

NAMIBIA TODAY



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VP Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah greets the people who turned up in their thousands to attend SWAPO's star rally.

N\$2,8 billion to supply water in Ohangwena

By Staff Reporter

The government plans to spend N\$2,8 billion on water supply projects in the Ohangwena Region in the next few years.

This was announced by Vice President and SWAPO Party's Presidential candidate,

Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, at a fully packed star rally held at Eenhana last Saturday.

The water supply projects include plans to develop new well-fields, smaller localized schemes, develop a groundwater management plan and maximize the

utilization of the Ohangwena Aquifer to serve multiple villages on the eastern side of the envisaged Omundaungilo to Omutsegwonime.

The Omundaungilo- Omutsegwonime water supply project is designed to ensure effective management of the region's

water resources in order to ensure climate resilient water supply. Two more major water supply projects have been lined up, which relate to Omundaungilo-Omutsegwonime bulk water supply pipeline. This new scheme is to serve the

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President Nangolo Mbumba at Okakwiyu, Olukonda, near Oniipa on Tuesday.

SWAPO is here to stay, Pres Mbumba

By Staff Reporter

President Nangolo Mbumba has told off SWAPO detractors and naysayers that the SWAPO Party is here to stay, and it is not going anywhere.

Addressing a SWAPO Party rally at Okakwiyu near Oniipa in Oshikoto Region on Tuesday, President Mbumba told the cheering crowd that people must prepare to celebrate next week as both SWAPO and its Presidential Candidate,

Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, will win resoundingly.

“Let us remind naysayers that SWAPO is going nowhere. SWAPO is here to stay, and SWAPO will remain as the leading party in Namibia for years, decades, and centuries to come. We have fought hard for freedom and can not allow ourselves to be defeated by the few,” said President Mbumba.

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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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SWAPOs star rally at Eenhana was the biggest ever.

water in Ohangwena from page 1

rural area between the two settlements. The scheme will be supplied with water from boreholes in the Ohangwena Aquifer II.

Ohangwena Region is home to over 337 000 people, up from over 245 000 people in 2011. It is also one of the regions that face acute water shortages. The Ohangwena Aquifer System has the potential to store up to five billion cubic meters of drinking water. Government officials eye the aquifer to make Namibia green in terms of agricultural production. Many green schemes are envisaged once the aquifer is fully developed.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said the SWAPO-led government would keep its commitment to providing Namibians with potable water, especially in rural areas. This year alone, 27 boreholes, three deep boreholes, and 24 shallow ones were drilled in Omundaungilo, Epembe, Okongo, and Oshikunde constituencies. The total cost was N\$12,4 million. This has enabled 1 343 private off-takes.

Two more mini-desalination plants were constructed at Ohauwanga and Oshongwe in Omundaungilo and Epembe constituencies. In terms of bulk water supply, NamWater is busy building the Omafo-Eenhana extension, Ohangwena Aquifer II. This project will increase

the water supply capacity of Eenhana Town, thus improving its water quality. It includes the installation and connection of boreholes, additional pipelines, pump stations, and water treatments.

“The SWAPO Party government is not making promises. We are demonstrating what we have delivered. Please trust us by giving our Party another mandate to ensure that we provide quality public services to our people, ensure good governance, and peace and stability in the country,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“By giving SWAPO and Netumbo a chance, you will appreciate equitable distribution of our natural resources

under the theme ‘Unity in Diversity, Natural Resource Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development.’

“To achieve our goals, as outlined in our Election Manifesto, it is imperative for us to unite by harnessing our diversity. As a nation, we must make a significant contribution as we are all duty bound. We must make every corner blue, red and green by going from house to house, championing the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate, Yours Truly Netumbo Ndemupelila Nandi-Ndaitwah in order to obtain a resounding victory on November 27.”



President Nangolo Mbumba at Okakwiyu, Olukonda, near Oniipa where he addressed a SWAPO star rally.



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“Vote for Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as the next President of Namibia. She is the most prepared, capable, and tested leader to continue the SWAPO Party legacy of improving the lives of Namibians, maintaining peace and stability in our country and in the SADC region at large.”

The President said he had travelled throughout the country and could say with confidence that given the level of commitment and enthusiasm he had witnessed from the SWAPO Party rank and file, SWAPO was headed for a resounding victory.

“One thing I can truly say is that SWAPO is the people, and the people are SWAPO. No other party captures the essence of

Namibian society like the SWAPO Party. We are the Party that the people of this country trust, and we ask you, the people, to give the SWAPO Party another five years so that we can continue to deliver on the promise of economic development. The SWAPO Party has work to do, and that is to complete the mission of prosperity for the Namibian people,” said the President.

“We have plans on how we will go about addressing the needs of the Namibian people. These plans are outlined in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. It does not contain empty promises. It outlines what SWAPO has achieved over the past 34 years and what we plan to do in the future.”

The President appealed to the voters to familiarize themselves with the ballot

papers, one for the Presidential election and the other for the National Assembly election, so that they put the cross in the correct box.

SWAPO’s achievements, he says, speak for themselves. Guided by sound and comprehensive policies such as Vision 2030, the National Development Plans, NDPs, Harambee Prosperity Plans I, and II, the SWAPO-led government has pursued a strategy of sustainable development and nation-building.

He said the SWAPO-led government remained committed to improving the living standards of the people through infrastructure development, education, and healthcare while creating economic opportunities that would enable Namibians to obtain economic

emancipation.

The President singled out the 90 bed-capacity Maternity Ward at Onandjokwe Hospital, which was constructed at a cost of N\$59 million. Onandjokwe Hospital’s Operating Theatre was also renovated at a cost of N\$1,9 million. Omuthiya now has a new water reservoir, while Omuntele Clinic was also renovated.

“I therefore appeal to you not to make the mistake of voting for those parties and leaders who are promising much but have no track record of delivering anything to the community,” said President Mbumba.

“Vote for SWAPO, the Party you know, the Party you trust, the Party of your forefathers and mothers established many years ago to free us from the scourge of apartheid colonialism.”



Businessman Josua Ketu Mwetupunga being welcomed by SWAPO members after his resignation from IPC.

Ketu and wife quit IPC

By Staff Reporter

Well-known businessman and Independent Patriot for Change, IPC, senior leader Josua Mwetupunga, has resigned from IPC with immediate effect and rejoined the SWAPO Party together with his wife.

Mwetupunga announced his resignation on Wednesday in a one page letter addressed to IPC General Secretary, Christine Aochamus.

Mwetupunga and his wife, Hiteni Ndikwetepo, said they left IPC in "peace" and rejoined the SWAPO Party, which joined years ago when they were young. Mwetupunga was IPC's national leader in charge of the Traditional, Customary, Norms, and Heritage Department. He also served as IPC coordinator for Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, and Ohangwena regions.

"We wish to inform you that we have rejoined the SWAPO Party of Namibia. We therefore wish to make it clear that those of you whom I organized and convinced to join IPC, I am sorry, but I am advising you to get back home to our Party and build it ourselves instead of criticizing it from outside. SWAPO is the only party we feel can bring back the most needed services to the nation as promised in its 2024 Election Manifesto. We wish you a very wise election on 27 November 2024," said the couple in the letter.

"We have no trust anymore in the top leadership of IPC when it comes

to decision-making. There is more dictatorship when it comes to decision-making. Unfair nomination to the party parliamentary list of 27 November 2024 National Assembly elections.

"Gossiping among leadership from regional to national leadership. Self-centered leadership is playing the most role in IPC. Disrespect of other leaders in the party and the way the election of party parliamentarians was conducted, but there was no announcement of each candidate's votes."

The resignation deals a heavy blow to IPC, coming as it does a few days before the Presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled for Wednesday next week. Many IPC members have been defecting from IPC since the campaigns started, dimming IPC's hopes to dent SWAPO in the upcoming elections.

"IPC is finished. It is dead on arrival. Itula's dictatorial tendencies can not sustain a party. He is full of himself and doesn't value others. How do you just draw up a list of parliamentarians without telling delegates who got how many votes? That is dictatorship," said one disgruntled IPC member.

"Expect many resignations in the coming days. Things are not fine in IPC. People are not happy. It's a one-man show. Itula is an awful dictator. He is slowly destroying his party. He can not be right all the time, and everybody else is wrong. He must forget about defeating SWAPO."



Zoom In

By: Asser Ntinda



Independent Patriots for Change, IPC, dug its own grave last weekend in Walvis Bay, Erongo Region, when its members marched along the coastal town's streets carrying what it purported to be a coffin heading to a graveyard to "bury" SWAPO. The purported coffin was draped in the SWAPO Party colours, the very priceless blue, red and green standards of SWAPO under which thousands of Namibians took up arms to wage the armed struggle to bring about Namibia's independence and its right to self-determination.

When SWAPO was formed in 1960, its main objective was to bring about Namibia's independence through peaceful means. But when everything else failed on that front, SWAPO had no other option left at its disposal other than to wage the armed liberation struggle against apartheid South Africa's illegal colonial occupation of Namibia and speak to Pretoria through the barrel of the gun. On August 26, 1966, SWAPO launched its armed struggle at Omugulugwombashe in northern Namibia. Since then, it had never been business as usual for South Africa until it came to its senses in 1989.

When the International Court of Justice, ICJ, refused to hear Namibia's case in July 1966 on technical grounds, that Liberia and Ethiopia, which took South Africa to the ICJ, had no locus standi in the case, SWAPO issued the following battle cry. "This perfidious verdict will relieve Namibians once and for all from any illusion which they have harboured about the United Nations as some kind of saviour in their plight. We have no alternative but to rise in arms and bring about our own liberation. We are our own liberators."

That battle cry struck a responsive chord in the minds and hearts of Namibians. From August 26, 1966, Namibians started joining SWAPO in their thousands, ready to lay down their precious lives to bring about Namibia's independence. That was patriotism at its summit. Today, Zambia and Angola, and northern Namibia from Zambezi to Kunene, host thousands of marked and unmarked graves where PLAN combatants were laid to rest.

They gave their lives under the blue, red and green banners of SWAPO. We still remember, in tears, the selfless sacrifices they made for Namibia to be what it is today. Seeing those colours brings back sad memories, memories of loss and sacrifices. Indeed, their blood, shed under the blue, red and green standards of SWAPO, waters our freedom. For their priceless sacrifices, we bow our heads in honour of their heroic deeds. That chapter will never be erased from our history.

They had a choice to run away from that cause and save their lives. But they did not. Instead, they gave their lives. For that, we must respect and honour them. They did not die under any other colour but the blue, red and green standards, the ones that IPC drapes on that coffin. IPC is peeing on our history. IPC is peeing on the graves of those heroes and heroines who laid down their only lives for us to live better today as dignified sovereigns. That is criminal ignorance of our history.

Ghana's first President, Dr Kwame Nkrumah once said: "It is by the people's effort that colonialism is routed, it is by the sweat of the people's brow that nations are built." Celebrated black American freedom fighter, Harriet Tubman, said this about heroes: "The midnight sky and the silent stars have been the witnesses of your devotion to freedom and of your heroism."

Coincidentally, as IPC members faked that SWAPO "burial service" in Walvis Bay, IPC President, Panduleni Itula, was busy in Windhoek skinning himself of everything SWAPO. Itula shocked all and sundry when he told SABC News Channel last week that he was "never a SWAPO member." Itula was expelled from SWAPO in 2020 after he stood as an independent candidate against SWAPO President, the late Hage Geingob, in the November 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

But who are we to dispute his claims? Against his own admission, there are no arguments. Therefore, his admission that he was "never a SWAPO member" when he actually had a SWAPO membership card means that he was just a treacherous and dangerous traitor within SWAPO disguised as a member. The question is: Who was handling him? Your guess is as good as mine.

Last Tuesday, President Mbumba said: "Let us remind naysayers that SWAPO is going nowhere. SWAPO is here to stay, and SWAPO will remain as the leading party in Namibia for years, decades and centuries to come. We have fought hard for freedom and can not allow ourselves to be defeated by the few."

Good riddance, Mbango Itula! After next week, you will be a wreck of your former self.



Dr Kaire Mbuende on the phone with SABC International News Channel.

Mbuende says SWAPO will win

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

The Swapo Party is confident it will win next week's Presidential and National Assembly elections with a landslide victory.

The SWAPO Party's manifesto outlines its goals for the country over the next five years, 2025-2030, with a focus on youth empowerment and the use of natural resources for sustainable development.

In an interview with Sophie Mokoena of SABC News International, Ambassador Dr. Kaire Mbuende, SWAPO Party Elders Council Secretary for Information and Publicity, explained the Party's election manifesto's goals.

Mbuende stressed the importance of using Namibia's natural resources to

strengthen the country's economy.

"Our economy has not grown at the level it should have, and the focus on mineral beneficiation aims to change that," he stated. "We want to take advantage of our competitive edge, which lies in our natural resources."

The manifesto Mbuende says also tackles youth unemployment, a pressing issue in Namibia. "We believe the youth are the future of this country. We have outlined programs and budgeted to ensure that our young people get jobs," he added.

Although opposition parties accuse SWAPO of not having sufficiently addressed social and economic issues since independence, However the Secretary defended the Ambassador Mbuende has rubbished such claims, saying that the

SWAPO Party's achievements over the past 34 years were there for all to see.

"It is a totally different Namibia from the one we found in 1990. Education, health, infrastructure—all have improved. Yes, we faced setbacks like the economic crisis and COVID-19, but we are on the path to recovery.

"Namibia is rated much better than many other African countries," Mbuende said in response to accusations of corruption.

While corruption exists, Mbuende added, "we have shown our commitment to tackling it, evidenced by ministers being held accountable."

Investments in developing industries like agriculture, oil, gas, and renewable energy are part of Swapo's vision to grow

the economy, "Agriculture is a critical area of potential. We aim to transform it from small-scale to large-scale operations, which will significantly impact economic growth," Mbuende said.

In response to a question about Swapo's efforts to fulfil its commitments, the Dr. Mbuende said, "Each president has built on the progress of their predecessors. We have strong institutions and rule-based systems in place. Our party is revitalising, and we are confident that the next five years will see continued progress."

In closing, Dr. Mbuende confidently asserted that SWAPO would win come November 27. "Swapo has won this election before it even started because of the popular support it still enjoys after 34 years in power."



SWAPO PARTY Secretary General, Cde Sophia Shaningwa, leading the Party's campaigns. She has been traveling together with VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah since the campaigns started in September.



VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah arriving at Eenhana.



Former President Hifikepunye Pohamba was also in attendance.



Young ones marching as they raise the SWAPO flag.



SWAPO Party members at Eenhana rally dressed in Netumbo attire.



They came in their thousands to attend the SWAPO star rally at Eenhana.

SWAPO Manifesto addresses key national challenges



By Kristian Ngendina Auene

In its Manifesto, SWAPO Party reaffirms its commitment to addressing pressing national challenges that inhibit socio-economic development in Namibia. By focusing on critical areas such as housing, healthcare, education, rural electrification, unemployment, access to finance, and youth entrepreneurship, the party aims to create an inclusive economy where all Namibians can thrive. This article outlines a comprehensive approach that emphasizes effective implementation, robust monitoring and evaluation, and a partnership between the public and private sectors to achieve these goals.

Affordable Housing

***Challenge*:** Access to affordable housing remains a significant challenge for many Namibians, particularly in urban areas where rapid population growth is straining available resources.

***Strategy*:** The SWAPO Party, under Nandi-Ndaitwah's leadership, will implement a national housing strategy that prioritizes public-private partnerships (PPPs). By incentivizing private developers to construct affordable housing units, the government can expedite housing delivery while ensuring

quality standards. The establishment of a Housing Development Fund will facilitate financing for low-income families, enabling them to own homes.

***Monitoring and Evaluation*:** The success of the housing initiative will be assessed through regular audits and feedback mechanisms involving community stakeholders to ensure that the program meets the needs of the citizens.

Healthcare Accessibility

***Challenge*:** Many Namibians lack access to essential healthcare services, especially in rural areas where facilities are limited.

***Strategy*:** SWAPO advocates for a comprehensive healthcare reform that includes increasing funding for rural clinics and hospitals, recruiting more healthcare professionals, and leveraging technology to improve telemedicine services. Collaboration with private health sectors, NGOs, and international partners will enhance service delivery and resource allocation.

***Monitoring and Evaluation*:** The health outcomes will be monitored through community health assessments and patient satisfaction surveys to identify areas for improvement and ensure equitable access.

Quality Education for All

***Challenge*:** Educational disparities hinder progress in both urban and rural settings, limiting opportunities for Namibian youth.

***Strategy*:** The SWAPO Party prioritizes educational reform focused on curriculum development, teacher training, and infrastructure improvement. A scholarship program targeting underprivileged students will promote access to higher education while public-private partnerships will help revitalize educational facilities.

***Monitoring and Evaluation*:** Academic performance metrics, dropout rates, and student feedback will guide ongoing educational reforms to adapt to the changing needs of the economy.

Rural Electrification

***Challenge*:** Some rural communities lack reliable electricity, limiting economic opportunities and basic services.

***Strategy*:** The SWAPO Party plans to launch an ambitious rural electrification program, exploring renewable energy solutions such as solar and wind power. Engaging private sector investors will help to finance and implement these initiatives efficiently while creating jobs in the process.

***Monitoring and Evaluation*:** Community engagement initiatives will assess progress and the impact on local economic development, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Tackling Unemployment

***Challenge*:** High unemployment rates, particularly among the youth, pose significant challenges for economic stability.

***Strategy*:** SWAPO commits implementing job creation programs that focus on skills development and vocational training. By collaborating with the private sector, the government can establish internships and apprenticeships, creating pathways for young people to enter the workforce.

***Monitoring and Evaluation*:** Tracking employment rates and workforce participation will help gauge the effectiveness of these programs, ensuring that they remain responsive to the labor market's needs.

Access to Finance for SMEs

***Challenge*:** Namibia's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) frequently struggle to access funding,

impeding their growth and innovation.

***Strategy*:** The SWAPO Party advocates for the establishment of a national SME financing institution to provide low-interest loans and support services tailored for entrepreneurs. Public-private partnerships can create venture capital funds aimed at empowering local businesses.

***Monitoring and Evaluation*:** Evaluating the economic impact of financed SMEs through performance indicators will enable targeted interventions and resource allocation.

Empowering Youth in Business

***Challenge*:** The youth are underrepresented in business, limiting their potential to contribute to the economy.

***Strategy*:** The SWAPO Party commits creating an entrepreneurial mentorship program linking young entrepreneurs with established business leaders. Additionally, integrating entrepreneurship into school curricula will inspire a new generation of business owners.

***Monitoring and Evaluation*:** The effectiveness of these initiatives will be measured through follow-up surveys with participants, assessing their business growth and personal development.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah and the SWAPO Party are committed to transforming Namibia into a nation where every citizen can enjoy the benefits of socio-economic development. By fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors, embracing innovative solutions, and ensuring effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of their programs, they will pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future. Together, let us advance towards a Namibia that fulfills the aspirations of all its citizens.



Providing affordable houses is one of the firm commitments outlined in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto.



Executive Director Ministry of Industrialization and Trade Sikongo Haihambo



Chinese Ambassador to Namibia, Zhao Weiping

China-Nam pursues sustainable green future

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

At the recent China-Namibia Business Network reception, held at the Chinese Embassy on November 14, the transformative potential of green technology and the successes of bilateral trade took centre stage.

The event showcased achievements in mining, energy, and tourism while exploring future partnerships in green hydrogen development, a key area of focus for Namibia's economic diversification efforts.

Among those in attendance were Chinese Ambassador Zhao Weiping, Executive Director of the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade Sikongo Haihambo, National Planning Commission Director General Obeth Kandjoze, Presidential Advisor Ingenesia Zaamwani-Kamwi, and Green Hydrogen Commissioner James Mnyupe.

The event also welcomed over 50 Chinese businesspeople, representatives from Namibian industries, and members of the media.

Reflecting on a recent visit to China, Mnyupe highlighted Namibia's aspirations in green energy. "I visited a company in China called Envision that is already producing green ammonia - not a concept for tomorrow, but a reality today," he said.

China has emerged as a leader in green hydrogen technology, investing heavily in the production, storage, and distribution of hydrogen as a clean energy source. Green hydrogen, produced using renewable energy sources, has the potential to decarbonize various sectors, including transportation and industry.

Envision Energy is a leading Chinese company that specialises in renewable energy technologies, including wind turbines, battery storage, and green

hydrogen, offering a model of successful integration and innovation in the green energy sector.

Envision's advancements in wind turbine technology, energy management, and their recent venture into green hydrogen could position the company as a valuable partner for Namibia, should Chinese electrolyzers and the future availability of hydrogen as a preferred decarbonisation solution materialise.

Envision Energy's wind turbine projects plan to become promising energy and produce green hydrogen for renewable resources. Through reinventing the way clean energy is generated, stored and distributed the company plans to ensure access to clean energy.

The company also plans to solve the climate crisis by building the world's first net zero industrial park at a budget of USD 16 Billion which aims to reduce carbon emissions by 1 million tonnes.

Envision's net-zero industrial park, where battery production, wind turbines, and green energy solutions are seamlessly integrated. "It's the largest operating green ammonia plant in the world, and it's inspiring to imagine what Namibia could achieve with such advancements," he added.

Envision has plans underway to develop a similar industrial park in Walvis Bay, which Mnyupe said would manufacture smart turbines and assemble batteries using local resources like lithium. "This isn't just an investment in infrastructure - it's an investment in Namibia's future as a leader in green industrialization," he stated.

Mnyupe stressed the urgency for Namibia to shift beyond raw resource extraction. "We have the resources and the vision. It's time to start assembling, manufacturing, and producing renewable

energy solutions right here at home."

He underscored the role of green hydrogen in treating iron ore, building batteries, and assembling wind turbines, calling these developments pivotal for revolutionising Namibia's economy.

Delivering the keynote address, Chinese Ambassador highlighted the achievements of China-Namibia trade relations. He noted investments by Chinese companies such as Osino Gold Mine, Sinomine Rare Metals, and Envision Energy, which have bolstered Namibia's mining and renewable energy sectors.

Zhao announced that bilateral trade reached \$1.4 billion by September 2024, surpassing last year's total of \$1.3 billion. He also praised Namibia's ability to export lamb meat to China under a new agreement signed during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Citing Namibia's economic potential, Zhao described the country as a resource-rich nation with a favourable investment environment. "The challenges Namibia faces can also bring development opportunities," he said, urging local stakeholders to leverage these strengths.

Zhao emphasised the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a framework for collaboration. "China's commitment to deeper integration with Africa reflects a shared belief in building a community with a shared future," he said, outlining plans for industrialization, clean energy cooperation, and infrastructure connectivity projects.

Despite the robust trade relationship, Zhao pointed out Namibia's untapped potential in attracting Chinese tourists. He highlighted a stark contrast between the 3,046 Chinese tourists who visited Namibia in 2023 compared to the 51,952 who visited Zimbabwe.

"With a population of 1.4 billion, China offers a vast market for Namibia to tap into, which can significantly boost the local economy," Zhao remarked.

Guest of honour Haihambo echoed the sentiment of collaboration and forward-thinking. "Gatherings like this underscore our shared ambition for sustainable economic growth and mutual prosperity," he said.

Reflecting on lessons learned during visits to China, Haihambo urged Namibian stakeholders to adopt a results-driven approach. "The Chinese come up with seven ideas but focus on perfecting one or two. Namibia must also shift from merely collecting ideas to implementing them," he said.

Haihambo highlighted the remarkable growth in bilateral trade, which surged from N\$13.5 billion in 2019 to N\$25.9 billion in 2023—a 17.6% increase from the previous year. He encouraged local businesses to capitalise on platforms like the BRI and the African Continental Free Trade Area, framing them as opportunities for innovation and strategic partnerships.

Economist Joseph Sheehama also weighed in, noting that Namibia should focus on modernizing and enhancing its position rather than merely emulating China.

"Modernization should be open and willing. Let us not copy and paste but improve where we are currently standing," he said.

As Namibia embraces opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative and green hydrogen partnerships, the focus remains on transforming its economy through renewable energy and industrialization. "Together, we're not just modernising; we're pioneering a green revolution that will transform industries and improve lives," Mnyupe said.



An ATACMS missile being launched from an M270 MLRS.

Authorizing strikes deep inside Russia, NATO powers seek to provoke escalation of war

World Socialist Web Site Andre Damon

The authorization by the Biden administration for Ukraine to use US long-range weapons to strike deep inside Russian territory marks a new and dangerous escalation in the US-NATO war against Russia. The move, followed just two days later by Ukrainian attacks using the weapons, underscores the unrelenting drive by US and NATO powers to intensify the conflict, regardless of the catastrophic consequences.

On Tuesday, Ukraine attacked a military base in Bryansk, 110 miles inside the Russian border, using US-provided ATACMS missiles. There are conflicting reports about how many missiles were fired and how many of them were shot down by Russian defense systems.

The same day, the Guardian reported that the UK would follow the US in allowing its long-range missiles to be used to attack deep inside Russia. "We must double down on the support for Ukraine," declared UK Defense Secretary John Healy. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said, outside of the G20 summit in Brazil, that the "irresponsible rhetoric coming from Russia ... is not going to deter our support for Ukraine."

French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed the United States' announcement, calling it "a good decision" and an appropriate response to the deployment of North Korean troops inside Russia. "Russia is the only power that made an escalatory decision ... it's really this break that led to the US decision," Macron said at the G20 summit.

In the European media, there is intense discussion on the imperative for European imperialism to take a more assertive and aggressive role in the war against Russia, if necessary independently of the United States.

The Biden administration and the NATO powers are well aware that the action to authorize Ukraine's use of long-range weapons to target Russia will provoke retaliation from the Putin government. They are knowingly and deliberately crossing a "red line" that Putin had indicated would lead to a military response, including the potential use of nuclear weapons.

The move by the Biden administration to authorize Ukraine's use of the long-range weapons came less than two weeks after the US presidential elections and just 60 days before the transfer of power to the incoming Trump administration.

On the part of Biden, there is no doubt an element of creating "facts on the ground" to push the situation as aggressively as possible. The White House had been planning to announce the strikes on Russia in September but ultimately decided to make the announcement after an anticipated victory by Vice President Kamala Harris, in a campaign that made no mention of the imminent plans for a massive escalation.

The election resulted in the victory of Donald Trump, who demagogically postured as a critic of the war in Ukraine. Last week, Biden and Trump met in the White House, with both men promising a "smooth transition," and the behind-the-scenes discussions focused on Ukraine.

It is noteworthy that Trump, who posts dozens of times per day on his social media platform, has said nothing at all about the ATACMS authorization or their use by Ukraine.

In September, in response to reports that the US would soon allow long-range strikes on Russian cities, Putin outlined proposed changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine. The Russian president said that "aggression against Russia by any non-nuclear-weapon state, but with the participation or support of a nuclear-weapon state, should be considered as a joint attack on the Russian Federation."

On Tuesday, following the Ukrainian strike on Bryansk, Putin signed into law the new nuclear strategy document, which significantly lowers the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons by Russia in response to attacks on its territory, including attacks "using conventional arms, if such an aggression creates a critical threat for their sovereignty and/or territorial integrity."

Under the terms of Putin's prior statements and the new doctrine adopted by the Russian Federation, Russia could potentially respond to the NATO attack with an escalation in Ukraine, attacks on American bases in Europe or European military targets, other forms of "asymmetrical warfare" or even with the use of a nuclear weapon.

Whatever the response, the US and NATO powers are willing to risk the consequences. The tendency is for relentless escalation. The question must be asked: What is the next stage of escalation of the war? How soon will NATO weapons

be raining down on Moscow? Will NATO troops be deployed?

On Monday, Estonia's Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna told the Financial Times that he supports the European powers putting "boots on the ground" in Ukraine. While raised in the context of a possible "peace deal" engineered by Trump, the proposal for direct deployment of NATO into the conflict has been raised repeatedly, most significantly by French President Macron earlier this year.

The Biden administration, with the support of the European powers, is seeking to take a series of steps intensifying the war that makes further escalation all the more likely. And an incoming Trump administration, no less dedicated to the ruthless pursuit of US global hegemony, will be just as aggressive in waging wars all over the world.

The US-NATO war against Russia is itself a component part of an escalating global war, which includes the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the Israeli bombing of Lebanon and threats of war against Iran, and the developing conflict with China, which has been the central focus of Trump.

The escalation of war takes place amidst an intensifying political crisis in all the imperialist powers, the turn to dictatorial forms of rule, and the immense escalation of the assault on the working class. The oligarchs are determined to subordinate all of society to war. It is the international working class that must be mobilized, on the basis of a socialist program, to stop the descent into World War III.