



Daily life at Five Rand – a woman draws water from one of the public water taps at Five Rand. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

hugely popular among the residents here, who waive at his car with the popular hand-clenched fists as he drives around, chanting “Viva SWAPO Viva!” and “Viva Cde Booy’s Viva!”

“My biggest battle starts here in these two informal settlements,” said Cde Booy’s. “I do not want to disappoint these people. Their expectations are very high. They have reasons to have high expectations. They deserve to live better. If they cannot live better in their own country, where else will they live better?”

“It is difficult to tell a hungry person to wait, but they should bear with us. We will overcome. This is a new dawn. It is not business as usual. We have taken measures to improve the people’s living standards. We will get there.

“Things may not change for the better as fast and soon as possible, but we are ready to tackle these challenges head on.



Okahandja Dumping site. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

We regularly hold consultative talks with various stakeholders on how to curb unemployment, eradicate poverty and fight crime. I can assure you that we will deliver on our promises.”

Cde Booy’s laundry list is long, but he has carefully marked some of the priorities

as urgent, and funds must be found to implement them sooner than later. One such priority is to provide proper sanitation facilities at Five Rand and Oshetu.

There are few and far between such sanitation facilities. Most of them are dug by people themselves and have no flushing water. Most of the people use the bush when nature calls, an ugly feature that sticks out like an eyesore on Cde Booy’s list of priorities.

Ileni Tulikwafeni Project at Five Rand is one of the fastest growing self-help projects there. With a small garden in its yard, the project now feeds 700 hundred children twice a day, from Monday to Friday. Most of these children are orphans and vulnerable ones.

The Head of Ileni Tulikwafeni Project, Kaunapawa Angula, says most of the children come here very distraught and thin, having eaten nothing for several days. She said that they grow pumpkins, maize and vegetables in

the garden, which they cook to feed those children.

Cde Booy’s says that Ileni Tulikwafeni tops the list of projects he wants to help finance. Another kindergarten, Gracia Miller Kindergarten, in the middle of Five Rand will also be financed through the Councilor’s Office. Fifty four

kids attend classes here. Esther Kashimbode, who set up Gracia Miller Kindergarten, charges N\$20 per child per month.

“But it is always difficult to get people to pay,” she says. “What can one do? Some people pay, others do not. It is only women who are struggling with their kids. Men just spend their money on alcohol. Few of them help their children.”

Community meetings are held regularly at Five Rand and Oshetu, but only women mainly attend. Men do not. Some of the issues they discuss are TB, HIV/AIDS, abusive boyfriends, adherence to medication and sexually transmitted diseases, STDs.

“Men do not like to attend meetings like this,” said one woman at Five Rand. “We can do more and will go very far in addressing these issues if we all attend meetings like this one. Many people do not adhere to their medication as instructed by nurses, especially those suffering from TB and those infected with HIV/AIDS.

“People need to be sensitized

to follow such instructions. Many people just dump their medicines home and continue drinking. We must sensitize people to take their medication seriously. The purpose of these meetings is to do just that.”

One project which may create jobs and empower the Okahandja residents, especially

the youth, lies at Okahandja’s biggest dumping site. Cde Booy’s says he has extensive discussions with recycling experts who would team up with locals to set up a recycling plant there on a partnership basis. Over 70 per cent of what is dumped at Okahandja Dumping Site is recyclable.

“No white man should just come and set up a recycling plant here alone. They should team up with locals. We want community members to get involved in this industry,” says Cde Booy’s. “We do not want someone to buy out the project and just employ people. We want it to be done on a partnership basis so that we can empower our people. Discussions are still going on and very soon we will strike a deal.”

Cde Booy’s says he has also spoken to one farmer in the Okahandja area who has indi-

cated his willingness to help small farmers in this constituency. Cde Booy’s says his intention is to get this farmer into partnership with government to facilitate this process.

The farmer has enough land to sell to the government. This project, he says, will kick off very soon. Extensive discussions have also been held with officials from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Okahandja and prospects are good. Titus Lukas is a businessman at Five Rand. He takes off his hat for Booy’s. “Things are moving,” he says. “Now we have a councilor who is always with the people, listening to their problems. That is what we need. He is helping people. The project proposals he has up his sleeves are great. We are on course.”

Cde Booy’s says one of the challenges facing small and

medium businesses is how to win tenders and enlarge their businesses. He says his hope is to break that barrier and bring them on board.

“Our people are being left out because they do not know how to tender,” he says. “We need to empower them by guiding them through tender procedures so that they too can win tenders. That is our responsibility. We cannot just condemn shebeens and say they are bad.

“We must offer alternatives. People earn a living from shebeens. Let us make a difference by showing them alternatives. We should work together as a team. Our people deserve to live better. Let that be our long-term objective. We will deliver on our promises. Bear with us. We will get there. The journey may take longer than expected, but we will certainly get there.”



Councilor Steve ‘Biko’ Booy’s with one of the kids at Five Rand. Photo by Anna Nakambale.



Some people have started squatting at Okahandja Dumping Site. Photo by Anna Nakambale.



Ileni Tulikwafeni garden where the project produces maize and vegetables to feed orphans and vulnerable children. Photo by Anna Nakambale