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TODAY

Mining industry weathers economic crisis

By Staff Reporter

Namibia's mining industry looks more promising in the coming year than in the past year, as companies in the industry seem to have weathered the world economic crisis through innovation and perseverance.

Mines and Energy Minister, Isak Katali, on Thursday gave an overview of how the mining industry had performed this year and projections for the future.

He said that the future looked good and government would continue to maintain a conducive and enabling environment to promote the industry and take a lead in mineral beneficiation and marketing.

Next year, he said, the min-



Minister, Isak Katali

ing sector was set to contribute more to the economic development of the country by increasing its contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product, GDP.

"Indications are that compa-

nies are going to make profit and this is good as mining industry with the current preliminary figure for 2010 makes up approximately 12 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Products, GDP," said Minister Katali.

"Exploration companies have been spending significant sums of money on their activities over the year. We hope that upon completion of their exploration activities, they will apply for mining licences, which, if in compliance with the law, I shall readily grant in order to broaden the production base."

Jobs in the mining sector, excluding the exploration companies, stands at 7189, compared to 6059 in 2009. Exploration companies employ about 5000 permanent and temporal employees.

Minister Katali said that the lifespan of mines in the country looked also good, with an average mine at least 15 years. With the recent aggressive exploration for uranium, three mines were expected to start

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Cabinet goes Festive

By Staff Reporter

Cabinet held its last session this year on Tuesday, where President Hifikepunye Pohamba called on Cabinet ministers to come back next year more revitalized and reinvigorated to implement government policies and programmes as outlined in various documents.

"We must do more in the New Year to ensure that government policies continue to generate effective solutions to the problems that our society and communities face," he said in his two and a half page speech.

"As we search for solutions to the development challenges facing our nation, we should consider both the short and long term options that can take our country further towards the achievement of our national development plans and Vision 2030."

The President said that government had taken several mea-



President Hifikepunye Pohamba

asures aimed at addressing challenges facing the country, citing the Employment Creation Summit and the Agricultural Investment Conference which were held this year as some of the highlights.

He called on his Cabinet to ensure it continued in the same spirit in the coming year so that the business and affairs of Cabinet were managed in the most efficient and effective

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Poll landslide victory X-mass gift for SWAPO

Party will come back from festive leave strengthened

By Asser Ntinda

SWAPO Party functionaries and foot soldiers are going into this year's festive season basking in the glory of the undisputed landslide victory the Party scored in the just ended regional and local authorities elections – a deserved X-mass gift.

"We are going into this festive season extremely happy about this sweet victory," said one SWAPO Party member, in Katutura, as he rushed to the SWAPO Party Headquarters where President Hifikepunye Pohamba addressed the nation on Monday evening.

"We have worked hard for this victory. We have put to rest those who thought that the arrival of the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, has got SWAPO Party out of its shoes. They have been making a lot

of noise here and there, but the results tell a different story. I wonder what they will say now."

Convoys of cars draped with SWAPO Party flags could be seen in various streets on Monday afternoon, heading for the headquarters to listen to President Pohamba's victory speech. Those who could not make it by cars had to walk, putting on Party colours and rising the popular hand-clenched fists.

President Pohamba thanked voters for having given



President Hifikepunye Pohamba, SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, and SWAPO Party Vice President, Cde Hage Geingob. Photo by Levi Upula.

SWAPO Party yet another landslide victory, while commending the entire SWAPO Party

leadership at all levels, as well as supporters and sympathizers. "I know that we all cam-

paign hard to mobilize the voters to vote for the SWAPO

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