

NAMIBIA TODAY



Solidarity • Freedom • Justice

The chosen one

No court case will stand in her way

By Asser Ntinda

SWAPO Party Presidential Candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, received her clean electoral bill of health from the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN, last week, putting an end to persistent malicious de-campaigns and misguided court cases by some disgruntled SWAPO Party members who have tried to mislead Namibians that her candidature was legally flawed.

One

such court case brought against the SWAPO Party and Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah was struck off the roll on Monday last week as it was not procedurally brought before court. Another one is scheduled to be heard at the end of this month. The two cases were brought against the SWAPO Party and its Presidential Candidate by Reinhold Shipwikineni, Petrus Shituula, Joshua Martins, Erich Shivute and Anna Angula.

“I am pleased to inform SWAPO Party members, sympathizers, and indeed the people of Namibia that at the closing of the public sitting on 17 October 2024, the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN, in terms of Section 75 (1) (a) and (b) of the Electoral Act of 2014, declared Dr Netumbo Ndemupelila Nandi-Ndaitwah, as duly nominated for election of the President of Republic of Namibia to be held on 27 November 2024,” announced SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Sophia Shaningwa last week.

The list of 96 names submitted by SWAPO Party as its candidates for the National Assembly Elections was also accordingly declared as duly submitted. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah is now among the 15 presidential candidates approved by the ECN to contest the Presidential Elections on November 27. She is the only woman in the presidential race.

Twenty-one political parties will contest the elections. No independent candidates survived the ECN vetting. Six political parties have not submitted presidential candidates. Some among those political parties have said they would urge their members to support Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“The declaration that Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah has been duly nominated as the SWAPO Party Presidential Candidate is a milestone as far as SWAPO is concerned in particular, and Namibia in general.

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“Furthermore, the declaration of Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah, I should emphasize, ends what can only be described as a malicious and politically motivated campaign aimed at delegitimizing the candidacy of Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah in the eyes of the Party’s members and the people of Namibia in general,” said Cde Sophia Shaningwa.



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

Pres Mbumba laughs off opposition 'victory' claims

By Staff Reporter

President Nangolo Mbumba has cynically laughed off opposition claims that they will win next month's Presidential and National Assembly Elections, saying that the sheer number of people attending SWAPO rallies countrywide is enough to dash their hopes of winning.

Addressing a fully packed star rally in Swakopmund, Erongo Region, last Sunday, President Mbumba just smiled as looked at the size of the crowd he was about to address and the excitement generated by the audience, saying that there was no way opposition parties could win.

the arena of governance. Instead, we are pioneers who have worked with vigour, purpose and patriotism over the past 34 years as a governing Party. The Namibia you see today is because of the hard work and dedication of our Party cadres and all patriotic citizens."

President Mbumba lashed out at those who always cast aspersions on the pedigree of SWAPO Party leadership and the achievements recorded since independence, saying such successes were there for all to see. He said that there were challenges of course, but such challenges would never outweigh what SWAPO had achieved since independence.

He said no other party could compare

did nothing are not telling the truth. The facts are there for everyone to see and judge for themselves," said President Mbumba.

He said the SWAPO Party government had built a strong foundation for democratic governance and socio-economic development. There were challenges, and there was still a lot to be done to ensure that the dream of prosperity became a reality which Namibians could experience in their own unique ways.

Displaying the SWAPO Party Manifesto, President Mbumba said it contained well-thought-out plans and strategies for Namibia's continued development, detailing how Namibians could benefit

natural resources for the maximum benefit of all Namibians across all 14 regions of our country. It is a plan that will encourage more processing of Namibia's raw materials, thereby increasing the participation of Namibians in the country's economy. Overall, we have an Election Manifesto which we believe sets out concrete policies which will ensure that the current and future generations of Namibians will be able to control their economic destiny."

He said Namibia could no longer continue to export its natural resources like fish, diamonds, uranium, gold, marble and granite in raw forms. But, at the same time, Namibians needed the technology, know-how and markets to benefit from them. For investors, it should be a give and take exchange so that Namibians could add value to such resources, create jobs and more businesses inside Namibia and export finished products to earn more money.

Government has taken a decision that lithium and other highly valuable minerals would no longer be exported without local value addition. As a result, investors have now started building factories in Namibia to add value to lithium. President Mbumba said when Namibians voted SWAPO back into power, more factories would be built.

Since independence, the number of people who lived below the poverty line has been reduced from close to 70 percent in 1990 to below 17 percent by 2023. Namibia's economy has grown in Gross Domestic Product, GDP, size from N\$7,2 billion in 1990 to N\$227,8 billion by 2023. In 1990, there were only 180 000 people in formal employment. Today, that number stands at over 725 000.

Health facilities have also increased from 272 in 1990 to 530 in 2023. Namibia is the first country in Africa and the first high-burden country in the world that has achieved 99 percent HIV free births.

"Vote our Vice President Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as our first female President of Namibia. She is the best leader and choice to continue the SWAPO Party leadership legacy and improve our lives. She is trusted, tried and tested. Now, let's all get ready to vote for the SWAPO Party and Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on November 27," said President Mbumba.



A fully packed SWAPO rally in Swakopmund last Sunday.



President Nangolo Mbumba addressing a SWAPO rally in Swakopmund.

"Just look at this crowd! SWAPO has been and will always be the people's Party. You have come here in large numbers because SWAPO is the Party you trust. It is a Party with a sound track record in governance and the capability to steer Namibia towards a more prosperous future," said the President as the crowd erupted into songs and slogans.

"You have come here to demonstrate to the nation that come November 27, you are ready to vote for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential Candidate, Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, as the next President of the Republic of Namibia. As it is said, you cannot buy trust. You must earn it. In SWAPO, you have a Party and a leadership that has earned its trust through the test time.

"We are not Johnny-come-latelies to

to SWAPO's track record in governance. Namibians, he said, had enjoyed peace, stability and security for the past 34 years. They had also witnessed smooth leadership transitions in both the Party and Government, no civil wars or political assassinations in Namibia.

"For all those that like to cast aspersions on the pedigree of the SWAPO Party leadership and our successes since independence, all I can tell you is that history never remembers critics. Instead, history remembers creators. Creation and not criticism is what builds societies and countries. And over the past 34 years, the SWAPO Party has created a society defined by unity, peace and stability while providing direction for the implementation of Namibia's development objectives. Those who said that SWAPO

from the country's natural resources, as well as plans for youth empowerment.

"This Manifesto does not contain empty promises. It does not contain sky in the pie promises. There are no unrealistic pledges. Rather, it outlines what SWAPO has achieved in the past 34 years and what we plan to do in the next five years, to further consolidate the welfare of Namibians," emphasized President Mbumba.

"As a Party, we are focused on the bread-and-butter issues which affect the daily lives of our people. Therefore, we are confident that in Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, we have the leadership that is capable of fulfilling the second struggle for economic emancipation of Namibians.

"This is a plan which will develop our

Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development

By Uaeza Kanguatjivi

On October 16, the Swapo Party Youth League (SPYL) hosted an engaging discussion focused on sports and youth empowerment as part of the Party's weekly program, Swapo Talks.

The session, moderated by SPYL Central Committee Member Taddeus Shithigona,

featured parliamentary hopeful Dino Ballotti and Abel Abel, member of the SPYL Khomas REC Advocacy and Planning Subcommittee, as panelists.

The conversation centered on youth empowerment for sustainable development, unity in diversity, and the role of young entrepreneurs in Namibia's socio-economic growth.

With Namibia's youth comprising 70% of the population, Ballotti addressed the critical issue of access to capital for youth-owned businesses. He stated that despite Namibia's wealth, including the second-largest government pension fund in Africa, "there are few targeted funds specifically for young entrepreneurs."

Ballotti highlighted the need for

financial products tailored to youth, such as smaller loans with flexible repayment terms to support the sustainable growth of youth-led businesses. He also highlighted inspiring Namibian youth-driven initiatives like Lefa Namibia, Tulande Online, Mutete Hibiscus Juice, and Yeni



Netumbo lands in Oshikoto with confidence

By Staff Reporter

A brimming and confident SWAPO Party Vice President and Presidential Candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, landed in Oshikoto Region on Saturday waving the SWAPO Party 2024 Election Manifesto, and telling a fully packed rally that SWAPO would be handed a landslide victory on November 27.

The rally was attended by thousands of people, many of them dressed in SWAPO regalia, singing and chanting glorious liberation songs that brought back fond memories of the heroic armed struggle the SWAPO Party waged to set Namibia free.

The gallant combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, SWAPO's then military wing during the armed struggle, were inspired by Namibia's forefathers who stood up and fought against colonialism, the likes of Hendrik Witbooi, Iipumbu ya Tshilongo, Mandume ya Ndemufayo and Nehale Iya Mpingana.

"Inspired by the likes of Nehale Iya Mpingana, SWAPO Party is proud to have liberated this country. We will continue to talk about this history because we are part of it, and it is part of us. We have no regret now and we shall have no regret in the future to talk about the heroic achievements of the SWAPO Party," thundered Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"With the knowledge of where we are coming from, the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto seeks to build on the rich history of bravely and dedication to serve our people. Hence, our 2025 - 2030 Manifesto boldly declares our commitment to a

prosperous and industrialized Namibia"

Amplifying why the Manifesto is anchored on the theme "Unity in Diversity, Natural Resources Beneficiation, Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said it was time Namibians started benefiting from the resources their country was endowed with. She said if Namibia was rich, so too must be its citizens.

Oshikoto Region boasts a copper mine, natural wonders such as Oshikoto Lake and the great Etosha National Park which beams with different wildlife species that attract countless tourists and visitors every year.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said Oshikoto Region had never been left out in terms of national development programmes, with Omuthiya Hospital standing out as one example. A new 90-bed maternity ward at Onandjokwe Hospital is being built at a cost of N\$59 million. Out of 530 health facilities in Namibia, 34 are in Oshikoto Region. There are 27 clinics, five health centers and four hospitals in Oshikoto Region.

"We aim to reduce maternal mortality. Additionally, the hospital theater was renovated to the amount of N\$1,8 million to reduce the need for patient referrals to other regions. A water reservoir was also completed at Omuthiya Hospital to ensure the availability of water supply to the hospital," said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"A nation is only as good as the living standards and quality of health of its people. Therefore, the SWAPO Party has identified key national initiatives



Zoom In

By: Asser Ntinda



The five disgruntled SWAPO members who have taken SWAPO and its presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, to court questioning the latter's legitimacy to contest the presidential elections next month must be ashamed today, now that the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN, has given Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah a clean electoral bill of health as a legitimate presidential candidate.

The five are Reinhold Shipwikeneni, Petrus Shituula, Joshua Martins, Erich Shivute, and Aina Angula. One of their legal applications to have Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's legitimacy declared invalid and set aside was also pronounced dead on arrival in court last week, leaving Shipwikeneni with a costly legal bill of N\$490 000 to settle in ten days.

We were not at all surprised by the ECN's decision to give Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah a clean electoral bill of health because we knew right from the onset that she would meet all the legal requirements as set out in the Electoral Act. What was bothering us, however, were the persistent toxic misinformation and slanderous de-campaigns that have been peddled around by the five applicants since SWAPO's elective congress in November 2022.

Such legal threats have been psychologically torturing, causing the leadership to park national tasks and responsibilities just to deal with and waste resources on such frivolous applications that have no legal basis of succeeding in any court of law. Such cases were an unnecessary diversionary decoy to cause confusion and panic among SWAPO members and Namibians at large.

True, SWAPO members have rights and obligations as provided for in the Party's Constitution to demand the implementation of the Party's decisions and resolutions, as well as urge leaders to follow its Constitution. But when such demands are made in bad faith, however, the SWAPO Party leadership is under no obligation whatsoever to entertain such absurd demands.

Freedom, any freedom, is a package deal. It is a two-way traffic, as it comes with honesty and responsibilities to deal with others in good faith. The alternatives are chaos and anarchy. It is one thing to criticize a leader with a view to suggesting alternatives to correct an error. It is quite another to mock and vilify a leader so that he or she looks unfit to hold a public office. The first is constructive criticism. The second is a smear campaign.

Since the November 2022 ordinary congress where Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah was re-elected as SWAPO Party Vice President, the five applicants, and those urging them on behind the scenes, have been mocking and vilifying Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, questioning with unsurpassed dishonesty her legitimacy as a presidential candidate. They erroneously argued that she was "not procedurally" elected as a presidential candidate. They, therefore, called for an extraordinary congress to address such "irregularities."

Such demands became even worse and more pronounced this year, following the sudden death of President Hage Geingob in February. Shipwikeneni, at one point, even suggested, quite ridiculously, that Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah should not chair such an ordinary congress. Someone "neutral" should do so. Where, in the SWAPO Party's Constitution, such provision was, Shipwikeneni never dared point it out. Congresses in SWAPO are chaired by the President. In his or her absence, the vice president does that. That is what the SWAPO Party Constitution dictates.

SWAPO has gone to extraordinary lengths to explain and defend the legitimacy of Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah and why there was no need for an extraordinary congress, given the financial and logistical resources needed to host the congress while preparing for national elections which were just a few months away.

Most importantly, delegates at the 2022 congress went into that congress fully aware that whoever emerged from that congress as Vice President would automatically be the SWAPO Party's presidential candidate in the November Presidential and National Assembly elections. That was so because President Geingob was serving his second and last term. He was, therefore, barred from running as a presidential candidate.

Rule 8 in the SWAPO Party Rules and Procedures dictates that for a person to qualify as a presidential candidate for the country, such a person must come from the Top Four. That is the president, the vice president, the secretary general, and the deputy secretary general. There is no provision in the Constitution of SWAPO that says a presidential candidate must be elected by an extraordinary congress. Such provisions only exist in Shipwikeneni's fertile figment of imagination.

Rule 8 goes further: "In the event that such a person (a sitting president) is barred from standing by the Namibian Constitution on account of having served two terms, then automatically the vice president becomes a candidate."

In November 2022, SWAPO found itself in such a situation. Everything was very clear there and then. But Shipwikeneni and his handlers would have none of it. They piled up legal threats on SWAPO, selectively quoting the SWAPO Constitution and stretching its provisions to portray a picture they sought to vindicate. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah was their problem. Getting her out of their way became the bedrock of their legal tantrums.

But as their cases collapse one by one, their strategy is thinning and flopping, unmasking their real agenda for everybody to see. In the end, they will be the victims of their own ill-conceived onslaught. Bad-mouthing displays foolishness, not bravery. As their legal battle against SWAPO snowballs into a costly legal mess, it will ultimately end in tears.

They alone, however, will wipe off their tears in shame and disgrace. SWAPO will win. And Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah will be President of Namibia. They must just learn to live with that eventual reality. History will park and mark them as spiteful and toxic renegades not worthy of the SWAPO Party membership. Against facts, there are no arguments.



SWAPO Secretary General, Cde Sophia Shaningwa, addressing a press conference last week. She is flanked by Lawyer Sisa Namandje, right, Dr Charles Mubita, left. Both are Politburo and Central Committee members. On the far left is Cde Kornelia Shilunga, also CC member.

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A woman has just been declared in accordance with the law, to stand for the highest office in the land," said Cde Shaningwa.

"As SWAPO members, this achievement comes at the back of years of deliberate policy interventions with a view to removing all legal, cultural and institutional obstacles women had for many years been confronted with when it comes to leadership and senior public positions.

"Furthermore, the declaration of Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah, I should emphasize, ends what can only be described as a malicious and politically motivated campaign aimed at delegitimizing the candidacy of Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah in the eyes of the Party's members and the people of Namibia in general."

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah was re-elected SWAPO Party Vice President at the Party's 2022 elective congress, a position she had held since the 2017 Congress. By virtue of that, and according to SWAPO Rules and Procedures, she was automatically going

to be SWAPO's Presidential Candidate because the then President Hage Geingob was barred by the country's constitution from standing. The late President was serving his second last term.

Since the 2022 congress, Shipwikineni and the four SWAPO members have been challenging Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's legitimacy, calling for an extraordinary congress to elect a presidential candidate. They later dropped that call. But when President Geingob passed on in February this year, they threatened SWAPO with legal action, urging the leadership to call and hold the congress within 90 days to elect a person who would complete the late President's unexpired term.

In March last year, the SWAPO Party Central Committee held a meeting where it was decided to only hold the extraordinary congress in April 2025. The Party cited financial and logistical constraints as some of the reasons it pushed the congress to next year. It said there was also not enough time to hold the congress while preparing for the crucial elections at the same time.

In June this year, Shipwikineni and his four applicants took SWAPO to court, seeking a court order to compel SWAPO to hold an extraordinary congress within 30 days from the day the order was granted. SWAPO said it would defend its decision to hold the congress next year. That case will be heard next week.

However, in a surprise move, the five applicants brought an urgent application against SWAPO and Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah again two weeks ago, laced with potential legal flaws. In the application,

the five wanted the ECN not to approve Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah as a presidential candidate. They also wanted the 10 candidates appointed by Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah to the National Assembly list to be declared invalid and set aside.

But the case was struck off the roll within an hour by High Court Judge Eileen Rakov last week because it was not procedurally brought before court. She also ordered Shipwikineni to personally pay the legal costs of both the applicants' and the respondents' lawyers. Costs for the lawyers who represented the respondents alone amounted to N\$490 000.

In opposing the latest urgent application, Cde Shaningwa was ready to shoot down the case. She described the application as "abusive and frivolous," and the second to the fifth applicants as mere decoys because they only filed confirmatory affidavits. Lawyer Sisa Namandje, who represented the respondents together with lawyer Gilroy Kasper, described Shipwikineni as a 'man of contradictory choices and erratic steps in litigation.' He asked the court to dismiss the case with costs.

In her affidavit, an obviously irritated Shaningwa blasted Shipwikineni, saying that he was only a member of SWAPO, subject to certain qualifications.

"He is definitely not a bona fide member," she said. "He is a political renegade and has, for a prolonged period of time and on a continuous basis, been involved in a series of acts subversive of the interests of the SWAPO Party. He therefore does not subscribe to the ideals, values and objectives of the SWAPO Party"

Empowering Youth from page 2

AI, which are positively impacting the economy.

Responding to the moderator's question on Ballotti's extensive experience in MSME innovation and acceleration, along with his proven track record in training and funding youth-owned businesses, Ballotti highlighted the Swapo Party's dedication to empowering youth and stressed the importance of providing them with the resources needed to achieve their goals.

He emphasized the necessity of developing systems to support the growth of these businesses, which are vital for economic health and sustainability.

"Youth empowerment is the cornerstone of Namibia's future," Ballotti said. "The purpose for the longest time has been how we support entrepreneurs in the country. Small and Medium Enterprises no longer just want money. They need comprehensive empowerment. Youth empowerment is the cornerstone of Namibia's future development."

Ballotti further highlighted the importance of equipping young people with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions.

He outlined five key contributions of youth, stating, "Innovation and creativity come from young people," and stressed the significance of "active citizenship" as they become decision-makers.

He noted that addressing social inequalities includes "providing young



Dino Ballotti, Tadeus Shithigona and Abel Abel

people with opportunities to be the change," stating that empowerment is about giving youth the tools to innovate and lead in shaping the nation's future.

"Young people understand the challenges of young people. Entrepreneurship goes without saying and then maybe social inclusion and I'm excited that the Vive President is addressing the social inequalities that we see in Namibia, and again, it's by providing young people with these opportunities to be the change,

sustainable development with the youth," Ballotti said.

"If young people develop their skills, their knowledge, and even the ability to make informed decisions and really take action on these decisions, we talk not just about education, we talk not just about training; but employment and leadership.

"It is recognizing them as active participants and drivers of the sustainable change that we want to see. Empowering youth is about ensuring that they have the

tools we can all give examples of," Ballotti added.

Echoing this sentiment, Abel stated, "Sustainable development underscores the imperative to meet today's needs without compromising tomorrow." In response to a question about the challenges hindering sustainable development, Abel identified economic inequalities.

"There are disparities in terms of opportunities or access to those opportunities for people of various backgrounds." He noted that these concerns are addressed in the Swapo Party manifesto, which aims to "bridge those inequalities and ensure that everybody from whatever background can access opportunities from an equity perspective."

Abel further highlighted the critical issue of access to education and skills training, remarking, "The jury is still out on whether it's an access issue or an awareness issue." He stressed the importance of creating "a cohesive framework and a network of all of these opportunities," akin to a "one-stop shop" for resources.

Discussing the challenges of limited digital access, Abel said, "Not everybody still has proper access to those digital areas." He emphasized the need to extend these platforms to rural areas to "capacitate people with knowledge and understanding." He also urged a shift away from reliance on non-renewable resources, stating, "at some point, we need to move into secondary industries, away from the extractive to the value-adding sectors."

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that will be implemented to improve the level of healthcare to the people. We have committed to upgrading clinics to primary healthcare centers and the deployment of medical doctors to the centers.”

“This will ensure that even residents of the Oshikoto Region who are in rural areas receive the same standard of healthcare services, as those in towns. Equally, we will expand the access to mental health facilities which include setting up rehabilitation centers. We also commit ourselves to an immediate implementation of universal healthcare.”

On Education, there are 227 education facilities in Oshikoto. Oshikoto’s current population stands at 257 302, up from 181 973 in 2011. The Region is also home to thousands of cattle, goats and sheep. It is highly rural based and largely depends on agriculture. But in some areas, water is a problem.

Water tables have almost dried up. As a result, many boreholes have dried up as well. Salty water in some areas has forced the government to set up mini-desalination plants in areas such as Otanana and Omayantalala in Nehale Iya

Mpingana and Okankolo constituencies.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said these problems would be addressed. NamWater is currently building the Ondangwa-Omutsegwonime South East line pump from Ondangwa. This will supply water to the Oshikoto Region. A water pipeline from Ondangwa to Omutsegwonime is also under construction. Once completed, it will supply water to various constituencies in the Oshikoto Region. These projects will cost N\$91 million.

To increase the reliability of water supply along the Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions, a feasibility assessment is currently underway to determine how to increase water supply coverage from Omundaungilo along the adjacent villages. Assessments are also underway for the increase in storage capacity for Omuthiya Town reservoir, and the replacement of the Omuthiya-Ohakazulu pipeline.

“I am not saying this because it is an election year. I am serious about what I am talking about. The government has intensified its access to water supply in Oshikoto through the development of various water supply infrastructure projects,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, flanked by SG Sophia Shaningwa left, Armas Amukwiyu, SWAPO Oshikoto Regional Coordinator, right.

She said many Namibians would benefit from the 256 538 jobs that are projected to be created over the next five years at a cost of N\$85,7 billion. The government would ensure prudent fiscal management and sustainable budget deficit and public debts. Government had also committed itself to scaling up subsidies to farmers in the areas of seeds, fertilizers and vaccines in order to strengthen both crops and livestock production.

“I urge you all to spare no effort in

mobilizing all potential voters in order to ensure a decisive victory for our Party and its presidential candidate, Yours Truly Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Let us reach all the corners of this country, house to house and talk to the potential voters. I also want to urge all of us as SWAPO Party members to always observe and respect the law. No violence, for whatever reason. Be exemplary and peaceful by all means and at all times,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Oshikoto’s Youth Spark Dialogue with Netumbo

By Staff Reporter

Firebrand former SWAPO Party Youth League Secretary, Cde Elijah Ngurare, says there are no reasons why people should doubt the SWAPO Party’s ability to deliver on the promises it has made before because when weighed against the challenges it has to deal with since independence, the achievements by far outnumber the challenges that have stood in the way.

Cde Ngurare addressed a fully packed SWAPO mini rally in Windhoek’s most populous Samora Machel Constituency last weekend, where he urged Namibians to vote for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on November 27.

Samora Machel Constituency, named after Mozambique’s first President, Samora Machel, is home to Namibians who speak different languages but still live together happily, despite the former apartheid regime of South Africa’s ‘divide and rule tactics’ used to make Namibians hate one another.

The SWAPO Party Election Manifesto outlines the development plans that are key to the economic heights the SWAPO Party wants to take Namibia to over the next five years and beyond. He said that while the Manifesto addressed bread and butter issues and what had been achieved since independence, it committed itself to ensuring that Namibians benefitted from the country’s natural resources through beneficiation and youth empowerment for sustainable development.

“Ours is to bring about the needed

changes and improvement to the life of our people. We are aware of the need for more schools in Samora Machel. We are aware of the need for basic amenities such as water and electricity – these can be achieved through the formalization of the informal settlements in the district,” said Cde Ngurare.

“We are aware of the need for recreational and other sport facilities. Sport facilities are critical because young people must be exposed to different sport codes so that one day, we will produce world class stars.”

Cde Ngurare said he had been attending the league that had been played between Wanaheda and Havana, and had always been impressed by the talents displayed. Samora Machel, he said, needed proper sports facilities which he believed the government would provide.

Namibians need access to proper health facilities, more schools, better roads, better houses, water and electricity. These needs, he said, were comprehensively captured in the Manifesto, and SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, had firmly committed her administration to delivering on its promises without fail.

Cde Ngurare’s speech was tailored around hope, the emphasis being on instilling hope in all Namibians throughout the country. He said deliberate government policy interventions since independence had improved the lives of many Namibians, and however hard one tries to ignore the achievements, they were there for everybody to see.

“Thirty-four years after independence, there is hope and there must be hope

for every Namibian. We celebrate our achievements. We acknowledge our challenges. After elections, we hope that the comrades in sections, branches and districts of Samora Machel Constituency will also be instrumental in benefiting from the government procurement system from the government. You are individually and collectively the backbone of SWAPO. You have been the holder of the political ladder of SWAPO since 1989,” said Cde Ngurare.

Samora Machel is home to over 90 000 inhabitants, far bigger than some of the regions in the country. Cde Ngurare said there would be deliberate interventions in the allocation of resources to address challenges in densely populated constituencies. Cde Ngurare is one of the ten people appointed by the Vice President to be part of the 96 candidates SWAPO will send to the National Assembly next year.

“Let me reiterate this. In the discourse of matters of bread and butter, we are not making statements for the fun of it. We are not making these commitments for the wind of political speech. Lives of our people depend on it. There is therefore no mantambo (children’s play stuff) in this undertaking. Deliver we must, without fail.

“Water and sanitation, electricity, adequate schools including vocational education, health centers, police stations and roads. We must deliver. The next five years must be based on performance and absolute service delivery. SWAPO Party can and must deliver and all of us must support our Presidential Candidate to

deliver on this noble undertaking.”

The highly popular Cde Ngurare called for an urgent rehabilitation of the now dormant Ramatex Factory in Khomasdal. At its peak in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it employed over 8000 permanent employees. Since its closure in 2008, its facilities have been dormant and are now dilapidated. As one of the public infrastructures that cost the government millions, it could be used to create jobs for the youth through self-employment by demarcating it into business units.

“I have always believed that in the journey of life, there are two scenarios, namely looking at technical consideration and at human consideration. The opening of Ramatex, when looked at from human consideration, must outweigh the technicalities involved in the ownership of Ramatex. It is in the national interest that this facility must be operationalized so that it can benefit the majority of our people.”

Cde Ngurare said the SWAPO Government had achieved many successes, despite the challenges it had to navigate through, and there were therefore many reasons to celebrate what we have achieved since independence.

“Let there be hope for the children, the youth, the women and the men. Let us say in unison with one song, e vitoria e certa in this umbrella of unity, no challenge is insurmountable. We have no doubt that with Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, we shall win against all socio-economic challenges and make Samora Machel a shining example in Khomas Region and indeed in Namibia,” said Cde Ngurare.

Undecided voters must vote Nandi-Ndaitwah



By Kristian Ngendina Auene

As the dawn of the 2024 election approaches, the stakes have never been higher, and the power to shape our future rests in the hands of those who represent the heartbeat of our democracy: the undecided voters. It's time for you to make your voice heard, and there's no better place to do it than at the historic gathering on November 27, 2024, at Cde

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah is not just a name. She represents a legacy of resilience, progress, and an unwavering spirit of our democratic values. This iconic figure, a trailblazer in Namibia's fight for equality and justice, embodies the principles that guide our democratic journey. The location chosen for this critical electoral moment serves as a reminder that every voice counts, and every vote holds the power to bring about change.

As an undecided voter, you are the linchpin of this election. With issues ranging from economic stability and educational reform to healthcare and climate change at the forefront of national discussions, your choice can influence the trajectory of our society. The decision you make on November 27 will not only impact your life but the lives of future generations.

In a climate where voter apathy is a growing concern, your engagement is crucial. This election is not just about

party lines but about choosing leaders who resonate with your values and aspirations. In Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, you will find an atmosphere charged with passion and purpose, where candidates will address the pressing issues that matter to you, the voter.

At star rallies with Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, you will have the unique opportunity to hear from various speakers and other contributions to the Swapo Party Manifesto. This is where professional dialogue meets democracy. Engage with thought and socrate leaders, participate in discussions, and ask those challenging questions that can spark change. Your participation is not just welcomed; it is essential.

Mark your calendar and prepare to stand with other passionate citizens at Cde Nandi Ndaitwah, where we will uplift the democratic voice. Remember, democracy is not a spectator sport; it requires participation. Your vote is your voice, and together we can ensure that our collective

voices resonate through the halls of power.

In the days leading up to November 27, engage with your community, educate yourself on the candidates and their policies, and prepare for a day dedicated to democracy. We want to hear from you. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors, share your thoughts and concerns. This is your chance to influence a pivotal moment in our historical narrative positively.

In conclusion, as we approach November 27, let us come together at Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, and the Swapo Party, where dreams and democracy meet. Undecided voters, your time has come. Step forward, cast your vote, and ensure that your voice is heard loud and clear. The future of our nation is in your hands, and together we can shape it for the better.

Democracy thrives when every voice is counted, and at Cde Nandi Ndaitwah, we are ready to amplify yours. Join and let us make history together, and make Namibia great again.

SWAPO SG takes on IPC

The SWAPO Party has noted with grave concern, about the irresponsible and reckless utterances peddled by the IPC Party and other obvious opposition parties contesting in the 2024 National Assembly and Presidential Elections. In a statement released by IPC dated 18 October 2024, it alleges without any iota of truth and honesty, that our long-standing friendship with the Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and its leaders, renders the Namibian National Assembly and Presidential Elections slated for 27 November 2024, questionable and unfair, even before they are conducted.

The SWAPO Party would like to make it categorically clear that, our solid longstanding friendship and relationship with ZANU-PF goes beyond a democratic Namibia. This is friendship mended by the blood and sweat of the brave sons and daughters of our two respective nations and organizations, during the brutal era of apartheid and colonialism, to which both our revolutionary parties emerged victorious in bringing about democracy and independence to both Zimbabwe and Namibia.

If anything, SWAPO Party is better positioned to lecture about democracy and its principles, as this was a compelling factor as to why SWAPO was established, by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of the Namibia people, some of whom died fighting until we achieved total independence and democracy, without surrender.

On this note, SWAPO Party is therefore not going to be dictated to by IPC and other opposition parties some of whom were collaborators with apartheid regime, on who it shall associate itself with. The IPC statement is nothing but a sensational propaganda-posture, that seeks to cast

doubt and negative aspersions on the credibility of the imminent 2024 National Assembly and Presidential Elections.

It is now clear that the IPC Party, which is also a child of Namibia's democracy nurtured by the SWAPO Party-led government, seeks to achieve electoral fortunes by spreading propaganda, misinformation and fake news, with a view and belief that, the people of Namibia will

fall for it and subsequently support IPC. This is not only an insult to the collective intelligence of the Namibian people, but indeed a treasonous act, as it has the potential to polarise public opinion, to promote violent extremism and hate speech and, ultimately, to undermine our sacred democracy and reduce trust in our tested democratic processes.

It is also evident that IPC and its

Presidential candidate have no support from the Namibian people and therefore, their defeat is imminent. The deliberate propaganda through media statements and other means, is therefore to pre-empt their imminent defeat at the ballot box, and is indeed what can be called a last kick of a dying horse, a last signal of a party that is nearing its end.

If IPC and other opposition parties can trust the Electoral Commission of Namibia to register their candidates and approve their organisations to contest the 2024 National Assembly and Presidential Elections and go on to celebrate such a milestone, they must also trust ECN to run free, fair and credible elections without any intimidation.

SWAPO Party, as a law-abiding political organisation, condemns and rejects with the necessary contempt they deserve, those who are hellbent on plunging the process of peaceful elections into jeopardy and crisis, with the ultimate goal of advancing a regime change agenda and to unseat SWAPO Party by undemocratic means.

To this end, the SWAPO Party calls upon all the political parties approved by the ECN to contest the National Assembly and Presidential elections, to act responsibly and with full adherence to the laws of the Republic of Namibia, in their doomed-to-fail mission of unseating SWAPO.

We urge all SWAPO Party members, Supporters, Sympathizers and all peace loving and patriotic Namibians to remain vigilant and not allow yourselves to be misled and misinformed by those who are hellbent on scoring cheap political points and have no knowledge about governance architecture.

SWAPO Party

Cde Sophia N. Shaningwa

Secretary General



Ngurare says 'we are still on course'

By Staff Reporter

Oshikoto youth, regional leaders, and Swapo Party members had an extensive discussion in Tsumeb with Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (NNN), the Swapo Party's presidential candidate and vice president, last weekend.

Among the people in attendance were Namibia's Ambassador to China, Cde Elia Kaiyamo, Secretary of Information Publicity and Mobilization, Cde Hilma Nikanor, Chairperson of National leaders assigned to Oshikoto Region, and Swapo Deputy Secretary General, Cde Uahekua Herunga.

As the Swapo Party continued to create dialogue around its Election Manifesto 2025-2030, youth and party leaders discussed, among other things, job creation and youth empowerment.

The event, hosted by the Swapo Party Youth League (SPYL), was moderated by Ndahafa Hapulile with panelists Elias Shipunga, Dr. Fillemon Nakanduungile, Olavi Lazarus, and former SPYL secretary and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Elijah Ngurare.

One of the main discussion topics was "Natural Resources Beneficiation towards Youth Socio-Economic Advancement."

Shipunga emphasized Namibia's



Former Governor of Ohangwena, Cde Walde Ndevashiya, and Defence Minister, Cde Frans Kapofi.

abundant mineral resources, especially copper, in Oshikoto. Shipunga emphasized beneficiation—the process of adding value to raw materials—as a critical strategy to not only create jobs but also to ensure the nation benefits more directly from its resources.

"Instead of exporting raw materials, we should be building factories to process our copper into products like wires and electronics. This will help reduce youth unemployment, currently at a concerning 38%, and provide sustainable jobs," Shipunga said.

Furthermore, Shipunga supported a suggestion from the youth about the need for more local manufacturing industries. He echoed their sentiments about using Namibia's abundant raw materials, such as lithium and silver, to create jobs and boost industrialisation. He referenced the Special Economic Zones Act of 2023, which aims to replace the outdated Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Act.

Shipunga said the new legislation will encourage domestic manufacturing and beneficiation of local resources, thus creating more job opportunities and fostering economic growth in Namibia.

Tackling the ongoing water crisis in Tsumeb and other parts of Oshikoto, Dr Ngurare addressed the government's efforts to mitigate the situation, which included drilling boreholes and implementing desalination projects in affected areas.

"Water is life, and without it, we cannot progress. The government is committed to ensuring every household has access to clean water," he said.

Responding to a question about tackling the water crisis within the Oshikoto region, Dr Ngurare says, "there is not enough water to meet the demands because Nam-Water is unable to supply that water."

"In Namibia, water is managed in the following ways: there is what we call bulk water supply and rural water supply. Before 9 December 1997, the function of bulk water supply was in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform under the Department of Water Affairs.

"That particular directorate was then taken out to become Nam-Water. Now

when it became Nam-Water under an Act of Parliament, Nam-Water was given a specific responsibility for what it must do. It must supply water to customers that are bulk, such as local authorities.

"However, NamWater also supplies mines and irrigation schemes, and it supplies the directorate of rural water supply. If Nam-Water does not supply water to the rural water supply, the rural water supply cannot supply water to the rural communities," he explained.

Dr Ngurare added that the government is managing over 2,000 water pumps in Oshikoto. Stating that due to its old infrastructure, it cannot transmit water at the speed that we want it to reach where it must be.

The former SPYL secretary further highlighted the ongoing efforts to address water challenges in East Omuthiya, where the need for reliable access to clean water has been most acute.



Former SPYL Secretary, Dr Elijah Ngurare and Information and Commutation Technology Minister, Emma Theofelus.

He commended the government for its initiatives, which include drilling deeper boreholes in various areas to combat the issue of salinity.

Dr Ngurare said through mini desalination projects the government aims to ensure clean drinking water reaches those communities, especially with the arrival of advanced reverse osmosis equipment.

Dr Ngurare described a deliberate plan to empower unemployed agricultural graduates by attaching them to local fields for practical training in irrigation-based farming.

"These young people, trained in institutions of higher learning like Ogongo and Neudam, will help 'Mekulu'—Grandmother—produce food through irrigation, breaking the reliance on rain-fed agriculture.

The project, which Dr Ngurare says is already underway in Oshikoto and other regions, aims to create employment opportunities for youth while boosting food security.

During the event, Dr Ngurare invited a young woman from the congregation to explain what an election manifesto is. "These are the promises and policies a political party commits to when it is voted into power," the young woman said. Ngurare's gesture highlighted the party's commitment to uplifting young women as future leaders.

To this, Nakanduungile responded by emphasizing the essential link between health and water access. "If you are not healthy, you are unable to function. Just as Dr. Ngurare was talking about water, you cannot live without water," he stated, drawing attention to the vital role of clean water in the delivery of quality healthcare.

In his capacity as a health practitioner, Nakanduungile stressed that without water, it becomes nearly impossible to provide adequate health services, adding, "If Dr Ngurare does not provide you with water, how am I going to provide you with quality healthcare?"

Responding to the concerns raised by the youth in Oshikoto about the high unemployment rate despite the demand for professionals like doctors and nurses, Nakanduungile acknowledged the challenges.

He noted that while the region faces a significant shortage of healthcare workers, especially in its limited number of facilities, there is a mismatch between the number of qualified graduates and the available job opportunities.

He also addressed the frustration over entry-level job postings requiring years of experience, assuring the audience that

the government is working to create more positions and reduce barriers for recent graduates, particularly in the healthcare sector.

With only one referral hospital in the region, which is Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital, the government is currently running it and has taken over from the church and three health centers, Dr Nakanduungile says the region's resources are stretched thin.

He added that the region's 22 primary healthcare clinics offer basic care before patients are referred to larger hospitals for specialized treatment.

He acknowledged the pressing need for more doctors and nurses, particularly in facilities like Tsumeb District Hospital, stating, "We are aware that we need doctors and more nurses."

The government, he said, is busy creating more posts for healthcare professionals to ensure round-the-clock medical care.

"That is something we are currently working on and we are mitigating for us to create more posts for more doctors so that you can have access to a doctor anytime, meaning 24-7."

Nakanduungile also pointed to the high number of unemployed youth trained as doctors and nurses and assured that the Swapo Party's 2025-2030 election manifesto prioritizes job creation in this sector.

"This also applies to nurses. The nurses' staffing will be increased because I am aware that some of the elders who are seated here might have children who are at home and are doctors or nurses but are currently unemployed. With the new Manifesto, this is covered. There will be more job creation for the youth. What we are doing currently is looking at the most crucial areas," he said.

"One of them is the development and implementation of the health facilities, meaning that we need to develop the current health facilities we have, expand them, and make them larger."

The outreach programs, Dr Nakanduungile explained, are a key component of the government's strategy to bring healthcare closer to rural communities.

These programs, he says, deploy doctors from referral hospitals to clinics in remote areas, ensuring patients don't have to travel long distances when they are sick. He stressed that healthcare is "the backbone" of society, likening it to gold in terms of value.

In addition, Lazarus highlighted the education and training infrastructure available in Namibia, focusing particularly on Oshikoto.

Sinzogoro Club wins Netumbo Mobilization Soccer Tournament

By Staff Reporter

Sinzogoro Football Club emerged victorious in the inaugural Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah Mobilization Soccer Tournament, held in the Kapako Constituency of the Kavango West region, last weekend. The team triumphed over Tembisa Football Club with a 2-1 win in the final, hosted at Mile 10. As champions, they were awarded a cash prize and medals.

Speaking at the prize-giving ceremony, SWAPO Politburo member and National Assembly candidate, Cde Charles Mubita, emphasized the vast, but often overlooked football talent in rural areas. He noted that with the right support and improved sports facilities, many of these players could one day represent the Namibia,

continental and global competitions.

The tournament, which featured eight participating teams, is part of regional soccer events aimed at engaging with communities, promoting Cde Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah's candidacy, and strengthening grassroots support for the SWAPO party. The event was organized by the SWAPO Party Kapako District Leadership.

Cde Mubita further promised to ensure that the soccer pitch was graded before this coming Friday. He said he had already spoken to the Regional Councilor to arrange for a grader to clean the soccer pitch. Cde Mubita also revealed that he intended to seek sponsorship to provide the soccer field with lawn grass and spectator stands.



Dr Charles Mubita and Dr Elijah Ngurare handing over the Champion Prize to Sinzogoro Club Captain.

China eyes Nam Green Hydrogen

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

Namibia has the potential, capacity, and ability to become a key player in the solar and green hydrogen markets, as highlighted by China's Ambassador Zhao Weiping at a press conference held last week at the Chinese Embassy.

Zhao emphasized the growing interest of Chinese companies in Namibia's green hydrogen sector. The meeting focused on the latest developments in the China-Namibia bilateral relationship, underscoring the significance of sustainable energy initiatives.

Through leveraging international partnerships, Namibia can navigate challenges around green hydrogen and contribute to the global shift towards sustainable energy solutions. Namibia can enhance its green hydrogen strategy, build a more robust sector, and position itself as a key player in the global green hydrogen market.

With China being one of the largest hydrogen producers and solar panel manufacturers, there is potential for collaboration to meet energy security and climate goals. The ambassador stressed that Namibia's abundant solar energy resources make green hydrogen projects feasible.

"Green hydrogen is an important project for Namibia, and China believes this project is feasible due to Namibia's abundant solar energy resources," Zhao stated. He highlighted the potential for collaboration, noting that if opportunities arise, "Chinese companies are willing to cooperate with those European countries, local enterprises and other stakeholders in advancing this initiative."

"China is carrying out an ambitious programme to build nuclear plants in China. China has been very active in addressing the climate change issue and we have reduced traditional energy like

coal in a national energy niche," Zhao said.

China's LONGi Green Energy, the world's largest solar manufacturer, views Namibia as a promising market. Sales Manager Leo Song pointed out that Namibia is now the second-largest market for solar panels in the region.

"Our competitors have warehouses in Namibia. Not only is Namibia importing solar panels for the country itself but also exporting to other inland countries like Botswana, making it a transit hub.

"Due to the demand, Namibia's GDP is booming. With the developing industry and GDP there is a bigger demand for energy, making this a good opportunity for Namibia to develop solar because of the country's good sunlight," Song said.

In the wake of the Belt and Road initiative, LONGi Green Energy has harnessed its renewable energy prowess to empower Africa with over 1GW of solar molecules since 2021, lighting up the continent's path to sustainable growth and narrowing the global energy divide.

The company has developed five business sections using silicon wafers, cells and modules, C&I household distributed Generation Solutions, Green Energy Solutions and Green Hydrogen Equipment and solutions.

"Namibia boasts abundant scenic and land resources and holds a long-term advantage in the field of green hydrogen. In recent years, the Namibian government has designated relevant strategies, continuously introduced supportive policies and measures, conducted scientific research and innovation, promoted synergistic industrial chain development, and green hydrogen industry development can drive local employment, economic development, energy transition, and more," Song said.

Taking hydrogen refining as an example,

according to China Petrochemical News, as of May 30th, LONGi Hydrogen has been involved in China's first 10,000-ton green hydrogen refining project - the Kuche Green Hydrogen Demonstration Project in Xinjiang, which has been operating safely and steadily for 335 days since it's commissioning on June 30th, 2023.

"Utilizing its experience sharing in various commercial projects and technological innovation in the 'green electricity + green hydrogen' field both domestically and internationally, LONGi Hydrogen can contribute to the integration and development of the local hydrogen energy industry, creating more economic and social value," the LONGi representative said.

Namibia faces severe challenges related to desertification but can draw lessons from Yulin, China, which has successfully combated similar issues through reforestation and afforestation efforts. Ambassador Zhao emphasized the importance of such initiatives and suggested that Namibia could benefit from adopting similar programs.

As Namibia advances toward its 2030 targets under Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG 15), which aims to combat desertification and restore degraded lands, it faces both challenges and progress in managing tree cover and land restoration.

Responding to Namibia Today's question on ways China and Namibia can cooperate such as working together to address environmental challenges such as desertification, afforestation and reforestation, Zhao said, "Afforestation is important for any country and the Chinese government lays great importance on that. We say a green mountain is a safe and good mountain."

"China has a large land area, but it also has a large desert area. Which is purely forested due to natural conditions and past ill practices. China enjoys a very rich

ecosystem of forests.

"In the past due to ill planning of the civil war and ill practices, the forests had all gone. It was not until the establishment of the new China that the government consistently used tree planting and introduced a national Tree Planting Day programme where government officials are mobilized to plant trees.

"It is therefore important for the Namibian government to introduce special programs and wait to see the results done for many years as well as provide financial support," Zhao said.

Recalling a recent visit to the Northern part of Namibia, Zhao said "There used to be a lot more forests there, meaning the natural conditions could still be available to undertake tree planting."

Approached for a comment Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) Chief Public Relations Officer Romeo Muyunda says the country is showing a strong commitment to tackling desertification and land degradation through various initiatives and collaborations and through establishing a Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee consisting of relevant stakeholders from state and non-state actors.

He added, "This is to ensure the effective implementation of the Cabinet-approved Namibia's Third National Action Programme to the UNCCD, which assisted us in identifying land degradation neutrality targets and land degradation hotspots.

"The Ministry has undertaken full land degradation assessments, using three United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) global indicators, namely trends in land use/cover change, land productivity dynamics, soil organic carbon, and a national indicator on bush encroachment," Muyunda stated.