

Hidipo

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that SWAPO Party had been conspiring with the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN, and was involved in "election fraud" against the people of Namibia.

By making those statements, Hamutenya meant that SWAPO Party was "involved in corrupt and dishonest activities; that it engages in subversive activities, it acts in total disregard for and infringes the Constitutional principles of the Republic of Namibia, that it conducts itself in an irregular and improper manner, engages in illegal activities which are not sanctioned by the laws of the Republic of Namibia, engages in activities which undermine the Government of the Republic of Namibia, and that SWAPO undermines the principles of democracy and the democratic processes in and of the Re-



SWAPO Party SG, Cde Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana.

public of Namibia."

The summons, issued by Conradie & Damaseb Legal Practitioners, said such allegations were uttered and published by Hamutenya and RDP with the intention to defame SWAPO Party and injure its good name and reputation and with the further intention to cause wide and further publication of such statements concerning SWAPO Party.

As a result of Hamutenya's al-



Feeling the heat. RDP's Hidipo Hamutenya.

legations and their subsequent dissemination and extensive publication, SWAPO Party has suffered loss in the sum of N\$100 million. RDP and its President should therefore pay SWAPO Party that amount with interest from the date of judgment to the date of payment.

RDP and Hamutenya should also pay SWAPO Party's legal costs. They have 10 days upon receipt of the summons to show whether they will defend the case, and 20 days to file and serve notice of intention to defend the matter.

Hamutenya's allegations were widely condemned by both the government and SWAPO Party. Shortly after the allegations were made, SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, issued a strongly worded statement refuting Hamutenya's claims.

She challenged Hamutenya to come out with concrete evidence of the cheating, adding that if he had been aware of such cheating, he should have reported those things to law enforcement agencies.

"The gravity of these allegations is so serious that they cannot remain unchallenged by any sober-minded democratic person," said Cde Iivula-Ithana. "No self-respecting person could make such

unfounded allegations unless he or she is under the influence of something best known to him or herself.

"I have been in the leadership of SWAPO Party before and after independence and have attended most meetings where policy decisions were taken, but at no time

have I participated, witnessed or heard plans of the topic of cheating appearing on any agenda of the SWAPO Party.

"The nature of cheating we do not know, hence Mr Hamutenya needs to provide irrefutable proof beyond any reasonable doubt of his

alleged cheating. If he fails to do so, then the law enforcement agencies must call him in order to give sworn statement before them.

"Failure to do so, SWAPO Party reserves its right to seek redress before the Court of Law in this specific instance."



Former Governor of Omaheke Region, Ephraim Tjingaete, receiving his new SWAPO Party membership card. He was among many people who joined SWAPO Party recently from various opposition parties, including the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP. Photo by Levi Upula.



New members who joined SWAPO Party this week. From left: Lodewyk Opperman, Lou-Marie Steenkamp, Charles Bouwer, Lorraine Witschas and Marian Potgieter. They were welcomed by SWAPO Party for Information and Mobilization, Cde Jerry Ekandjo and his Deputy, Cde Joel Kaapanda. Photo by Levi Upula.

VOTE SWAPO



"Striving for Economic Independence and Prosperity for All"

Safeguarding Democracy, Unity, Peace, Stability and the rule of law

Strengthening Economic Management and Accelerating Economic growth

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Provision of Housing, Water & Sanitation

Environmental Management and Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources

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Human Capital Development and Utilization

Safety Nets for vulnerable groups

Promotion of Gender Equity

Enhancing Foreign Relations & International Cooperation

Shortage of skills biggest challenge, says Namundjebo

The biggest challenge which Namibia faces and which must be addressed decisively and fast is the shortage of skills, which affects growth in the economy and contributes significantly to unemployment.

This was said by Martha Tilahun-Namundjebo, Vice President of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NCCI, during a meeting with President Hifikepunye Pohamba at State House this week.

"Our businesses cannot grow at a pace we would like them to grow and it is difficult to engage in some types of business without required skills," said Namundjebo. "We

commend the government for the implementation of the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme, ETSIP, which we believe will make tangible positive changes to our education system in the long-term.

"We hope that through ETSIP, our education system will sooner rather than later, begin to produce critical skills. The skills shortage forces businesses to source skills



Fisheries and Marine Resources Minister Dr. Abraham Iyambo and the Vice President of the NCCI, Martha Tilahun-Namundjebo, at the SWAPO Party closing rally last Sunday in Windhoek. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

outside the country and we believe that this is the short to medium term solution to skills shortage."

She said that NCCI was ready to work closely with the government

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