuate at gunpoint. “Critical cases without intervention will succumb to their destiny and die,” the ministry said in a statement.

With consummate hypocrisy, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller called the bombing a “horrifying incident with a horrifying result.” In reality, the massacre is completely in keeping with US policy. The Biden administration has provided Israel with more than 14,000 2,000-pound bombs, which have been used to systematically target populated areas with the deliberate aim of killing as many people as possible.

Last week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss the so-called “General’s Plan” to ethnically cleanse Northern Gaza. Despite Netanyahu’s refusal to publicly disavow the plan, Blinken emerged from the meeting to give

a blanket statement of support for Israel’s “right to defend itself.”

The official death toll in the Gaza genocide now stands at over 43,000 with tens of thousands more still missing and likely buried under the rubble. An article published in *The Lancet* earlier this year estimated the actual death toll—including from the effects of starvation and disease—as exceeding 186,000.

The massacre in Beit Lahia is part of a systematic effort by Israel to ethnically cleanse Northern Gaza through bombing and starvation and to kill everyone that remains. Over the past three weeks, at least 700 people have been killed in Northern Gaza as part of this campaign. At the start of this month, there were 400,000 people remaining in Northern Gaza. Now, that figure is estimated at around 100,000 people, with those that remain completely without food, fuel or medical supplies.