

Born-frees speak out

Hear why they will vote for SWAPO Party



Born-free Martha Ndilimeke recites a poem written by Etuna Josua

Namibia

Here we are in the land of the brave

Where lens of mflennia ago, paintings were made in the caves,

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By Cde. Saara Kantene

Director of the proceeding, Distinguished guest and fellow comrades, good afternoon! My name is Saara Kantene representing the born frees In Tlhabannel 3 and Kahumba ka Ndola branches.

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By Cde. Sade Alcock

My name is Sade Alcock and I am a member of SAWPO. My family are members of SWAPO. I heard people say SWAPO is only a Party of black people, but how come I was accepted as a member of



Born-free Sade Alcock with De Walt at a SWAPO Party Rally. All photo by Levi Upula

SWAPO? This shows it is a BIG LIE. They say that only black people benefit in this country, but how come I also benefit? How come I also have citizenship?

Because of the SWAPO GOVERNMENT, thus

SWAPO, we experience:

No more apartheid. No more oppression. No more intimidation. If you are a hibernators please only two options, either you ship in or ship out once. We have freedom of movement and freedom of speech. We have

freedom of association. We have EDUCATION FOR ALL. There is massive infrastructural and other development in this country. We live in PEACE, UNITY and STABILITY.

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Bill

from page 1

tential opportunities that come with this Bill. It will make a dent in our fight against unemployment. There are huge opportunities in this industry, especially for the youth."

He said that people should recognize the need that the safety and security of the country and its citizens must be protected. The danger that cybercrime posed to national safety and security and that the Government should also not be underestimated.

Once President Hifikepunye Pohamba signs this Bill into law, which is likely to be soon, it will replace the Namibian Communications Commission Act which was passed in 1992. It also amends some sections in the Posts and Telecommunications Act, which was also passed in 1992, and will turn the Namibian Communications Commission into the country's new and independent Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia, CRAN, which will regulate the issuing of broadcasting licenses and allocation of frequency.

"Each service provider needs

a license and licenses are issued with conditions which should be adhered to. One of the conditions is to invest in rural areas. What is encouraging and pleasing is that this Bill calls for the setting up of the Universal Service Fund, USF which should drive the rolling out of development projects into rural areas. In other words, funds in the USF can be used for rural development," said Minister Kaapanda.

The Bill is divided into 10 chapters which deal with definitions, policy making, regulatory authority, availability of information, competition, telecoms licenses, universal service, facilitation of interception, broadcasting, postal services, radio spectrum management and domain space management.

But debates over the past months mainly centered around three areas: the creation and operations of interceptions centers; independence, operations and assets of the Communications Regulatory Authority, CRAN, and competition issues.

"It is a pity however," said Minister Kaapanda, "that the media created unnecessary confusion through sensational reporting regarding the facilita-

tion of interception by distorting facts about the interception centers. I want to point out that the requirement for a warrant to conduct interception is an absolute necessity based on the law that gives the right to intercept," he said.

He added that the distinction between creating a 'right to intercept' and to create the 'ability to intercept' had been cleared during the debates in both houses. "I want to re-iterate that the Communications Bill only created the 'ability to intercept' through appropriate infrastructure and does not create 'a right to intercept,'" he said.

The Minister said that it was not advisable to amend the National Central Security Service Act to include part Six of Chapter Five in the Act because the administration of communications industry would fall under the ambit of CRAN, which would regulate the communications industry.

Minister Kaapanda had also rubbished allegations that he had applied pressure to the National Council to pass the Bill without amendments, saying that the National Council was an independent body with statutory responsibilities to review bills sent to it by the National Assembly.

"I don't think that I have that influence to coerce the National Council to do things they have not debated and agreed on. Who am I to do that? What the National Council has done is their decision and theirs alone. What members of the National Council have done they have done it in a good frame of mind and good judgment. Their decision must therefore be respected. There was no pressure applied to them. To make such allegations amounts to insulting the integrity and independence of the National Council," said Minister Kaapanda.

PM calls for greater South-South America cooperation



Prime Minister Nahas Angula

Prime Minister Nahas Angula has called for greater and strengthened South-South America cooperation to enable developing countries to weather global problems that have negatively affected their economies, especially the global financial turmoil, wars and terrorism, climate change, drug-trafficking, and the spreading of communicable diseases.

Addressing the second Africa-South America Summit in Margarita Island, in Venezuela, Prime Minister Angula said that the world financial crisis which was fundamentally caused by greed and reckless trading had negatively affected many developing countries.

"The credit crunch and lack of effective demand for our products has led to contractions in our economic growth, unfavourable balance of payments and national deficits. The consequences of all these among others, are high unemployment rates, heightened poverty and social recession," he said.

While developing countries

were not responsible for this situation, he said, the Group of 20, which held its Summit recently, only talked about stimulating consumer demand in their own countries through bailouts and financial stimulus, something which developing countries should not take lightly.

"They totally ignore the plight of innocent victims. This Summit should express itself on this important matter. We must be compensated for the disruption of trade and investment. We need a financial stimulus to bolster our own balance of payment, reduce deficits and high unemployment," he said.

Things have also been made worse by unfavourable terms of trade imposed on developing countries by the global system, particularly the Economic Partnership Agreements the European Union, EU, was imposing on them. Such agreements, he said, seriously compromised developing countries' sovereignty in choosing trading and investment patterns through the

most favoured Nation restrictions.

They also limit developing countries' policy scope for industrialization by curtailing infant industry protection and export taxes on unprocessed products and destroy regional trade organizations by interfering with customs tariff regimes.

"Under such asymmetrical global trading regime," said Prime Minister Angula, "we must close ranks to cultivate South-South America Cooperation through trade and investment, technology exchange and political solidarity.

"The Africa-South America Cooperation Forum should provide a voice for peace, cooperation and international understanding. Namibia shall make every effort to promote Africa-South America cooperation on bilateral, regional and multilateral basis."

On climate change, he expressed concerns that most developing countries were being devastated by the impacts of climate change, which was responsible for droughts and floods, thus limiting their capacity to promote food security in their countries. Namibia now needs US\$500 million to rehabilitate its damaged infrastructure caused by heavy floods.

"Yet, our countries are the least polluters," he said. "We must make legitimate demands at the forth-coming Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change. A Fund to assist victims of climate change should be established to mitigate the impact of climate change."

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