Biko faces Okahandja head-on

SWAPO Councilor says ‘it is not business as usual’

By Asser Ntinda

“Okahandja: Welcome to the Garden Town,” reads a big signboard outside the town that greets visitors to Okahandja from Windhoek, the town still not visible, hidden behind long trees. A short drive past Five Rand, and a sharp turn to the left, then you are in Okahandja.

Okahandja is a town that has been gardening itself for many years in many ways. Its dreams are big, but so are its resolve and zeal to see them through. Problems are many and overarching, but its residents have not given up hope. Behind every dark cloud, they say, there is a silver lining.

Okahandja is a town on the move, ready to shake off the challenges that have been haunting it for many years. In February this year, it went through a grueling and taxing election campaign that catapulted young Steve Biko Booy to the highest Office in Okahandja Constituency.

Cde Booy is SWAPO Party Councilor for Okahandja Constituency. He cruised to victory at a supersonic speed in February, bruising eight opposition parties who had formed a coalition around the disgraced former Mayor of Okahandja, Kristofina Paulus, to “unseat” SWAPO Party from that Constituency.

Paulus stood as a candidate for the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP. For SWAPO Party, this was a blessing in disguise. Paulus is very unpopular in Okahandja Constituency. In fact, much of the mess in Okahandja was caused by her during her tenure as Mayor.

Thus, it was not difficult for SWAPO Party candidate to win the by-election hands down. Cde Booy also trounced independent candidate, Ben Katumila, who was expelled from SWAPO Party a few weeks before the election for not heeding the Party’s call for him to withdraw his candidature.

Campaign materials such as stickers and pamphlets are still visible on buildings and others structures, with Cde Booy’s portraits still hanging on walls and at shebeens at Five Rand and Oshetu informal settlements.

Cde Booy got most of the votes from these two settlements, each with a population of about 5000 people. He is still Councilor Steve ‘Biko’ Booys addressing one of the community meetings at Five Rand.

Photo by Anna Nakambale.

Businessman Titus Lukas. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

Gracia Miller Kindergarten, far back, will soon get a new face-lift. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

One of the vulnerable children being registered at Ileni Tulikwafeni Center at Five Rand. Councillor Steve ‘Biko’ Booys observes the registration process. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

Kalahari Holdings (Pty) Limited Group of Companies

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION

The Board, Management and Employees of Kalahari Holdings (Pty) Limited Group of Companies congratulate Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO Party, the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, the entire Leadership and the rank and file of the SWAPO Party on the 50th Anniversary of the SWAPO Party.

The formation of SWAPO on the 18th April 1960 ushered a new era in the fight against foreign occupation. It brought the struggle for national independence and territorial integrity to new heights. It culminated in the attainment of independence on the 21st March 1990.

The peace and stability that we enjoy today have their genesis in the events that gave birth to SWAPO. We enjoin this great family of SWAPO Party members, supporters and sympathizers in celebration this historic day.

Dr. Kalumbi Shangula
Executive Chairman