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A huge crowd turned up at SWAPO Party's closing rally in Windhoek last Sunday, which was addressed by President Hifikepunye Pohamba. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

Hidipo in hot water

Faces N\$100 million lawsuit

SWAPO Party vows to have its name cleared

By Asser Ntinda

SWAPO Party has instituted a N\$100 million legal action against the President of the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, Hidipo Hamutenya, over allegations he made at the beginning of this month at Okongo in Ohangwena Region.

SWAPO Party is demanding N\$100 million in damages over allegations made by Hamutenya in which he said SWAPO Party had been "cheating and rigging elections" all those years.

Addressing an RDP rally at Okongo, Hamutenya claimed that the SWAPO Party had been "cheating to win elections all these years," particularly "during the movement of ballot boxes from voting venues to centrally located counting points was one of the loopholes" the SWAPO Party had been "using to cheat the elections in order to win all those years."

New Era, which published the story quoted Hamutenya as saying that it was through the "movement of ballot boxes" that the ruling parties in the SADC Region had the chance to exchange genu-

ine ballot boxes with false ones.

In the combined summons issued this week against RDP as first respondent and against Hamutenya as second respondent, SWAPO Party said that the statements by Hamutenya were wrongful and defamatory in that they were intended and were reasonably understood by readers and those who were able to observe and listen to those allegations to defame SWAPO Party.

SWAPO Party said that Hamutenya's statements meant

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A new member, Lodewyk Opperman who joined SWAPO Party together with other 15 people. Photo by Levi Upula



Doing it in style. Kotokeni Iita shows where his heart is. He is SWAPO Party from birth. Photo by Asser Ntinda.



The hour of reckoning has come. Rotting and rusting in the dustbin of history. What will be left of them after the elections? From left: Hidipo Hamutenya, Jurie Veljoen, Ben Ulenga, Kuaima Riruako, Ignatius Shikwameni and Katuutire Kaura.



President Hifikepunye Pohamba waving at a huge crowd that turned up to listen to his speech. Photo by Anna Nakambale.