Information and Communications Technology Minister Joel Kaapanda has strongly spoken out against those who have negatively portrayed the Communications Bill as “unpopular,” saying that the benefits that will accrue from the Bill, once it is implemented, will outlive the lies and distortions that have accompanied its debate since it was tabled in the National Assembly early this year.

Kaapanda rips through Communications Bill’s opponents

I never applied pressure on NC. Who am I to do that?’ says Minister.

By Asser Ntinda

The National Assembly passed the Bill this year and referred it to the National Council, which also passed it this week without any amendments. Minister Kaapanda said the Bill had gone through all the legal processes that any other bill had gone through, and that he did not understand the reason behind those who were opposed to the Bill.

Those negative reports, and they only come from one newspaper, have overshadowed the good things and potential opportunities which this Bill will bring about,” he said in an interview with Namibia Today on Thursday. “It is also not true that this Bill is unpopular. In fact, the opposite is true. Forget about what those few individuals say against this Bill. In the eyes of many people, this Bill is very popular. We are even being commended internationally. We have done all we can to engage the public and the service providers. My Deputy, Cde Raphael Dinyando, my Permanent Secretary, Cde Mbeuta Ua Ndjarakana, my staff members and I have appeared in various language services, explaining the content and objectives of the Bill to the public. Members of the public were also given opportunities to phone in and ask questions. At the end of each programme, we were commended and applauded. We received tremendous support.

For one to come now and say the Bill is unpopular is a complete lie. Those who are campaigning against this Bill are only doing so for reasons that are only known to themselves. They are distorting the facts and misleading the public. What they are saying is wrong, wrong in the sense that what they are saying is not what the Bill intends to do. I am happy for what we have done. There are tremendous and po-

China showcases strength, vitality on 60th founding anniversary

BEIJING — China staged a grand celebration in Tian’anmen Square at the heart of Beijing Thursday, showcasing the strength and vitality of Chinese-style socialism over the past 60 years. President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders viewed the two-hour pageant, which involved nearly 200,000 service men and women, civilians, wearing a Mao suit, Hu stood in an open-top black Red Flag limousine to review the military formations, which assembled along Chang’an Avenue, part of which has been widened and reinforced for the weight of heavy military equipment to be displayed in the National Day parade. “We must...

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