

NBC: the real story!

I want to thank the NBC team for the good election coverage during the just ended 2009 Presidential and National Assembly Elections. I was glued to the screen and really enjoyed how our national broadcaster was appearing with scrolling lines underneath just like SABC News, CNN, BBC, Aljazeera or SkyNews. It was very impressive. NBC has indeed undergone a lot to become where it is today. I recall how Uazuva Kaumbi as then Chairperson of the Board introduced the indigenous news bulletin. Then came Bob Kandetu with his TV licenses.

In this period also NBC was caught up in tenders and contracts being given to friends and relatives. Now come Mathew / Gowaseb with his feel-good changes from ETV in South Africa and ZNBC from Zimbabwe especially Good Morning Namibia. What has been true is that when things started to fall apart at NBC it is when they start appearing in Newspapers.

In fact Bob Kandetu is now a regular in The Namibian newspaper and not New Era or Namibia Today. I see a de javu again when I read Informante of today (10 November 2009) which prompted me to pen down this letter. Mr. //Gowaseb please leave Founding President alone, if Libolly Haufiku and Phil ya Nangolo are your friends that is fine also but don't insult our Founding President, don't you have manners? Now,

I wonder if all these feel-good changes on TV are scrolling on the screen I want to know whether everything is fine or once again signaling the falling apart at NBC? It is very disturbing to note that Mathew //Gowaseb has suddenly started singing from Ya Nangoloh's and Jesaya Nyamu's hymn, talking about "Omustai Clique!" Has there been a U-turn in his thinking or what should we make of his interview with Informante?

To be honest, a few friends of mine and I met in Eveline Street of Katutura this morning and our topic was NBC. Our discussion recognized that our own national broadcaster which has had quite a rollercoaster transformation since independence in order to make it truly national as opposed to whims of apartheid remnants.

The foundation was laid by the late Cde Dan Tjongarero and others. Thereafter the institution became the football of those within SWAPO leadership who wanted to ascend to the highest office in the land especially the now frustrated President of RDP, Hdipo Hamutenya, who is currently in Germany for yet unknown reasons. As a colleague of mine

pointed out during the discussion 'it was obvious in the run-up to the 2004 Extra-Ordinary Congress that much was being done not in tandem with the objective of NBC to 'inform, educate and entertain' but rather how to popularise Hidipo Hamutenya as a presidential candidate to defeat Cde Hifikepunye Pohamba whom NSHR described not only as a hand-picked successor of Nujoma but as a 'straightjacket and lameduck president'.

After his crushing democratic defeat at the extra-ordinary congress, his campaign manager became the Director General of NBC. It was said at the time that 'reconciliation in the Party' was very necessary. Some were even vigorously pushing for Cde Sam Nujoma to address rallies alongside Hidipo Hamutenya together with other candidates of the extra-ordinary congress. Fortunately before it could come to that Hidipo Hamutenya joined the excommunicated Jesaya Nyamu to start the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) on 17 November 2007. Another friend of mine quipped that "from that day the NBC management, The Namibian, Informante and Die Republikein became friends of Hidipo Hamutenya and enemies of Founding President". Namibia Today together with other cadres of the Party put up a stiff resistance against the NBC management. The Minister and majority of the Board members especially the Deputy Chairperson of the Board, Mee Shimbulu, were decisively against any attempt to make NBC a mouthpiece of RDP.

Then came the political hammer in Eehana, omuthiya and Tobias Hainyeko, it became clear that despite NBC's attempt to market RDP the Namibian people have rejected it comprehensively. Once again the just ended 2009 Presidential and National Assembly Elections, RDP snatched seats from the opposition parties and SWAPO remains the 2/3 majority driving force for change in Namibia.

One friend of ours in the discussion is close to NBC and revealed that despite what we as viewers saw on the outside, apparently inside the NBC a different politics is playing out. Mathew //Gowaseb as a matter of fact hates SWAPO and was not happy to cover SWAPO stories during the campaign. He was always at loggerheads with the likes of Claudia Iikela, Suoma Negumbo, Maria Nepaya, Lahja Kandongo, Lamech Mwanyangapo, Saima Shaanika, Mushitu Mukwame, Menesia Muinjo, Ferdinand Molale amongst others because they are perceived as SWAPO members. It was also said that

even in the corridors //Gowaseb made it known that he was the only intelligent person at NBC all others "were stupid and incompetent" he even shouts at people older than him in the same way. We concluded our discussion curious to know what is the real story in NBC: is the version of Informante the

correct one? If so, are there some surprises happening behind the scenes in awarding of tenders and appointing or promoting those in good books with the Acting Director General? What if despite all the feel-good changes the NBC is actually in the financial red and waiting to explode in the face of everyone? The Informante story projects an image where he //Gowaseb feels that he is NBC and beyond him there is nothing, is this true in SWAPO?

Is this a taste of leadership? Worse still, we concluded also that //Gowaseb seem impatient and intolerant of divergent views, for instance if at all challenged by anyone this capable Acting Director General always threatens to resign, it is like a marriage where no argument erupts then he threatens divorce, perhaps this marriage was not meant to be after all. Cde Mathew //Gowaseb must also know that the SMS page of The Namibian newspaper or Informante are not

the real mirrors of the whole country. Hope you got the same message from the results which SWAPO obtained from the regions. Our appeal to you in this particular regard is for you to be humble, tolerant and appreciative of other staff members of the NBC, they too are educated and patriotic. After all, it is them who did the work and do the real work. Say, thank you very much to them.

By Kula Wumone

POSTMORTEM AND OBSERVATIONS OF 2009 ELECTIONS

By Cde Charles Siyauya and Cde Austin Kwenani – PROUD MEMBERS OF SPYL.

It is the duty of this letter to introduce the reader to who voted for the SWAPO PARTY and its Candidate the most and what must be their immediate benefit, the future downfall of RDP, APP and any other future political project, the obligations and duties of MPs / VIPs to the electorates, the tremble popularity of some party cadres in their own villages as well as SWAPO PARTY penetrating opposition parties's strong holds.

It is evident that a lot of votes which made it possible for some political parties and political projects to get more votes to qualify for N.A (National Assembly) are from the rural poor group of electorates. The rural based poor people, urban poor people in informal settlements and bornfrees voted for the SWAPO PARTY the most and this is clear from the recent votes cast in schools based polling stations and some areas most concentrated by elders and young people. Whereas as some but few of those in towns and city/ cities abroad have aligned themselves with some political projects for unspecified economic convenience.

The elders and young people are the most vulnerable members of our societies and they deserve 100 percent government support day and night. It is therefore befitting and obligatory that the next group of Law Makers (MPs/VIPs) must work hard together and accelerate rural developments such as rural electricity e.g. in Opuwo etc, rural school hostels e.g. at Siyauya's birth place of Schuckmansburg etc, rural school feeding program e.g. in Tsumkwe, Okongo etc, improve the housing conditions of rural school teachers e.g. in Okangwati, Otjinene etc, Provide clean drinking portable water in all 107 constituencies, provide GRN tractors for ploughing purposes, intensify green scheme projects and re-

verse poor life of the rural electorates to better without any further political excuses and time is now. It is also important that small farmers should be protected by government in terms of selling their produce to the local markets as opposite to importing all vegetables' and most of our food from South Africa when we have Kavango and Zambezi Rivers to water our production.

Equally, the bornfrees and young adults have remained firm with the SWAPO PARTY and were the majority of voters. They voted right. Now, it is payback time. Their critical needs must be the first priorities among priorities in our cabinet decisions. In other words give the young people what they rightfully deserve such as GRN Study Loans/ Scholarships, advanced but affordable GRN recording music studios in each region, access to internet, GRN Tenders, give the employed a decent salary to meet their contemporary demands, provide them with affordable public transport because most of the young people do not own cars and cabs/ taxis are unreliable and become a danger to mankind, engage young people now on policy issues because Namibian 's future belongs to them.

Furthermore, during political campaigns we were able to freely mingle with MPs/VIPs any time, any day, and any night and exchange views without appointments. Now that you are voted into power and empowered as MPs/VIPs, kindly forget us not because by doing so is tantamount to breach of trust and confidence entrusted to you by us the electorates. We need each other, each and every day of our life time and most importantly you (MPs/VIPs) are our servants and not our bosses and you must dance to our tune, always.

Our sincere thanks to all

those peace loving Namibians who have rejected imperialist funded RDP and others, and voted for the one and only SWAPO PARTY and its Candidate. The SWAPO PARTY is the party for all. It is the only political party with a sound "history, political programmes and future" for all. His Excellency Cde Hifikepunye Pohamba is a tested cadre and has proven himself beyond reasonable doubts that he was born a leader and has no contest in the recent held elections. It is against this background that the Namibian people have renewed and mandated the SWAPO PARTY with a commanding victory of 54 N.A Seats whereas the political projects which boosted of a massive data base was only able to secure a simply 8 seats in N.A, what a knock-out. It is obvious, that after five years the current RDP 8 seats in the N.A will fall off to a single seat only, in N.A just like what happened to the late COD (Congress of Democracy) which only managed to secure one seat this time around which was donated by the SWAPO PARTY on humanitarian grounds. Now, some of these political projects are being misled by the imperialist funded RDP mafias and together are threatening ECN (Electoral Commission of Namibia) apparently with court case for holding free, fair and credible elections which were highly commended by SADC, AU and Local Election Observers. What a shame on RDP and cohorts! We bet this opposition political projects have time and foreign money to squander on issues which are not beneficial to the people of Namibia but only beneficial to RDP Heads of Departments as divided as they are.

The fact is SWAPO PARTY and its Candidate has won the elections, jealous down! If Namibia had more money to waste we could advocate for by-elections in Namibia and SWAPO PARTY & its Candidate could win again and again and again till the second coming of Jesus. Most of these po-

litical projects's Presidents, some brothers and Executive Director of Human interest, they are just power hungry and agents of imperialists who will never ever rule this country or defeat SWAPO PARTY and its Candidate/s now or in future. They are simply nothing and equally to zero in the Namibian political landscape. It is time you stop misleading those innocent souls following you without rational thinking. Furthermore, it is time that DTA must be phased-out of the Namibian political landscape because DTA stands for Death to Africa and death is not wanted. We have lost a lot of our comrades during the apartheid era and DTA was full-time involved. It defeats logic for anyone in Namibia to vote for such a party.

Finally and what is more disturbing is the poor SWAPO PARTY election results from some parts of Namibia where some of our National /Regional Leaders are residing, where some were born, raised and come from. This is very much embarrassing for the SWAPO PARTY and urgent remedial actions will be highly appreciated before the Regional and Local Authority elections. SPYL and NUNW was/is very much clear on their message, Recall all those who are not working in the interest of SWAPO PARTY. We need people who works towards common goal guided by the SWAPO PARTY Manifesto and also educate the electorate on the importance of supporting and voting for SWAPO PARTY and its candidate. In Politics, one needs to have support at home/village, first. How do you lead other people when you are not trusted by your own family, friends and neighbours?

It was somehow, gratifying to observe a lot of votes which the SWAPO PARTY and its Candidate obtained in traditional NUDO and UDF strong holds such as Otjinene, Khorixas and etc. This is very much encouraging and now, hard work.

Read
Namibia
Today. Stay
informed.