

NAMIBIA TODAY



Solidarity • Freedom • Justice

//Kharas set to become an economic powerhouse

By Staff Reporter

Kharas Region is set to become Namibia's regional economic powerhouse in the country's economic development agenda, following the discovery of huge deposits of gas and oil, as well as opportunities that will come with the green hydrogen project. With these emerging potential opportunities, SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, has urged residents in the //Kharas Region to grab these opportunities and make the best out of them.

Addressing a star rally in Keetmanshoop on Saturday, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said

//Kharas Region, being the hub of the emerging industries and the center of Namibia's energy mix, residents of the region must get maximum benefits from these resources.

"All the emerging industries namely, oil and gas and green hydrogen are found in this region. We have therefore to prepare the people in this region to get maximum benefits from these resources," she said.

"We must get prepared, particularly considering the high-rate of unemployment among the youth in the country, of which //Kharas is no exception."

The Vice President called for the strengthening of vocational training

centers in //Kharas Region to prepare the youth to take up employment opportunities to be created from these emerging industries. She also called on the University of Namibia, UNAM, the University of Science and Technology, NUST, and the Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology, NIMT, to get on board.

The discovery of oil and gas has also prompted the SWAPO Party to pledge in its Election Manifesto to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability for Namibia establishing its own oil refinery.

"This is aimed at ensuring long-term benefits for the people of Namibia from the oil and gas sector. We are aware of the multiplier effects of emerging industries. Hence, our policy on local content has to be strong and clear. Our policy on local content must include creating a conducive environment to create the capacity for our people to be able to provide services to those industries. Surely, services such repairing and servicing of machinery and equipment, catering, laundry and many more have to be done by local people," said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"The SWAPO Party has fully committed to prioritizing small and medium business enterprises to enable them to fully participate in all sectors of our economy, including the new industries. But remember, our success is determined by the knowledge and the skills we must have locally.

"The importance of education and training is, therefore, key to success. Education and training are the key to skills development. It is through education and training that in future, we will eliminate a labour force which is too divided based on skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled employees. We must educate and train ourselves and our children in order to become a skilled and truly knowledge-based society."

The Vice President touched on some of the successful development programmes witnessed in the //Kharas Region, such as the rehabilitation of schools and healthcare centers, the construction and upgrading of roads, water and electrification of villages and settlements.

Among them is the N\$70 million Aussenkehr Health Center, which is almost complete. //Kharas has 33 health facilities. Thirteen classrooms and eight classroom blocks were also built in the last year. Forty one farmers in the //Kharas Region have also benefited from Namibia's Poultry Value Chain Project, which was allocated N\$900 000 in the last year to support such farmers countrywide.

NamWater is now busy with the construction of a new water pipeline and

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SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and SWAPO Party //Kharas Regional Coordinator, Cde Matthew Mumbala.

Shipwikineni in hot water

Punitive costs order amounts to N\$490 000

By Asser Ntinda

A leading figure in the ongoing court case against SWAPO, Reinhold Nghihpavali Shipwikineni, has been slapped with a heavy punitive costs order by the High Court.

An urgent application brought against SWAPO and its presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, by five

SWAPO members was struck off the roll with costs on Monday morning by High Court Judge Eileen Rakov.

The application was struck off the roll because it was not procedurally on the roll, after filing of the notice of opposition by the respondents.

Judge Rakov has also ordered that Shipwikineni alone should bear the costs,

which, according to inside sources, is about half a million. Lawyers Sisa Namandje and Gilroy Kasper who represented SWAPO have given Shipwikineni ten days to first pay N\$400 000. The bill of cost was prepared on an urgent basis.

"The current assessed costs including disbursement shall be within the range

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

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water reservoir at Aroab, costing N\$12 million. N\$35 million has been invested on the Ariamsvlei Karasburg Grunau extension water upgrade projects.

With some progress made to the land around Neckartal Dam, the Vice President said the time had come for the dam to feed the region and the country. She said the Government was committed to accelerating the productivity of the green schemes to enhance national food production for food security and job creation.

N\$20 million has been availed to //Kharas Region for the extension and upgrading of the region's water supply system. NamWater has also secured N\$200 million to replace the 37 km pipeline connecting Naute Dam in Keetmanshoop. The tender, however, was cancelled by the Central Procurement Board due to complaints among bidders and was re-advertised.

"You must have heard me speaking on numerous occasions on the issue of holding tender processes which negatively affects service delivery of critical projects. You have a critical tender of that nature to be cancelled and restarted again. Development cannot take place without water and the delay of this project has affected the //Kharas Region programmes," a visibly irritated Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

"We must get to a stage where we do not



Part of the SWAPO Party's massive star rally in Keetmanshoop last weekend.

allow red tape and bureaucracy to affect our service delivery. We must all commit ourselves to perform our duties ethically and with integrity. Corruption is the enemy for development and we must all reject it."

The Vice President appealed to the residents of //Kharas Region to vote for SWAPO and its Presidential candidate to reclaim the region, which went to the opposition parties in the 2020 regional and local authority elections.

"The mission and message to the residents of //Kharas Region today is simple. The SWAPO Party has delivered, and the SWAPO Party will continue to deliver. Give us the mandate. As your Presidential candidate, I want to assure you that the team you have decided to send to Parliament, will not fail you once mandated. Under my leadership, rest assured your government is in the right hands and we must deliver," said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"I call on all SWAPO Party leaders, members, supporters and sympathizers to work hard and make sure that //Kharas Region is claimed back to the SWAPO Party. The history of the SWAPO Party and //Kharas Region runs too deep and too wide for us not to be closer to the people of //Kharas Region.

"November 27 is our day to give the red card to the opposition and blow the whistle and say 'Time Is Up, and the Game Is Over.'

Shipwikeneni from page 1

of N\$490 000," read the cost order. "We propose that your client tenders to pay a reduced amount of N\$400 000 within the next ten days, failing which we will finalize the Bill of Cost and fix the earliest possible date for taxation after which we will then immediately execute against your client's properties. All our client's rights remain fully reserved, and the proposal made herein is simply done in an attempt to amicably resolve the issue of cost," wrote lawyer Kasper in the cost order.

The application sought to compel SWAPO to hold an extraordinary congress before the November 27 Presidential and National Assembly elections. Legal sources say Shipwikeneni is in a messy situation, adding that once the costs of the pending application are added, they will likely run into millions. The pending case will be heard at the end of this month for status hearing. There is also a counter-application filed against Shipwikeneni by SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Sophia Shaningwa.

In the dismissed application, Shipwikeneni wanted the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN, not to approve Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah as a presidential candidate. He also wanted the decision by Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah to appoint ten candidates to the National Assembly list to be reviewed and set aside. He further argued that Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah was "irregularly" elected as a presidential candidate.

Shipwikeneni further argued that if the ECN was not interdicted from approving the nomination of Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, the applicants would not have any recourse in law to cause Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah to be recalled or removed from "the High Office," as the President could only be removed from office through a parliamentary impeachment process.

Shipwikeneni further argued that if the ECN was not interdicted from approving the ten candidates appointed by Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, the applicants would have no legal recourse to recall or remove them from the National Assembly because once they were sworn in, they could only vacate their seats under the provisions of



Lawyers Sisa Namandje and Gilroy Kasper in court, shortly after succeeding in having Shipwikeneni's application dismissed.

the country's Constitution.

"If the urgent relief is not granted, the applicants shall not obtain any substantial relief at any forum in future. This is so because the vacation of the parliamentary seats after the aforementioned respondents are sworn in as MPs on 21 March 2025, on the basis that they were appointed on the Party list by the second respondent who acted outside her power is not one of the reasons for their removal as listed in Article 48 (1) of the Constitution of Namibia," argued Shipwikeneni.

In a no nonsense conditional answering affidavit submitted on Monday, SWAPO Secretary General, Cde Shaningwa, was ready to shoot down Shipwikeneni's latest application, had it not been struck off the court roll. She said that the latest urgent application was, like the pending one, abusive and frivolous. She said the second to the fifth applicants were just "decoy" applicants.

"They clearly are not applicants, for several reasons, including the fact that Shipwikeneni does not make allegations that he is bringing this application on behalf of those four applicants. He alone

will therefore have to carry the punitive costs to be sought by the respondents," argued Cde Shaningwa.

Shipwikeneni has been threatening to take SWAPO to court since the Party held its elective congress in November 2022, and also shortly after the death of President Hage Geingob in February this year.

In September 2023, Shipwikeneni, through his lawyers, Wouter Rossouw legal practitioners, wrote a letter to SWAPO, threatening to approach the High Court for "an urgent order" to address "irregularities" in the nomination of the Party's presidential candidate. SWAPO responded that it would not concede to his absurd demand, and he should, if he so wished, just approach the court. He never did.

He only did so in June this year, when he sought a relief to declare as "invalid" the decision to hold an extraordinary congress in April next year. In that application, which was not brought on an urgent basis, he also sought an order to compel SWAPO to hold an extraordinary congress within 30 days of the order being granted. That

is the application that will be heard later this month.

"I raised various factual and legal defences, including the fact that the institution of that application was unreasonably delayed. I also instituted a counter-application against Shipwikeneni and sought a punitive costs order," argued Cde Shaningwa.

The SWAPO Party held its elective congress at the end of November in 2022. The results were publicly announced there and then. It was made clear to all members that Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah became the Party's presidential candidate in the November Presidential elections.

"It was also made clear (to the knowledge of the applicants,) that there will not be an extraordinary congress to identify the Party's presidential candidate because Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah had irrevocably become an automatic presidential candidate in terms of Rules 8, 10 and 53," said Cde Shaningwa.

She said Shipwikeneni had enough time to bring his issues to court shortly after the 2022 congress, but he just kept on making defamatory statements and abusive legal threats on social media. Cde Shaningwa also pointed out that Shipwikeneni was only a member of SWAPO, subject to certain qualifications.

"He is definitely not a bona fide member. 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," said Cde Shaningwa.

"Given the nature of the orders he is seeking, he ought to have addressed both the prejudice he would suffer if the orders were not granted, and the prejudice the respondents would suffer if the interdict is granted," pointed out Cde Shaningwa.

"In any event, I take issue with the interim orders sought. Such orders are incompetent. They cannot be made pending a return date. Accordingly, I ask that the application be dismissed with a punitive order of costs because these



//Kharas youth Engage NNN on nation building

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

On 11 October 2024, youth from the Kharas Region met with the Vice President (VP) Cde. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (NNN), the SWAPO presidential candidate, at the Canyon Hotel for a youth-in-conversation event.

The discussion moderated by District Secretary Alanique Damens was centred on themes of SWAPO's 2025-2030 Election Manifesto, specifically on nation-building, education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, mining, and energy.

Delivering her welcoming address, //Kharas regional secretary Valmary Janie set the tone for the gathering in the region. Welcoming esteemed guests, including ministers, presidential candidates, and youth leaders, she acknowledged their collective role in shaping Namibia's future.

"We are not just in conversation; we are building the future of our great nation," Janies stated.

Highlighting the persistent challenges faced by southern communities, Janies laid bare the //Kharas region's struggles with poverty, unemployment, and substance abuse.

"Our youth league is dysfunctional, largely due to transportation challenges; this limits our ability to mobilize and advocate for change. Furthermore, access to funding is a challenge for many young people due to financial constraints. The scourge of drug and alcohol abuse is worsening, eroding the fabric of our society," she said.

She further called for urgent action on stalled development projects like the Neckartal Dam and equitable access to government contracts and tenders.

"The untapped potential of major infrastructure projects such as the Neckartal Dam, which will provide opportunities for economic revival, remains idle. Equitable access to tenders and government contracts is another area where we are being left behind," Janies added.

Among the panellists were teacher Frieda Rhode, Head of Sustainable Energies at NAMCOR and Technical Advisor on Green Hydrogen to the Minister of Mines and Energy Frans Kalenga, a member of the SPYL think tank, and Director of Hydroponic Farming, Anthony Both; and Rundu Town Businessman and Julinho Sporting Football Club Chairperson, Dino Ballotti.

Rhode emphasised the role education plays in economic development and

employment opportunities.

"For one to acquire skills, because one cannot just enter any establishment and take up an office. This in turn means that if you are skilled in a specific department or post, you are also provided an equal opportunity to apply for that post as well.

"Not only does education have a role in skills development, it also leverages one to come out of poverty. Entrepreneurship training is another role education has in development, allowing us to create business opportunities for ourselves."

"Sanitation brings awareness to health and social well-being. If you are not well educated, you don't understand the impacts of littering," Rhode added.

Rhode further touched on the high rate of high school dropouts within the //Kharas region, stating, "It is not because we have a rise in high school dropout rate in the region. It is because there are 46 schools in the region."

Kalenga touched on the opportunities coming along for the //Kharas region, the oil and gas industry, calling for deliberate action in addressing practical issues.

"In terms of green hydrogen, education is the curiosity of finding out what this thing is on your own. We are talking about industrialization, but the truth of the matter is we will never industrialise as a country if the cost of electricity is high.

"The cost of electricity is the beginning of things. Whether you want to rent your shop or you want to be a nail technician, as long as the consumption of electricity is high at that place, you will spend all your money on electricity and not get anything out of it.

According to Kalenga, the Swapo Party Manifesto aims to look at ways to reduce the cost of electricity.

"When we deal with global warming issues, the result of that is the dam in Ruacana not being full. If the dam is not full, it means the generation of electricity is low. This means the government is then forced to import more electricity, which makes electricity expensive.

"Global warming is here. We have experienced it already through drought; animals are dying. So with the concept of hydrogen, we are saying we can come up with opportunities to be able to generate electricity and make it cheaper, he said.

The second understanding Kalenga says what causes global warming is the high level of carbon: "Hydrogen will help us reduce the level of carbon in whatever

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Zoom In

By: Asser Ntinda



In the heat of election campaigns everywhere in the world, some politicians, starved of any credible narratives to attract crowds to their rallies, say many weird, if not laughable, things that really send people's heads spinning in disbelief. Last weekend, the President of the Popular Democratic Movement, PDM, McHenry Venaani, pulled out one of the worst forms of political sorcery that had everyone gasping for breath. It was one of those jaw-dropping political gaffes that shredded Venaani's degree of maturity. If it were a race, Venaani could have scooped the top prize.

While he was addressing a poorly attended PDM "star" rally in Outapi, Omusati Region, a strong and erratic wind erupted, causing PDM's tents to fall down. This is our windy season and such windy storms are natural occurrences which no one can, or should blame on anybody.

But for Venaani, however, this was something extremely extraordinary. Someone somewhere must surely be the force that triggered it off. Who could that be? After studying and examining some magic pieces in his sorcery darkroom, Venaani suddenly repackaged himself into a witch doctor of some sort and quickly found out who the real magical force behind such windy storms. It was the SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Sophia Shaningwa, who triggered off such windy waves. Rally attendees thought it was one of those dry jokes that came with frustration, but no, Comrade Venaani was very serious.

"I want to tell my dear friend and loved one Sophia Shaningwa," a local daily quoted Venaani as saying. "You brought me bad luck with your wind. She was afraid that PDM was coming to Outapi, that she brought the wind. Shame on you, my beloved Sophia Shaningwa. PDM will stay in Outapi. We are not afraid. No amount of rain or wind shall deter us for a just and better Namibia."

Venaani claimed that when people were telling him that they could not hold the rally because it was windy, he quipped: "I said come hell, come rain, come wind or high water, I shall address the people of Namibia here in Outapi."

Such antics have left many people speechless. This is a person who is campaigning to be the President of Namibia. That a person of Venaani's caliber would stoop that low defies logic. But such antics came full circle to feed on some of the notorious fables that were recycled with monotonous regularity by handpicked puppets in the late 1960s and 1970s. One of those fables was that SWAPO guerrillas were "magically cooked and recreated" in Zambia and Angola to suddenly and quickly change from human beings to some weird spirits or animals to evade arrest. Those puppets, the same puppets who were later assembled by the apartheid colonial regime of South Africa to form the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, DTA, in October 1977, actually believed such fables. That Venaani still believes such silly narratives clearly shows that there is indeed continuity in the DTA, such fables have indeed been passed on to successive DTA leaderships.

Of course, Venaani might have re-christened the DTA to PDM to shed off its ugly baggage of being constantly referred to as a colonial political project, but facts are facts. The DTA was created by apartheid South Africa to be used by Pretoria against SWAPO, which was then declared as the "sole and authentic representative" of the people of Namibia by the United Nations. Many people, especially in the northern parts of Namibia, who bore the brunt of the war, still regard the DTA as a formation of puppets who stood in the way and prevented Namibia's early independence. People still despise and loathe the DTA for the treacherous role it played in delaying Namibia's early independence.

Venaani may not know these tragedies. After all, he was only born in October 1977, the same month and same year the DTA was formed. But, having read some books and heard from people as he grew up, those discoveries were possibly the main reasons he decided to rename the DTA to be the PDM that it is today. But there are no blank pages in history. Dirk Mudge, one of the founders of the DTA, played a crucial role in forming the DTA, handpicking puppets here and there, and unsuccessfully presenting them to the nation and the international community for recognition as "genuine" internal leaders on par with SWAPO leaders.

One of the main reasons the DTA was formed was to force the United Nations, UN, to withdraw its recognition of SWAPO as the "sole and authentic representative" of the Namibian people. But SWAPO, through its political and diplomatic campaigns, successfully unmasked and exposed those puppets for who they really were, a loose alliance of ethnic-based parties Pretoria bankrolled. Its survival depended on South Africa's patronage, not on popular appeal. True, the DTA has had black presidents since its formation, like Clemens Kapuu, Cornelius Ndjoba, Peter Kalangula, Kuaima Riruako, Mishake Muyongo and Katutire Kaura. Black faces they might have been, but any fool knew that the real power vested in the all-imposing Dirk Mudge, who remained its Chairperson from 1977 until 1995.

Since its formation, the DTA had tried to shake off its image as a stooge of the apartheid regime. But that was what it really was, an alliance of apartheid collaborators, which was controlled by South Africa to find an "internal" solution to Namibia's independence question without SWAPO. The purpose was to find an internal settlement that would neutralize SWAPO's popular national and international appeal.

When South Africa organized sham elections in 1978, which SWAPO boycotted, the DTA was presented by South Africa as the "winner." Such elections, however, were widely discredited nationally and internationally. So, too, was the DTA. But South Africa never abandoned its political child. It used it, still without any success, in various discredited internal settlements such as the Multi-Party Conference, MPC, in 1983, and the Transitional Government of National Unity, TNGU, in 1985.

As SWAPO intensified its armed struggle in the late 1980s and with the international community piling up pressure on South Africa to relinquish its hold on Namibia, Pretoria was forced to accept the implementation of Resolution 435 in 1989. In the campaigns leading up to the UN controlled and supervised elections in November that year, South Africa still hoped that it would win the elections through the DTA. South Africa pumped in millions of Rands into its election campaigns, which was only revealed a year later by Pik Botha, then South Africa's Foreign Affairs Minister.

The Slush Fund Scandal, as it came to be known, involved over R100 million, which Pretoria gave to internal political parties to campaign and defeat SWAPO. R100 million was not a small change. With Mudge firmly in control, more than 90 percent of the Slush Fund Scandal went to the DTA, which still ended up losing the elections to SWAPO in 1989. Had the DTA won those elections, South Africa was still going to be in charge through the DTA. It was a big and disgraceful jackpot loss.

These revelations, once again, and perhaps more factually and forcefully, proved that the DTA was indeed the brainchild of apartheid South Africa solely created to neutralize SWAPO's popular national and international appeal. All doubts were removed there and then. The DTA has yet to explain to the people of this country why it had collaborated with the same very brutal enemy Namibians were fighting against. If the DTA had indeed fought for Namibia's independence, as Venaani always claims, why would South Africa give it millions of Rands to fund its campaigns? The DTA was an apartheid project. That was also the reason why members of the notorious Koevoet and SWATF (South West Africa Territorial Force) joined the DTA campaign squads in 1989 when the two units were demobilized and disbanded. Those notorious squads brutalized many people in the name, and on behalf, of the DTA during the 1989 election campaigns.

People still despise the DTA/PDM for those brutalities and atrocities that characterized the 1980s and the way it was used by South Africa to treacherously delay Namibia's independence. Blaming the wind and the poor attendance of the PDM/DTA rally at Outapi on Cde Shaningwa is thus a cheap decoy and diversionary tactic to hide the real reasons why people do not entertain the DTA/PDM. The demise of the PDM can be located precisely in those historical defects, not on the so-called Shaningwa-induced magic wind that destroyed PDM tents in Outapi. Get real, for once, Tate Venaani!

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industry we have, including oil and gas. The opportunities available in green hydrogen are scholarships.

“There’s a study mapping out the value chain of opportunities that will be available in green industrialisation. The next step is where they will assemble micro-medium enterprises and do capacity and capability profiling and construction,” Kalenga said.

“Once we have identified the investment amount targeted to the youth, 90% of people employed in green hydrogen must be youth who are Namibians,” Kalenga added.

Kalenga also added that the government needs to come up with robust tailor-made policies. “These policies should ensure that although the oil and gas sector will not employ everyone, they go to other sectors of the economy that create employment, such as agriculture, or into the sovereign wealth fund and reinvest it for future generations.”

To this agricultural speaker, Both said, “We have undertaken an environmental impact assessment, and it was approved. We have started the greenhouse, and in 2025 we are going to start with an aquaponics program where we will employ around 150-200 youth.”

Aquaponics is a form of agriculture that combines raising fish in tanks (recirculating aquaculture) with soilless plant culture (hydroponics).

“This is also an opportunity for the youth, and we are planning on starting our first aquaponics master class at the end of October. We want to create a 24-hour operation so that we can have around 3 shifts, which helps us employ more people,” Both said.

“Agriculture is actually what we need for //Kharas, especially with produce. Through our system, food will last about 10 to 15 days. Through the project, we would like to create opportunities for youth and assist them financially in villages and other towns,” Both said.

Ballotti, who is involved in politics, entrepreneurship, and sports, emphasized the manifesto’s guiding principles and important issues that appeal to young people.

“Loyalty, Solidarity, and Justice. To be loyal means to be true to your word, it is to do what you say, be reliable and trustworthy, and be a true comrade. Solidarity means to be united to our manifesto in diversity.

“If we are united, we can move forward. We must think of everyone, prosperity that is not shared is not sustainable. Lastly, justice, which I understand, is treating everyone fairly regardless of race, religion, or even political affiliation,” Ballotti said.

Ballotti urged young people to read the twelve areas of the Swapo Party 2025–2030 Manifesto, which include SME development, economic growth, sports, youth empowerment, and the use of

natural resources.

“We need to work collectively to fix issues of grass fields for football players in the regions. There are opportunities for young people to use football examples that do not need capital. We have thinkers and entrepreneurs.

“We need to register our businesses, and that way we can access finance. There are capital opportunities such as cleaning windows, washing cars, walking children from and to school, or taking advantage of online.

“If we do not know what you do, how can we support you? Start without funding, smart partner, innovate, and do things a little differently. The //Kharas way and doing things online is the new normal, Ballotti said.

Cde. Nandi-Ndaitwah who is vying to secure the nation’s top office, took centre stage to address pressing concerns about Namibia’s education system.

Responding to questions from youth leaders, cde Nandi-Ndaitwah acknowledged, among other things, the alarming dropout rates, highlighting a systemic issue affecting students from grade one through grade 12.

“Our education system is facing a critical challenge,” she said. “Of those who enter grade one, only 65% make it to grades 10 and 12. The question is, where is the remaining 35%?”

Cde. Nandi-Ndaitwah stressed that this dropout crisis doesn’t begin in the later

years but stretches back to the very early stages of schooling.

Addressing the core of the issue, she urged the community to take collective responsibility. “We cannot just leave it to the teachers, the minister, or the president. It’s a responsibility for all of us to ensure that children stay in school and progress through the system,” she noted.

Cde. Nandi-Ndaitwah also touched on the need for greater attention to special education, stressing the importance of providing opportunities for children with special needs. “We’ve seen children with special needs who, given the right environment, have gone on to become some of the best engineers.”

The Vice President further emphasized that Namibia’s education system needs a holistic approach, one that includes empowering students, involving parents, and ensuring safety in schools. “We cannot compromise on safety—it’s a standard we must uphold.”

She says the significance of leveraging the potential of these industries to boost economic growth and offer long-term job prospects for the country’s young population.

In order to ensure that Namibia realizes its full potential in the fields of education, agriculture, entrepreneurship, mining, oil and gas, green hydrogen, and energy, the engagement concluded with calls for maintaining government-youth collaboration.

Netumbo: the implementer, not the storyteller

By Staff Reporter

SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah received a thunderous applause in Mariental, Hardap Region, on Sunday when she told the cheering crowd that she was an implementer, not a storyteller. She would want things done.

On her campaign leg that took her to the //Kharas and Hardap regions over the weekend, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said the SWAPO Party’s track record over the years had been the reason Namibians had always trusted its leadership by renewing its mandate to govern since the historic pre-independence 1989 elections.

“As your driver on the seat,” she said amid ululation, “the people of Hardap know me better, that I am an implementer, not a story-teller. I don’t want to take you back to the days when I was Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare, Minister of Environment and Tourism. What we did together is well-known.”

She reflected on her 2015 Schlip visit, which had since changed the lives of many people in that community. Between 2015 and 2019, the Schlip Pioneer School was upgraded to High School. An additional 800 ha of land was bought for Schlip residents.

Some families have been resettled at farm Mooifontein. Radio and television centers were commissioned. A walking bridge connecting the School and residential area was built.

“Of late, Hoachanas has water, and the SWAPO Party Hardap Regional



SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, being welcomed by SWAPO leaders in Mariental, Hardap Region.

Coordinator can testify that the situation has improved following our visit. Under the SWAPO Party, we delivered, and we continue to deliver. There are no reasons why you should not trust us,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“The SWAPO Party has always been, and will continue to be, the Party of the people. We have never wavered in our commitment to improving the lives of Namibians, and the Hardap Region is no exception. Our achievements speak for themselves, and with your support, we will continue to deliver on our promises.”

The Vice President outlined some of the key development projects rolled out over the years in Hardap Region in sectors such as agriculture, water supply, social services, education, health and road infrastructures.

One such initiative was the Hardap Green Scheme, which had now been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and

Land Reform.

This project has made Hardap a key player in Namibia’s food security strategy. Apart from the many jobs it has created, the Green Scheme has also boosted the regional economy, allowing people to thrive through sustainable farming.

The construction and rehabilitation of roads such as the Mariental-Gochas-Ariamsvlei has improved connectivity and opened opportunities for trade and economic activities.

Key projects are currently underway in the water sector. NamWater is identifying current and future water supply constraints in Hardap Region under the country’s Water Masterplan.

The Gibeon water pipeline upgrade to Gibeon Village, aimed at ensuring reliable and uninterrupted water supply, will start early next year.

Hardap Region has 51 early childhood development centers, which enrolls 2,218

children. They all receive government subsidies. Several schools have also been rehabilitated. Hardap boasts 21 healthcare facilities, which include 15 clinics. Mariental and Aranos hospitals have been equipped with X-ray machines.

The SWAPO Party Manifesto outlines various development programmes that will create mass employment opportunities, especially among the youth. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said that by harnessing the region’s agricultural potential and promoting industries such as eco-tourism and renewable energy, Hardap would thrive.

“Together, we are duty bound to continue and build on the successes of the past. We shall spare no effort by identifying and addressing the challenges of the present. By identifying and addressing those challenges, it will help us lay a strong foundation for a prosperous and sustainable Namibia,” said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

“We shall follow in the footsteps of our great leaders such as Kaptein Hendrick Witbooi who fought tirelessly in defence of our motherland. Let us emulate his deeds by uniting our people for a just cause. Let us mobilize our people in order to ensure a resounding victory for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate, come 27 November 2024.

“I urge the people of Hardap to go out in their numbers on 27 November 2024 and vote for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate. Voting for the SWAPO Party would mean voting for continued progress, peace and stability, and a brighter future for all Namibians.”

'Why I left AR and rejoined SWAPO,' Ipinge

In this exclusive interview, Namibia Today reached out to Knowledge Ndunge Ipinge, former AR Councillor for Walvis Bay Rural, discusses why resigned from AR and rejoined SWAPO. He says SWAPO Presidential Candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, has inspired him the most.

NT: Can you describe how AR's network is like in Erongo Region?

KN: It's just not my style to try to know what my bitter and angry ex is up to. I officially resigned as the Interim Chairperson of AR in Erongo in March 2024, well before they received their certificate as a political party from the ECN. Therefore, it would be premature for me to speak about their network, as I am not privy to how their membership drive or campaign has been progressing.

NT: What made you leave SWAPO in the first place?

KN: The reality is that SWAPO is the only political party I have ever been a member of in my whole life, and I have never applied for, nor have I been registered as a card-carrying member of any other political party.

My journey as an Independent Candidate resulted from the IC wave of 2019, spearheaded by SWAPO card-carrying members. The loophole was only closed at the extraordinary SWAPO congress held in September 2020. Unlike other Independent Candidates and activists who eventually revealed themselves as opposition parties, I never subscribed to their party politics agenda.

NT: Where did you cut your political teeth?

KN: I trace my political roots back to my late paternal grandfather, Obadja Uushona, renowned for standing against apartheid within Erongo region during the liberation struggle. He was one of the main speakers at the historic pre-Namibia Day rally held in Windhoek on Sunday, the 24th of August 1986, alongside the revolutionary Acting President of SWAPO, the late Nathaniel Maxuilili, Cde Kahumba Ka Ndola, Cde Nico Bessinger, and Cde Tlhabanello.

NT: What do you see in SWAPO that is wrong which should be corrected?



Knowledge Ndunge Ipinge receives his new membership card from SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, in Walvis Bay.

KN: The treacherous divide-and-rule tactics used by certain party members are a betrayal to our revolutionary cause. These individuals, who cling to the decaying remnants of the old order and profit from grand corruption, embody the most dangers cancer that has crippled both the party and the state. We must rally together, arm in arm, to expose and dismantle these internal traitors, reigniting our commitment to genuine reform and reduce leakages in government procurement and grand corruption by preventing the abuse of power and public resources by party members, politicians and senior civil servants.

Efficiency and effectiveness in delivering quality services to the dejected masses should also become the order of the day to transform government radically while still leveraging past successes and learning from mistakes.

NT: What is AR like in Erongo without you, bearing in mind that you have been its Councillor since 2020?

KN: My earlier bitter and angry ex stance still applies.

NT: What is it that you have seen wrong in AR that made you rejoin SWAPO?

KN: My decision to actively revive my SWAPO membership and join the campaign for the upcoming elections was mainly inspired by Comrade VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah leadership vision for Namibia and the SWAPO manifesto.

NT: Why did you join AR in the first place?

KN: I initially joined AR as a protest action back in December 2014 of which I was instrumental in mobilizing 9 549 people in Walvis Bay and 3 725 in Swakopmund to apply for land during the mass land application on the 27th of February 2015.

(See link for

references; <https://neweralive.na/13-000-coastal-residents-apply-land-2/>)

Despite this, I partnered with a South African company to co-produce a documentary about the late President Dr. Hage Geingob titled "Geingob: Man of the Hour," which screened on his inauguration day, March 21, 2015.

NT: What are the main problems crippling AR currently?

KN: Clearly, you are not planning to relent until I provide insights on my bitter and angry ex. From what I observed during my time there, I noticed an ideological shift from a civil society to an opposition political party. There were low levels of institutionalization, a lack of capacity to democratize internal structures, competition with civic organizations for relevance, and a failure to deliver activities aligned with the demands for democratization and decentralization.

NT: Has AR's Job Amupanda not provided the type of leadership you have expected from him?

KN: It is important to understand that Job has a leadership style different from mine, as he is more theory-based while I am more practical in my approach. Additionally, growing up in different societies shaped our mindsets and viewpoints on social issues, contributing to our activism relationship being a mixture of authoritarian culture and participatory democracy.

NT: How easy is it to criticize or correct Amupanda when he is wrong? He comes off dictatorial. Doesn't he?

KN: Firstly, I consider myself a complex individual who is never afraid to speak his mind, backed by meticulous attention to detail. So, whenever I saw anything wrong with something Job did or said, I would address it accordingly in a similar fashion to how he would when I was wrong. It was always a matter of agreeing to disagree between us, which I firmly believe hasn't changed due to my political decision.

NT: Dr Elijah Ngurare is held in high esteem by the youth in this country. Having gone through what he has gone, what were your reactions when VP Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah brought

him in as part of the 10 people that she appoints?

KN: I was flabbergasted because a new standard for transparency and accountability has been set with the appointment of Dr. Elijah Ngurare and I view it as a tangible outcome that can be seen and felt by the Namibian youth well before the elections. We consider Dr. Ngurare a leader with in-depth transformational philosophies necessary to ensure that the government directs our finite resources disproportionately to areas where the dejected masses of our people most need them.

NT: Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah says she does not want to lead a divided nation and has appealed to those who have left SWAPO to return. Is this one of the reasons you have decided to rejoin SWAPO?

KN: Absolutely, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah strongly encourages our collective disdain for tendencies that alienate and divide us, urging real steps towards inclusivity. This includes boldly addressing disparities and bridging the gap between the haves and have-nots, supported by efficient administrative machinery in both the public and private sectors.

NT: If you were to meet Amupanda today, what will you tell him?

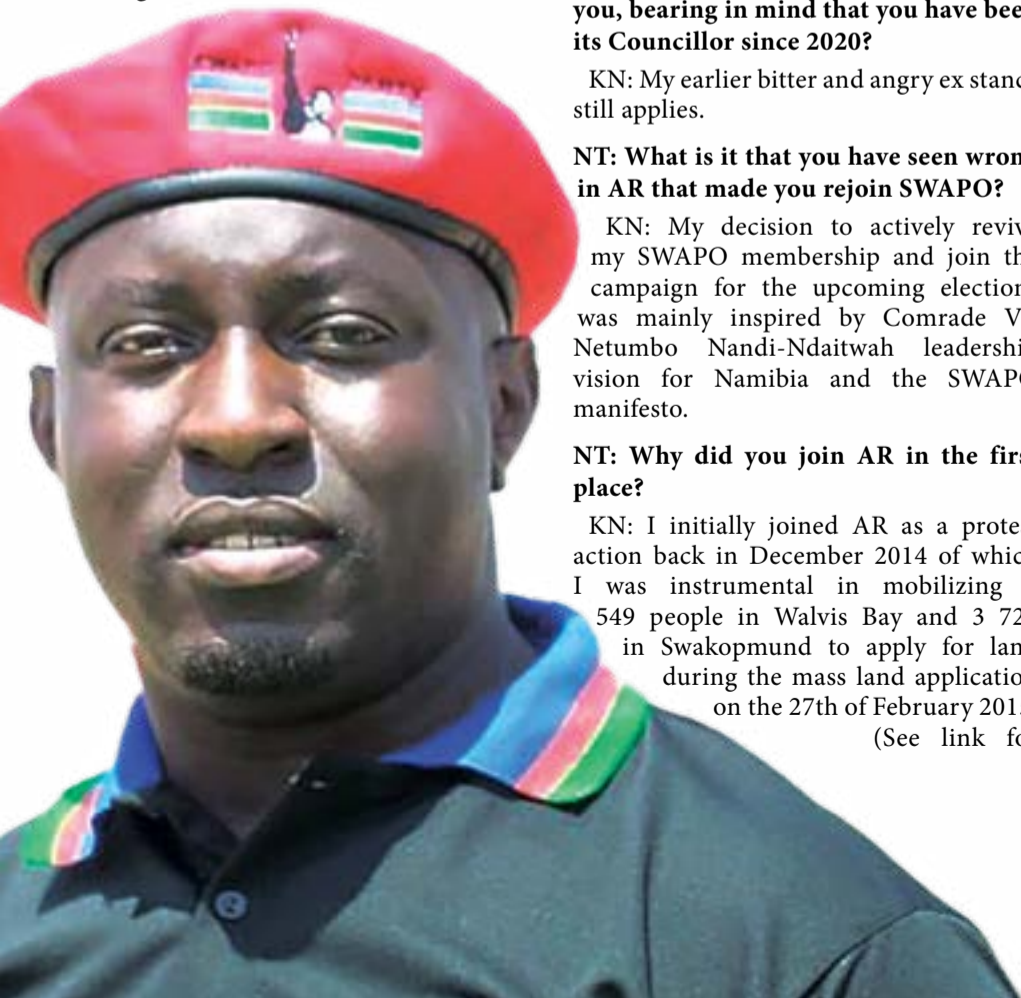
KN: I'll wish him the best of luck for the upcoming elections.

NT: What is that you think will kill AR?

KN: Reactionary politics and struggles for power are prioritized over addressing socio-economic challenges. Their weak connections to societies, especially in the South, and their failure to develop an ideology that would enable them to effectively control their diverse supporters and minimize conflict among rural and urban supporters are evident.

NT: You have been warmly welcomed back in SWAPO. What message do you have to other young people, especially those who are not yet members of SWAPO?

KN: My welcome back was a clear demonstration of the transformation happening within SWAPO under the



Knowledge Ndunge from page 5

competent, focused, and committed leadership of Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. It directly spoke to a section within her leadership vision for Namibia, which reads: "As a nation, we can rise above sloganeering and clichés and genuinely embrace one another in the true spirit of brotherhood, irrespective of our religious convictions, political persuasion, social standing, cultural orientation, educational achievement, and philosophical ideology."

After the Erongo start rally, I had the privilege of being invited to engagements with expectant youth, church elders, the business community, fishermen, and taxi drivers. My core message to them has consistently been that to meaningfully change our economic trajectory requires

strong political leadership, a calm demeanor, and diplomacy, which we can find exclusively in Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Her pragmatic leadership style means that as a country, we should not try to reinvent the wheel but implement honesty through sustained efforts to restructure, change the culture, and train and educate the civil service.

NT: How do you see the future of SWAPO and the country with Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah in charge?

KN: Firstly, it is very important to realize that Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's Presidential journey won't be easy because her leadership philosophy is challenging the status quo and there will be powerful individuals and politically connected groups who will fight hard to prevent the changes that she'll be commanding during

her term in office.

As witnessed throughout the star rallies, SWAPO is regaining public confidence through Cde Netumbo's leadership. I have no doubt that she will genuinely address issues of dignity, showing compassion and care for fellow citizens, especially those disadvantaged, by raising the living standards of low-income households and improving their economic value.

Among the finer political arts is for Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah and those on the SWAPO parliament list to focus on electorates that invest in the future, rather than merely engaging in the political calculations of the moment. This approach is crucial for developing long-term support for reform, especially through creating an education system that inspires a culture of work ethics and excellence and appreciates the

value of providing quality services and a competitive workforce.

NT: How would you describe Cde VP Nandi-Ndaitwah? What sort of uniqueness do you see in her?

KN: I see a unique president utilizing a full range of personal diplomatic skills, strong execution, and attention to the details of transparent governance, guided by commercial principles rather than short-term political impulses.

NT: Finally, come November 27, people will vote. What is your message to the voters?

KN: Let's go to the polling stations in large numbers to confidently vote for unity in diversity through the inclusiveness offered by the SWAPO party and our Presidential Candidate, Cde Netumbo



SWAPO Party star rally in Walvisbay two weeks ago where Cde Knowledge Ipinge joined SWAPO.

Thoughts of Kristian Ngendina Auene

How to bring about youth employment

By Kristian Ngendina Auene

As Namibia prepares to step into a new chapter in its political history, the potential presidency of Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah marks a turning point - one that promises not only to elevate the status of women in leadership but also to implement transformative policies aimed at combating youth unemployment. Set to take office on March 21, 2025, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah has the opportunity to harness the nation's resources, creativity, and resilience to forge a path toward sustainable economic growth that prioritizes the hope and aspirations of the youth.

Namibia has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world, a situation exacerbated by a combination of historical inequalities, a mismatch between education and market needs, insufficient economic diversification. The youth - the backbone of the country - face a daunting future when faced with limited job opportunities and an education system that often fails to equip them with the necessary skills for the modern job market.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, as the first female president of Namibia, possesses a unique blend of experience and vision. Her leadership can steer the nation towards

innovative solutions that not only address the symptoms of unemployment but also tackle its root causes. Here are key universal strategies recommended for Preconditions to Take-Off Economic Stage countries that Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's government can deploy:

1. Skills Development and Education Reform: It is imperative that Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's administration prioritizes a comprehensive reform of the education system. This includes aligning Curriculum with market demands, investing in vocational training, and promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. By fostering a skillset that meets the needs of modern industries, the development gap between education and employment can be bridged.

2. Entrepreneurship and Small Business Support: Encouraging youth entrepreneurship must take center stage in Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's policy agenda. Establishing accessible funding mechanisms, mentorship programs, and incubators for young entrepreneurs can stimulate job creation. By creating an environment where youth are supported in pursuing their business ventures, Namibia can harness the entrepreneurial spirit that exists among its young population.

3. Public-Private Partnership (PPPs): A strategic alliance with the private sector can drive job creation. Encouraging PPPs to invest in local industries can lead to community-driven projects that employ youth while contributing to skills development. This partnership approach will attract local and foreign investment, providing a dual benefit of job creation and economic diversification.

4. Harnessing Technology and Innovation: In today's digital revolution age, leveraging technology for economic development is essential. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah should focus on policies that promote digital literacy, innovation hubs, and access to broadband in rural and urban areas alike. By fostering a tech-savvy youth workforce, Namibia can positively position itself as a competitive player in the global digital economy.

5. Youth Empowerment and Effective Participatory Governance: Finally, it is crucial that Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah involves the youth in governance processes. Establishing councils where young people can voice their concerns and ideas will not only empower them but also ensure that policies are reflective of their needs. This participatory governance model can instill a sense of ownership, belonging, and responsibility among the

youth, motivating them to engage more meaningfully in societal development.

As Namibia transitions into this new phase of economic development model, managing change effectively is paramount. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's government must communicate the Manifesto transparently and engage all stakeholders - from community leaders to educators, from private sector players to the youth themselves. Building trust and fostering collaboration will be essential for the successful implementation of her policies.

Her leadership as a female president alone needs a powerful message to young Namibians, particularly young women, that barriers can be broken and that leadership is accessible to all. This, in itself, is a vital step toward changing perceptions and inspiring youth to aspire to roles that make a difference in their communities.

This potential administration represents not just a change in leadership but a profound opportunity for Namibia to cultivate a prosperous, equitable and vibrant society, energized by its youth. The journey ahead may be challenging, but under Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's leadership, the prospects for change have never been more promising.

Shipwikeneni from page 2

proceedings are abusive and a waste of judicial resources," said Cde Shaningwa.

Lawyer Titus Iipumbu, representing the applicants, pleaded for more time against the deadline he himself had set. Lawyers Namandje and Kasper objected, arguing that the case be dismissed with costs because it was not procedurally brought before the Court.

Cde Namandje argued that the "urgency" in the application was "self-created," saying that this was an "abusive and frivolous application" for many reasons.

"He brought this application without regard to the respondents' rights to a fair trial, as a result of the fact that he was not vigilant enough to protect this right much earlier," argued Cde Namandje. "In those circumstances, this court has no obligation to assist him when he comes to court belatedly and in an abusive manner."

In the pending application due to be heard in the High Court at the end of this month, Shipwikeneni had issues with the decision made by the SWAPO

Party Central Committee in March to hold an extraordinary congress on 19 April next year. Shipwikeneni did not attack the decision itself, but only its implementation.

Namandje described Shipwikeneni as a "man of contradictory choices and erratic steps in litigation. The March Central Committee meeting also decided to authorize SWAPO Secretary General, Cde Shaningwa, or any other leader authorized by the Politburo, to submit the nomination of the Party's presidential candidate as required by the Electoral Act. This decision is also not being challenged by Shipwikeneni.

"The decision of the first respondent's Central Committee, highlighted above, is also not challenged in these proceedings, and therefore will remain extant and binding, even assuming that Shipwikeneni were to succeed with the relief sought herein. On this basis alone, Shipwikeneni's application is in a precarious legal position. It is legally frail," said Namandje.

Shipwikeneni argued that the decision to hold an extraordinary congress next year "amounted to a flagrant violation" of the

SWAPO Party's Constitution. He said the Central Committee did not only breach the Constitution of SWAPO, but acted "unfairly, unreasonably, irrationally and capriciously." He wanted that decision to be reviewed and set aside.

"Consequent to such unfortunate violation, the second respondent, with full knowledge and or acquiescence of the first respondent, commenced a nationwide campaign to introduce herself to the general public that she is a presidential candidate of the first respondent in the Presidential election, which is slated on 27 November 2024," Shipwikeneni argued.

"No doubt, the first respondent intentionally ignored the peremptory provisions of Article 15 of the (SWAPO) Constitution, in favour of the second respondent, in order to eliminate possible contestation for the vacant position of the President. Such stratagem, I so submit, amounts to a grave breach of the internal rules and, accordingly, must be reviewed and set aside," said Shipwikeneni.

"Shipwikeneni's case is, with respect, hopelessly flawed. His cynical belief that the Central Committee decision is invalid

is based on a poor understanding of the law on the subject. His cases will soon snowball into a costly legal mess," said Namandje. "Once a notice of opposition has been filed, and in the absence of a proper amendment of the notice of motion, (timeously served on all respondents), Shipwikeneni's application should be removed from the roll, alternatively be struck from the roll with costs."

Namandje said it was the duty of the legal practitioner of an applicant in an urgent application to amend the notice of motion issued by eJustice so as to align with his wishes as far as time periods and other terms of the notice of motion were concerned.

"Shipwikeneni made a choice and an election to provide in the notice of motion that the application will only be moved on 14 October 2024 if no notice of opposition is filed. He is bound by his procedural choice and election," remarked Namandje.

The case was then struck off the roll with costs. The five applicants are Shipwikeneni himself, Petrus Shituula, Joshua Martins, Erich Shivute, and Aina Angula.

Refrain from violence, Namandje

By Staff Reporter

SWAPO Politburo and Central Committee member, Cde Sisa Namandje has once again appealed to Namibians to refrain from violence and campaign peacefully as they prepare for the elections on November 27.

Speaking at a mini rally held in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency in Khomas Region over the weekend, Cde Namandje said Namibians should seriously be concerned when they heard reports of some people resorting to violence during election campaign activities.

"We must all reject, repudiate and condemn all instances of election violence. Everyone must be encouraged to undertake political activities in the most peaceful manner," said Namandje.

Cde Namandje also took a swipe at some social media users who abused such platforms in a manner that posed a fundamental threat to the integrity of the electoral processes. He strongly condemned this culture of organized

disinformation in election campaigns.

"Fake news entrepreneurs in our midst, short of inspiration to do constructive things, pose a real danger to the very essence of human dignity and peace of mind. Our people are continuously subjected to the grossest abuse through fake news. The targeted victims are mostly our senior leaders and well to do members of our society," he said.

"It is troubling that insult-based public discourse has unfortunately squeezed out mature robustness of thought and delicacy of feeling. We must accept that in such a toxic and lie-infested environment driven by malice-ridden political agendas of some, there is unfortunately not much space left for constructive ideas to flourish, particularly during the election campaign.

"The opportunity presented by social media, which was created for advancing constructive interests and ideas of society, is regrettably being used by the rumour and gossip entrepreneurs amongst us. During an election season, this poses a

serious danger to peace and democracy in our country. We must all abhor the industrialization of fake news by few in our society."

In his campaign message, Cde Namandje reminded SWAPO members not to be made to downplay or forget the SWAPO Party's accomplishments, achievements and impressive record in fighting for the interests of the people of Namibia. Every freedom Namibians enjoyed today, Cde Namandje said, had the SWAPO fingerprint all over.

He singled out the flourishing legal system and the respect for the rule of law, the impressive infrastructure in the water, road and land sectors. Those achievements were recorded despite severe challenges such as droughts and the absence of certain infrastructures that did not exist at independence.

Cde Namandje praised the SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, as the best and right person to lead Namibia to greater



From left to right: Lawyer Sisa Namandje, Lt General (Rtd) Martin Shalli and former Defence Minister, Peter Vilho, at Tobias Hayinyeko mini rally. On the table are cards of people who have joined SWAPO from opposition parties.

economic heights. He appealed to all SWAPO members and supporters to vote for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential candidate on November 27.

"As SWAPO members, we can only assure Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah that we want her to succeed. We want her to have a strong government. We want her to have a competent government. We want her to have skilled, fair and effective administration," said Cde Namandje.

"We commit today, Meme Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, we will give you and the SWAPO Party a landslide victory. Numbers here today are testimony to our commitment to ensure that you and the SWAPO Party will emerge victorious. People will never forget SWAPO. People will never abandon the glorious movement. SWAPO is here to rule. Elections in and out - we will win."

REVIEW: FOOTPRINTS OF POHAMB A ONDJILA EI NDA ENDA

By Paul T. Shipale

As I was looking for an answer to the question in the famous Ndilimani Cultural Troupe's song 'Hifikepunye Pohamba Ndhira Dhipi Ohenda' and the title of his autobiography "The footprints of Hifikepunye Pohamba – Ondjila Eyi A Enda," or what I would rather title 'The Arduous Life Journey Pohamba Traversed' or 'The Pathways Pohamba Walked in' or even 'Retracing Pohamba's Footsteps,' I realised that the answer to the above question is none other than as what the son of former President Pohamba, Tulongeni Tutungeni Tudanaukeni Tuhafeni Pohamba, aptly put it that 'The book shows that the path of integrity can be rewarding in ways that cannot be measured.'

To me, it is all about the simple basic human virtues such as firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions and guide our conduct. The four cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life as they are acquired by human efforts and are the fruit and seed of morally good acts.

Above all, I think the answer to the question is about humility and modesty as Uncle Ben Amathila rightly said "President Pohamba has an element of solidarity in decision-making. It's reflected in the work he has done." This is exemplified when at the launch of his autobiography, former President Pohamba acknowledged the contributions of Namibia's Founding President and Father of the Nation, H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma, to his life achievements. "I would like to express my gratitude to my colleague, the founding president and father of the Namibian nation, Sam Nujoma, with whom I have shared many trials and tribulations, as you will discover while reading the book," he said.

Pohamba remarked that "It is perhaps no surprise that I was entrusted with the immense responsibility of filling his shoes, succeeding him as the second president of our nation. This role has been deeply challenging," he said. "That's my leader, the Founding President, and I also extend my gratitude to the other leaders," he added. By the latter, he meant people such as Uncle Ben Amathila, whom he also described as a humble person he met him in 1963.

He also referred to the Speaker Professor Peter Katjavivi and acknowledged his contribution to the SWAPO statement from Dar-es-Salaam, drafted by Peter Nanyemba, which ended by making it clear that SWAPO was now going to launch the Armed Liberation Struggle after the Hague International Court of Justice (ICJ) reversed its 1962 judgement which has found that it indeed "Had jurisdiction to adjudicate upon the merits of the dispute between South Africa and the two African members of the former league of Nations (the Empire of Ethiopia and the Republic of Liberia)".

Chapter 3 deals with the Contract Labour System and offers valuable insights into the narrator and others' debasing life as migrant workers due to the contract labour system which he joined through



People in their thousands filled Oshakati Stadium to capacity.

the South West Africa Native Labour Association (SWANLA) in Rundu and was selected to work for the copper mine at the Tsumeb Corporation Limited (TCL), situated in Tsumeb where he worked as a Clerk. At that time, the copper town of Tsumeb was a bustling beehive and a bastion of the working class or proletariats' revolutionary consciousness of the mine workers including the farm workers in the adjacent towns of Grootfontein, Otavi and Otjiwarongo while the coastal towns where reserved for fishermen and factory workers and Windhoek, the capital, was mainly for factory workers and services such as hotels and others.

Chapters 4 and 5 deal with the ignition of political consciousness and charting the inevitable pipeline into exile. The author's account of his escape from South West Africa into exile makes for pleasurable reading. Here, the narrator chronicles his escape and epic journey into exile which started on 5 August 1961 and he arrived in Dar-es-Salaam at night on 9 December 1961.

Chapter 11 of "the dog years towards independence" deals with the narrator's return home. Like in Founding President Nujoma's autobiography, merged into the chapter dealing with the narrator's home return is a rendition when he rushed home to Okanghudi to his father's home and was overjoyed to see his father, as a dream come true. His son Natangwe Mandume, whom he had met for the first time on his return, accompanied him to Okanghudi. The author also narrates when on 1 August 1989, his wife Kambocho and children (Hamukoto, Tulongeni and Kaupumote) arrived in Windhoek as part of the UNHCR repatriation programme and he collected his family from Döbra a few hours after their arrival and brought them to the house that was allocated to him by SWAPO in Windhoek, Eros.

The narrator had a front-row seat to the

saddest moment of his life as he recounted what he called 'Kuhangwa and Nelengani, a fork in the road.' This happened when Loius Nelengani, the then Vice President of OPO and then of SWAPO since it was founded in 1960, and Jacob Kuhangwa, who had been a founder member of the OPC in the 1950s and had been elected Secretary General of SWAPO at its founding in Windhoek in 1960, disliked each other and quarrelled. 'When they got into a physical fight, Nelengani fetched a sharp kitchen knife and stabbed Kuhangwa, injuring his spine so that he was paralysed from the waist down' Pohamba recounts. Kuhangwa later returned to Namibia before independence and died in 1993, and Pohamba attended his funeral at Odibo, together with the late Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo, Theo-Ben Gurirab and Moses //Garob.

The narrator again had a front-row seat to yet another contender for the saddest moment of his life as he recounted how he was very disappointed to see the late Hidipo Hamutenya insulting SWAPO saying 'SWAPO and Namibia had lost a sense of purpose and direction' and that there was an 'arrogance of power' the narrator said. Hidipo was one of the Comrades with whom he had worked for many years, both in exile and in independent Namibia. Hidipo was also Pohamba's best man while his wife Nangula was the maid of honour when Pohamba and his wife tied the knot on 17 August 1983 in Luanda, Angola. So, when Hidipo left SWAPO to form his own political party, the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) in 2007, Pohamba said he was sad about Hidipo's decision to leave SWAPO, the party he had helped to build.

In spite of these sad events, the book remains a living testimony of the narrator's irrepressible passion for freedom and boundless hope for his country Namibia. However, there seems to be a bit of

confusion when on the title or front cover page it is written "The official autobiography of Hifikepunye Pohamba as told to Ellen Ndeshi Namhila; Footprints of Hifikepunye Pohamba; Ondjila Eyi A Enda", in that this is primarily the story of a life, which reveals the inner man, as seen right throughout the book from chapter 1 when the narrator says 'My paternal family' to the last chapter titled 'My final chapter' where he concludes with the sentence 'Eyi Oyo (this is) Ondjila eyi Ndaenda' [sic].

One wonders why the writer's name appears on the title or front cover page and her picture inside the book instead of appearing at blurb of the book at the back cover. Secondly, I suggest that there should be a second edition of the book to look at the quality of printing from 284 to 293 and look at the parts of speech which need to be corrected, especially in terms of spelling, adjectives, adverbs and verbs, which at times are written together while in actual fact they need to be separated, to make sense of a particular sentence or word in Oshiwambo.

For instance, at page 13, 'Adalwa ku ina ewifa' the word 'Adalwa' is supposed to be written 'A dalwa' while the word 'Semuweda' is written 'She mu weda.' At page 73 'Vakwetu onghuwo yepongo oKalunga heyitondoka' the word 'heyitondoka' is written 'he i tondoka.' At page 87 'vamati va Mandume ya Ndemufayo, ohamba yetu yokayalambadwa, yokapekwa ya Melulo, otamudi peni?' the word 'otamudi peni' is written 'otamu di peni.' The last sentence of the final chapter 'Eyi Oyo (this is) [sic] Ondjila eyi Ndaenda' it is supposed to read 'Ei oyo ondjila ei nda enda.'

Just like in English, the Oshiwambo language also has pronouns, including reflexive, reciprocal, relative and conjunctive pronouns such as 'to liningi oshiyele' (you are fooling yourself) 'to liningi' is a reflexive pronoun, in the sentence 'you are fooling yourself,' 'you' is a pronoun, 'are' is an auxiliary verb, 'fooling' is the main verb and 'yourself' is a reflexive pronoun while 'one another and each other' are reciprocal pronouns.

All in all, the narrator's autobiography is a compelling portrait of a man whose entire life was a struggle for freedom. The book is made more poignant by the fact that it is written and published during the time former President Pohamba retired from active politics. The autobiography, co-written by the former Head of State, provides a retrospective reflection on his journey pre- and post-independence. It details his trials and tribulations in the quest to liberate the country, as well as challenges encountered and opportunities presented by specific conditions that led to the attainment of Namibia's independence.

Most importantly, it provides an answer to the question; which are the footprints of Hifikepunye Pohamba and form part of the African Pioneer Historiography. Thus, this is not just about 'memory politics' and 'patriotic history' but an autobiography that adds to the African and Namibian historical and biographical texts about the human struggle against oppression. Disclaimer: The opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of my employer and this newspaper but solely my personal views as a citizen.