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RDP admits it is in 'crisis'

'Official says only miracles will save it in 'coming elections'

By Asser Ntinda

The Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, has finally admitted that it is faced serious political infightings, logistical problems and lack of funds which are likely to seriously compromise its performance in the upcoming Regional and Local Authorities' elections slated for November.

A leaked internal document addressed to RDP's national leadership speaks of a party in a biting political crisis, barely less than three years after RDP



Feeling the heat
Hidipo Hamutenya
was formed with great fanfare and euphoria that with its coming into being, SWAPO Party



Kandy Nehova
could "finally kiss its two-thirds majority goodbye."
One local political scientist,

Professor Andre du Pissani, described the formation of RDP in November 2007 as "a political earthquake" never seen in the history of SWAPO and was set to "shake" Namibia's political landscape.

The document, addressed to Kandy Nehova, was written by RDP's Regional Secretary for Kunene Region, Maleachi Ilonga, and covers the activities of RDP in Kunene Region from October last year to June this year. Nehova is in charge of the RDP's Department of Organization and Political Orientation.

It uses Kunene Region as a case study, which can reveal similar weaknesses and problems RDP faces in other regions. Ilonga admits that RDP is in a crisis of funds and that the party's appeal has taken a nosedive that would be difficult to revive and will cost it dearly in coming elections.

The document has summery report of RDP's activities in each of the six constituencies that make up Kunene Region, adding that with such problems, it would be "a far-fetched dream" to win in the coming

elections.

"The spirit and morals of our members has dropped extremely to a shocking low," said Ilonga in the 13-page report. "There is therefore a need for a wake-up call for the party to bring back the vuma (sic) of 2009. At present, they (party structures) have become white elephants...."

"On many occasions, we requested funds from head office but were told 'no funds' available. There is also communication breakdown between the

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School named after Ekandjo

By Staff Reporter

Olukekete Combined School in Omusati Region has been renamed Jerry Ekandjo Combined School, thus honouring one of Namibia's liberation youth icons who spearheaded and led the youth inside the country in the crucible of the struggle for Namibia's independence in the 1970s and 1980s.



Cde. Jerry Ekandjo
The School is at Ohama Village in Outapi Constituency in Omusati Region. Regional and Local Government, Housing

and Rural Development Minister, Jerry Ekandjo, was so overwhelmed that he admitted that neither words nor gifts would ever repay such a gesture to match his true appreciation.

He considered the renaming of the school as a tribute to the journey he had travelled in his life in the service of the Namibian people. He said that whatever he had done had only been made possible by the assistance, contribution and guidance by the people he had been with in his life.

Minister Ekandjo was first

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Outgoing Chairperson of SADC, DRC's President Joseph Kabila, and incoming SADC Chairman, President Hifikepunye Pohamba. Photo by Levi Upula.

'Help me succeed,' pleads new SADC Chair

By Staff Reporter

President Hifikepunye Pohamba has appealed to the local business community to help him successfully implement decisions and resolutions made at the last summit of the Southern African Development Community, SADC, which ended in Windhoek on Tuesday with him as Chairperson of SADC.

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