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probably right in awarding the 2009 Nobel Prize to Obama. One only hopes that one day the US will exercise leadership to get rid of its nuclear arsenals so that others could follow. Another problematic area which is likely to cast a shadow of doubt on his conscience as a Nobel peace recipient and sitting US President is how he will mediate the Israel/Palestine peace. Will Obama succeed in bridging the gulf of opinion between the Israelis and Palestinians? When Obama became US President, the Middle East Peace was facing serious challenge as a result of Israel's aerial bombardment and incursion into Gaza strip, home to more than 1.5 million Palestinians. The bombardments and incursion left thousands of innocent Palestinians, mostly women and children dead. This horrific incident was followed by February 10, 2009 elections, which brought the right wing Likud Party into power. Presently, the US and its partners in the Middle-East are trying hard to portray Iran as a negative force in the region, while the Israel government is being portrayed positively as always. Obama needs to draw a line and impress upon the Israel

government to commit itself to peace and avoid taking counterproductive steps. When Obama delivered a speech in Cairo-Egypt on 4 June 2009, which was aimed at the Muslim populations in the world, it was welcomed with unprecedented enthusiasm. Through his speech, Obama presented himself as a pragmatist stressing the need for a new beginning between the United States and the Muslim world. He reminded his audience that **"So long as our relationship is defined by our differences, we will empower those who sow hatred rather than peace, and who promote conflict rather than the co-operation that can help all of our people achieve justice and prosperity"**. Mohammad Ali Abtahi, former Iranian Vice President under President Mohammad Khatami, called the speech **"compensation"** for a hostile environment created by Bush. Why President Obama dropped a demand for an Israeli settlement freeze is not all that clear and whether this makes his efforts easier or difficult is equally hard to tell. His affirmation acknowledging Iran's right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes appears to have earned good dividends. At a meeting earlier this month in Geneva, with Five Permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, Iran

agreed to open its newly disclosed nuclear plant to U.N. inspectors. On the contrary, while the US and its allies exert pressure on Iran or North Korea, it maintains a decades-old U.S. policy on Israel of **"don't ask, don't tell"**. The

U.S. administration of President Barack Obama will not force Israel to state publicly whether it has nuclear weapons provided they do not conduct nuclear test or reveal it publicly. This contradicts his stated vision of a world without nuclear

weapons.

Obama has just added to his résumé, 2009 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, therefore, at this proud moment in his life, he must be congratulated. At least he has succeeded in what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr said **"to**

hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope".

Jeroboam Shaanika is a Namibian civil servant, however, the views expressed here do not reflect that of the Namibian government, but entirely his own.

SWAPO

from page 1

spread by the leadership and their foot soldiers about the Party and what it stands for are filtering through to all Namibians. Our message is clear. The SWAPO Party is seeking the mandate of the Namibian people to lead the Government for the next five years, commencing March 2010, to continue with the implementation of its development programmes. As set out in the SWAPO Party Government Vision 2030, our goal is to achieve an industrialized nation by the year 2030. The SWAPO Party Government has employed experts and methods which are well tested and tried over a period of decades who have proven success. Despite the fact that our development programmes may be encountered by pitfalls and shortcomings, all remedial and corrective measures have been built in to address such problems that may occur.

Here I wish to call on all Namibians who desire to join the SWAPO Party not to hesitate but do so immediately to strengthen even more the position of our Party to bring about the necessary development so much a prerequisite to the improvement of the lives of all Namibians and of a better society in total harmony with itself. I wish to assure all those who want to join the SWAPO Party to approach our offices and leaders from sections, to branches, to districts, to regions and the Headquarters in Windhoek. It is only in the SWAPO Party that all Namibians can feel homage, honoured, privileged, revered, respected and the ultimate worth of human belongingness,

I also take this opportunity to call on all the rank and file of the SWAPO Party to intensify the campaign by mobilizing and educating all Namibians to vote for the SWAPO Party come the elections. They must be, especially, work day and night to accommodate and attract more new members to the

Party, render such new members all the assistance necessary and ensure that they have understood the realistic and true development gospel as reasons for joining our noble and purposeful Mighty organization.

Just, last week, the Department of information and Mobilization and the Sub-Committee on Information, Publicity and Voters Education for the Preparations of the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly Elections very successfully organized a Workshop for High Level Regional Leadership of the SWAPO Party which took place at Greiter's Hotel Conference Center just outside of Windhoek. The workshop took a postmortem of the prevailing situation on the ground regarding the campaign, devised new strategies for campaigning and shared information on best practices on effective campaigning, especially on how the SWAPO Party can utilize the unmatched huge masses it possesses.

The SWAPO Party has the responsibility towards our people and is fully committed

to the fulfillment of the mandate entrusted it by the fine citizens of this land of the brave. We will continue to safeguard the hard won independence of Namibia, peace and stability and, further, continue to foster unity and harmony amongst our people. The SWAPO Party good conduct during this election campaign is a testimony towards achieving this noble goal. It is only through an atmosphere of peace and stability that our people's lives will be improved and a developed and prosperous Namibia can be realized.

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Namibia
Today.
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informed.**

TRUE OR FALSE

66 Meatco's price structure for cattle north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) is different from those south of the VCF. **99**

True

False

Meatco uses a UNIFORM pricing structure for ALL PRODUCERS in Namibia, whether they're communal farmers (north and south of the VCF), emerging farmers or commercial farmers.

Carcass pricing is derived from market prices achieved for Meatco products sold into all markets. Carcass prices are based on the different grades (quality) of cattle delivered to Meatco as determined by the Namibian National Grading system administered by Meat Board inspectors at each of Meatco's export abattoirs including Oshakati and Katima Mulilo. This is a national grading system and not a Meatco grading system.

Eg. A farmer selling a B2 graded animal in Oshakati will get the same price as a farmer who sells a B2 graded animal at Okahandja, Windhoek or Katima Mulilo (given that the weight is the same). This is despite the fact the meat from the NCA does not enter any of high value markets e.g. EU and most recently the RSA.

As is internationally the case, younger and good quality carcasses will get better prices than older, leaner and light weight carcasses. This same principle

applies in Namibia at all Meatco abattoirs. Additional contract premiums have been paid in the past to ALL producers who have entered into supply agreements with Meatco and who performed against those agreements.

Meatco has been paying an ADDITIONAL 50c/kg to all producers in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA) above the base price, even when they did not have supply agreements with Meatco. The NCA producers had thus had an additional benefit of 50c/kg above commercial, emerging and communal producers south of the VCF.

Meatco's cattle prices have been the highest in the Southern African Region for years. Last year alone, Meatco paid ALL PRODUCERS who slaughtered with Meatco a total of N\$ 183 million above the equivalent South African prices. (verified by external auditors for 2007 & 2008)

In conclusion: although the beef products produced in the NCA are not exported to the European Union (as a result of the Veterinary status of the area), producers in these regions are paid the same price, cent for cent, for their products as those producers farming south of the VCF. NCA producers are therefore subsidised heavily by Meatco and producers south of the VCF - NCA producers benefit directly from the profits made by Meatco in the European Union.

The price list is published weekly in most Namibian newspapers and on the Meatco website.

