hugely popular among the resi-
dents here, who waive at his car
with the popular hand-clenched
fists as he drives around, chant-
ing “Viva SWAPO Viva!” and
“Viva Cde Booys Vivaa!”

“My biggest battle starts here
in these two informal settle-
ments,” said Cde Booys. “I do
not want to disappoint these
people. Their expectations are
very high. They have reasons
to bear with us. We will overcome.

“Things may not change for
long, but he has carefully
promises.”

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, ad-
vising on medication and sexu-
ally transmitted diseases, STDs.

“We must offer alternatives.
Men do not like to attend
meetings like this,” said one
woman at Five Rand. “We can
do more and will go 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 suffer-
ing 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 cre-
ate jobs and empower the
Okahandja residents, especially
in the youth, lies at Okahandja’s
biggest dumping site. Cde
Booys says he has extensive
discussions with recycling ex-
perts 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 Dumps-
ing 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 in-
volved in this industry,” says
Cde Booys. “We do not want
someone to buy out the project
and just employ people. We
want it to be done on a partner-
ship basis so that we can em-
power our people. Discussions
are still going on and very soon
we will strike a deal.”

Cde Booys says he has also
spoken to one farmer in the
Okahandja area who has indi-
cated his willingness to help
small farmers in this constitu-
ency. Cde Booys says his in-
tention 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 discus-
sions have also been held with
officials from the Chamber of
Commerce and Industry in
Okahandja and prospects are
good. Titus Lukas is a business-
man at Five Rand. He takes off
his hat for Booys. “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 Booys 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 proce-
dures so that they too can win
tenders. That is our responsibil-
ity. We cannot just condemn
shebeens and say they are bad.
“We must offer alternatives.
People earn a living from
shebeens. Let us make a differ-
ence by showing them alterna-
tives. 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.”

Cde Booys’ laundry list is
marked some of the priorities
that we will deliver on our
promises.”

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

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

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

Okahandja Dumping site. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

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

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

Cde Booys’ laundry list is
long, but he has carefully
marked some of the priorities
the garden, which they cook to
feed those children.

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