



"You deserve this." President Hifikepunye Pohamba awarding the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal to Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma.

SADC

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The President made the remark on Wednesday during a surprise birthday luncheon secretly organized by the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NCCI. He said that economic integration dominated the discussions during their three-day summit.

"Economic integration dominated our discussion," he said. "Economic integration is good for you. It is good for Southern Africa. It is good for everybody. One year is a short time, but with your support, we will make progress."

President Pohamba takes over as Chairman of SADC for a one-year period. He took over

from President Joseph Kabila of DRC, at a time when SADC is deep in discussions on how to integrate the economies of its 15-member states, with a combined population of about 300 million people.

Participants pointed out that decisions taken and resolutions made would have an impact on the lives of the people in the region, and, once implemented successfully, would accelerate and advance the socio-economic development, maintain peace and improve security in the region.

The SADC leaders made an in-depth and comprehensive evaluation of the existing projects and programmes, and agreed that while some projects were on course, others needed to be expedited in order to

achieve set goals.

"We share a common concern that the level of intra-trade and investment, as well as the ease of movement of people, goods and services across borders among our countries does not reflect the deep and solid political relations that exist between and among our countries and people. I therefore urge that we rededicate ourselves to address this anomaly," said President Pohamba when he closed the Summit.

President Pohamba reaffirmed Namibia's unyielding commitment to the founding ideals of SADC, saying that during his tenure of office, he would work hard to strengthen cooperation among the member states and confront and solve their common chal-



First Zambian President, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, being awarded the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal by President Hifikepunye Pohamba.



Brigadier General Hashim Mbita receiving the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Award from President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

lenges.

The Summit came to life when President Hifikepunye Pohamba had the honour to award the Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal to the first President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma and Ambassador Brigadier General Hashim Mbita of Tanzania for the role they played in the liberation of Africa in general and southern

Africa in particular.

"I made history during this SADC Summit," said President Pohamba. "I made history because I had the honour to put medals around the neck of former Zambian President Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

"I had the honour to put that medal around the neck of Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma. I had the honour to put that medal around the neck of

Brigadier General Hashim Mbita, who served as Chairperson of the Liberation Committee of the then Organization of Africa Unity, OAU. To me this was history. These are illustrious sons of Africa who sacrificed their early lives for the liberation of Africa. We will honour them forever."

The OAU has now been replaced by the African Union.

the spirit of the struggle and found myself fully engrossed in the activities of the SWAPO Party.

"I am proud to have played a part in contributing, although in small measures, to our liberation struggle. I attribute my modest achievements to the teachers, spiritual leaders, community leaders and elders who I have encountered to have

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elected SWAPO Secretary for Youth in 1970, largely because of his unwavering commitment to political activism, spreading the gospel of SWAPO inside the country, and urging the youth to take part in the liberation struggle.

He considers his election as SWAPO Secretary for Youth in 1970 as his major entry into liberation politics which had taken him all the way to the positions that he occupies today, adding that SWAPO Party was the Party that liberated him and brought about freedom and independence.

"During the years of my youth," he said, "I was one of those who were swept away by

factors (sic).

"The district secretary got a full time job and left the office while the memberships (sic) spirit drop after elections. SRdp (sic) obtained +/- 200 votes in this place....

"Rdp (sic) received around total (sic) 400 votes during the November elections (in Khorixas), which is below expectation compared to the total membership data of around 700 members. This district is in dire need of funds and transport to compete against SWAPO and UDF."

What is very interesting is that DRP, according to Ilonga's report, is now in talks with the United Democratic Front, UDF, of Justus Garoeb to form a coalition. But it also says its office in Khorixas "needs funds

and transport" to compete against SWAPO and UDF.

With the closure of its office in Kamanjab, RDP, the document reveals, has no offices in Khorixas, Sesfontein, Opuwo and Epupa. Among the shortcomings RDP is facing in Kunene Region are lack of funds and transport to travel throughout the region, absence of administrative support from national head office and late receive (sic) of directives from head office.

"Character assassinations and backstabbing from some individuals in the party, especially in the region" were the order of the day, and lack of support for leaders assigned with funds to visit the region," cited the document.

In an effort to revive its dented image, RDP is now planning to hold a "mass rally" slated for October 2nd this year, which will apparently be addressed by RDP's President Hidipo Hamutenya.

"It is too late for Hidipo to do anything," said one SWAPO Party leader. "He has already shot himself in the foot.

RDP is finished. No magic wand solution to revive. No miracle will save RDP from the humiliating defeat that awaits it. All he can say now is that at least he has tried."

RDP

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Regional leadership and the districts due to lack of permanent party offices and party paid communication mode."

Ilonga's internal document revealed that RDP's office at Kamanjaba had closed down. During last year's National Assembly and Presidential elections, Kamanjab was RDP's Regional Office for Kunene Region.

"But that office also closed due to no funding and lack of volunteers," said Ilonga. "The volunteers that was (sic) helping the office there left due to starvation. Party functions came to a halt in this district after the elections due to some

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