

A realistic analysis of the Namibian political landscape

Ndapewa ya Kapia

With the elections close on our heels, I thought it befitting to present a realistic analysis of some important dynamics that characterize the 2009 elections in general and the political landscape in particular. If we are to be honest with ourselves we will admit that Namibia, as a young democracy, is today where many countries dream of being. If we are not economical with the truth we will further admit that the victory of the

SWAPO Party in the upcoming elections is guaranteed and the scramble for second place is on!

This opinion piece seeks to assert that the SWAPO Party identifies with the masses of this country by analyzing some of the players in the political landscape and the relevance (or often irrelevance) of their actions.

The past ten years have seen ambitious former comrades such as Ben Ulenga and Hidipo

Hamutenya, attempt to "change" the political landscape in attempts to console themselves affirm their personal beliefs that they were born to lead this country. The formation of COD and RDP, was in my opinion nothing less than an opportunity for Hidipo and Ulenga to rally their cliques behind them so that they could have better jobs and better titles before their names.

In contrast the SWAPO Party which has over the years developed

a relationship with the people, while opposition parties continue to ponder about what they may do if they ever got the chance to govern. They scramble for publicity, trying to decide who can come up with the best explanation for why SWAPO Party hasn't done this and why SWAPO Party hasn't done that.

Although not everything is perfect in Namibia, it is my conviction that opposition parties in this country are either in denial or they are being selective about the reality they accept. The SWAPO Party has through its government identified with the challenges faced by the masses in this country and has provided, in most cases tangible solutions that resonate with the demands of the citizenry. In other cases, sustainable solutions are being sought. Solutions that will genuinely over the long term, improve both livability and human development indices.

While the SWAPO Party attempts to foster social cohesion, Hidipo Hamutenya together with Jesaya Nyamu are strategizing on how to destroy the power of the "Omusati clique". This derogatory terminology was coined by RDP's chief conspirator in reference to the leaders in SWAPO who hail from the Omusati Region. It was later expanded to all sectors of society so that the citizenry develop a dislike for a group of people most of them know nothing about. As a daughter of Omusati I wish to clear the air on who Omusati is and why the "clique referred to is derogatory. The Oshiwambo language is comprised of eight dialects namely oshiKwambi, oshiNdonga, oshiKwaluudhi, oshiMbalantu, oshiKolonkadhi, oshiMbandja, oshiKwanyama and oshiNgandjera. Of the eight dialects of Oshiwambo, only two do not reside in the Omusati Region, namely the Ndonga and Kwanyama speakers. It comes as no surprise that when the RDP attempted to canvass for support in the Omusati Region last week they were met with aggression, by the grouping of people they have

cursed over the past two years as they flexed their muscle in attempts to gain power. It is a fact that the RDP was formed under the assumption that it would strengthen the influence of the Ndonga and Kwanyama speaking tribes, while alienating the so-called "Omusati clique". The majority of our citizens have however rejected this attempt at fragmentation of our united people. The by-election in Omuthiya and Eenhana bear testimony of this.

A retrospective glance at our political landscape over the past few years has shown that the majority of Namibians continue to rally behind the SWAPO Party as it has over the years and will continue to be the umbrella for Namibians from all walks of life.

It comes as a surprise that the Rally for Democracy and Progress continues to compare itself to SWAPO, as if it is an equal to SWAPO. Since Hamutenya is a political protégé of Ulenga, he should consult Ulenga. I have, however come to learn that consultation is not in Hamutenya's nature. The RDP is not an equal to SWAPO. Equally the RDP is not an equal to the COD and DTA as both have participated in elections which they garnered enough support to earn them seats in the National Assembly.

Opposition parties should not allow the RDP to dictate to them the terms under which they will participate in these elections, as this is done at the expense of the "well established" support of the twelve other contenders. The race for second place is on; it is only common sense that the new kid on the block should not dictate terms for anybody. We may recall failed attempts by the RDP to solicit support for a coalition of opposition, in which it would have Hamutenya as the President leading the coalition government.

After all the noise in the months leading up to the election, RDP has suddenly become mute. As the saying goes, desperate times call for desperate measures. This can be said of the RDP and its actions in

the past weeks to distract other opposition parties after failed attempts to have the elections postponed. The latest of its ploys was the decision to boycott the allocated free time from the NBC, opting instead to collude with the COD to take the NBC to court. What the RDP and COD Perhaps failed to realize is that NBC does not have to allocate free time. That was merely a gesture to enable even those who cannot afford to buy airtime to have their messages heard.

As we prepare to elect our fifth government, let us be honest with ourselves we will admit that victory is certain for the SWAPO Party in the November elections, since SWAPO remains the only party that the majority of our people relate to based on its historical background and the relationship it has built with the electorate over the past for elections.

The developmental agenda of the SWAPO PARTY, as it has been implemented over the past 20 years remains a clear testimony of the SWAPO-led Government's commitment to realizing the dreams and aspirations of its people. The majority of our people have vehemently rejected the numerous tribal-based family parties and continue to rally behind the heroes they know and love.

Our people refuse to be enticed by the Hengari's, Ya Nangoloh's and Diescho's of this world who feed them Aristotle, Plato and Socrates as if these philosophers mean anything tangible to our society. These citizens who only talk development but are not willing to involve themselves in anything other than criticizing the ruling party as if their criticism contributes one bit to feeding those living in poverty.

Let us remain cognizant of the fact that the forthcoming elections will teach us one thing, Namibia will continue to be built by those who have a genuine interest in our country and its development, among them the majority of our citizens and the Government they choose to relate to.

missions to individual citizens. These types of scholarships are exclusively administered by sponsoring countries. It must be pointed out that in some cases, such scholarships are offered directly to individual citizens while other countries sometimes do advertise. The adverts and short listing are exclusively done by sponsoring countries through their Embassies or High Commissions. The criteria they use is exclusively those of sponsoring countries. Some countries require the beneficiary or his or her parents/guardians to finance travel costs to and from the place of study and other related expenses. Others require parents or guardians to finance everything while such friendly countries only facilitate contact with the institution where the applicant is supposed to study as well as to arrange for things such as study permits.

All the scholarships reported through the print media fall under the above category. Such scholarships are NOT part of the scholarships offered to GRN. Beneficiaries and/or their parents or guardians are required to bear the cost of travel and other ex-

penses. Since, as already explained, such scholarships are offered on individual basis, it is difficult if not impossible for parents or guardians to know who else or whose child has been offered such scholarships. The scholarships are offered applying the laws and policies of sponsoring countries. With regard to the daughter of His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, the parents were informed by their daughter after she completed and submitted application forms to study her preferred course in China. After about three months, she received a positive response that her application to study at a University in China was successful. Her parents were never involved at any stage. A study fund created by her parents for her benefit was used to meet the condition of her study in China. I wish to add that she also applied to other universities outside Namibia including those in South Africa. The Chinese University offer or admission came first and therefore she ac-

Comments

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rades, Oranjemund, the Comrades will come. Aus, the Cromrades will be here.

Rosh Pinah, the Comrades will be present. Berseba, Tses, Karasburg, Aroab, Koes and Aussenker will dance with us the Ndilimani music.

SWAPO Always Victorious. We shall show them come 27-28 November 2009.

The born frees, SWAPO Party is a tested Party with a track record dated back from the struggle of our country, Where others wavered. A Party with visional leaders and test Comrades, who will continue to implement our political, economic & Social programmes. To eradicate poverty, diseases and ignorance among our people.

Therefore Comrades, born frees Vote SWAPO Party and Comrade Pohamba on 27-28 November 2009 to secure your future. Thank you Comrades!

◆ **Posted by ELIAKIM IINANE**
I WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE YOUTH TO VOTE FOR SWAPO PARTY BECAUSE ITS THE ONLY PARTY WE CAN TRUST. THE PARTY WITH VISIONAL LEADERS. VIVA H.E. PRESIDENT HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBAMBA, VIVA SWAPO PARTY!!!

◆ **Posted by Cde Mentor**
RDP is a provocative political party, what the did @ Outapi was uncalled for. I was there and we know what happened. The F word in Oshiwambo can cause fight if u insult some like that. The Namibia for Yesterday failed to focused on the root cause of the whole issue and the rather report only on SWAPO supporters. I challenge the reporter to go and interview the Meme who RDP people spoke and they wanted her to join RDP but when she refuse that is when the F word were used toward SWAPO and its leadership. Viva SWAPO viva and down to Provocation
Posted by Austin Samupwa
Let it be known: SWAPO shall again do it for all Namibians. It shall win the elections convincingly. Let the campaign go on... Viva SWAPO!!!!

◆ **Posted by Cde. Damases (Keetmanshoop**

The Great Karas region this weekend will be again blessed with the presence of the Father of the Namibia Nation, a freedom fighter, a man that stood firm where others wavered, a geologist, a former Chief Commander of Plan, a man who has been a President of the Mighty SWAPO Party of Namibia for 47 years and a leader of the Namibia Revolution. He will make his unwavering appeal to the people of the Great Karas region to vote for SWAPO Party and Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba on Saturday, 07 November 2009 at Joseph Stephanus Stadium at Tseiblagte in Keetmanshoop. The activities will start with Fish harvest on Friday, 06 November 2009 in Keetmanshoop as the Acquaculture was introduced by the SWAPO Government to eliminate poverty among our people, more Fish have been harvested in Namibia since the inception of Acquaculture. The people of the Great Karas region will vote for SWAPO Party and Comrade Pohamba on 27-28 November 2009. Come all Comrades, see you there. Aluta Continua!

◆ **Posted by Amunjela**
let me reiterate this; SWAPO = People, People = SWAPO, its a fact and come November 27/28 November 2009 we will add to the 2/3 Majority. If it hurts you can swallow the blade (ngu wu vite uudhingu pona owala okambi)

◆ **Posted by E..K.Z.A Beijing china**
we comrade around the world we support you in the election, just want to know are we voting at namibian embassy here in china? swapo 4ever swapo united. we show them this year

◆ **Posted by Setson Nashandi (Whk West, Windhoek)**
Cde. Imelda, you are definitely correct and yes this RDP aka RADOPA, aka Real Disappointed People, and in fact confused wanna be leaders! They are the enemies of progress and we have to throw them into dump sites at the ballot paper, and we will hit them with hammers on their faces come November Election. The born frees will come out aggressively with their votes they have reserved for our mighty SWAPO Party, and they can't wait to cast their votes to shut all those political projects without vision nor mission. They (Opposition) are dead already, only waiting for their burial on the 27/28 Nov 2009. VIVA SWAPO Party

◆ **Posted by Cde. Imelda**
Comrade Nashandi RDP stands for Real Disappointed People. They are so disappointed since 2004 extra ordinary congress, Mr. Livius Hamutenya, s dream could not be realized as he wanted to be President of the Mighty SWAPO Party and Namibia the land of the braves. The majority rejected him. He started his Political project, although he is unemployed telling people that he will create jobs for them. Karas region has shown them on Saturday, 31 October 2009. The Westdene Stadium was packed to its full capacity by the SWAPO members and supporters. DTA rally at Joseph Stephanus Stadium could not materialise, only few people show up. The born frees shall vote for the Mighty SWAPO Party and Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba on 27-28 November 2009 to secure their future. The house to house campaign implemented by RDP has failed in Eenhana, Omuthiya and Tobias Hainyeko. The Namibia People are ready to reject them again with their political cohorts. Aluta Continua!

◆ **Posted by Setson Nashandi (Whk West, Windhoek)**
I was so disturbed by one of the opposition party members, who entered my house, refusing to recognize that there is a very BIG SWAPO flag in my yard, this stupid people started telling me about their funny parties, I told them to find the door immediately and they kept on forcing me to listen to them. Only after I removed my weapon they left, my warning to this people is: I will injure anyone who intrude my territory with such stupid or unwelcome issues, and as usual you will run to the police again, be warned. My house and family have been, is still and will always be SWAPO. Keep your funny parties away please. VIVA SWAPO Party. Owu ino hala oSWAPO yetu, naa leli yetu, pona okambi.

◆ **Posted by Swapo Tuli (Windhoek, Namibia)**
SWAPO is the people, and the people are SWAPO, we believe in One Namibia One Nation. Those opposition political parties, oh no sorry I mean "Political Projects", must not even think of governing this beautiful country in decades to come, they will in fact remain in those dustbins they have been dumped in by the Namibian people. VIVA SWAPO Party VIVA! I am a Born free too and only SWAPO deserve my VOTE. Aluta continue!

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Republic (2), Russia (16) and Slovakia (1). These types of scholarships have different conditions, for example, in order to qualify, some countries require learners who are already proficient in the language in which the student is expected to study. Others require those who are already working to pursue post graduate studies in some cases up to a doctorate level and thereafter come back to Namibia and work in the public service. Some scholarships only cover certain expenses while the beneficiary is expected to pay for the balance, e.g. travel cost to and from the country of study as well as the cost of study materials. I wish to point out that in the last three years, China has offered GRN 40 scholarships. All these scholarships were awarded in accordance with GRN Education Policy.

The third and final category of scholarships are those which are offered DIRECTLY by the sponsoring countries through their Embassies or High Com-