

# 'No hope for RDP,' say former members

## Elections set to be disastrous for Hidipo

By Asser Ntinda

As the day of reckoning gets closer and with several disillusioned people leaving the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, Namibia's newest political baby on the block faces an uphill battle to make any significant impact on Namibia's political landscape as earlier claimed in the coming National Assembly and Presidential elections, now just four weeks away.

Several people who have recently defected from RDP and joined SWAPO Party say the ones they have left behind are terribly disillusioned and uncertain about the future of RDP. They are on the way back to join SWAPO Party as well, they say. Those who have already joined the ruling Party predict that after the November elections, RDP, will never be the same



Four former members of RDP who have joined SWAPO Party at Outapi in Omusati Region recently. They were welcomed by President Hifikepunye Pohamba, who told them before a huge crowd of SWAPO Party members that they were welcome. Photo by Levi Upula.

again. "When we joined RDP early last year," said one former RDP member from Windhoek West, "we thought and really believed that

SWAPO would never be the same again without Hidipo Hamutenya, who had left it at the end of 2007 to form RDP. There were many stories going on, deliberately spread



Ater November, what next? Feeling the heat. From left: Hidipo Hamutenya, Shapwa Kaukungwa, Kendy Nehova, Jesaya Nyamu and Jermia Nambinga

to make Hidipo's defection a big blow to SWAPO.

"If a person of Hidipo's caliber, armed with the influential positions he claimed he had held within the Party, could resign from it, then, so we thought, something must seriously be wrong within the SWAPO Party. We followed the stream, sang any song everybody else in RDP was singing.

"We were told that SWAPO would breakup. And after that, RDP was going to be the only party many people would join, including SWAPO members and leaders. I personally was told and

convinced that there would be no SWAPO after Hidipo had left it. Guess who told me! Lapaka Weyulu. She did all she could to convince me and a few of my friends to join RDP. That is how we ended up being RDP members."

Lapaka is an NBC Oshiwambo announcer and a member of the central committee of RDP. She is also on the RDP parliamentary list for the National Assembly elections.

The former RDP member said that she and her colleagues were misled. A year after RDP was

formed, they could not see any sign of SWAPO Party breaking up. They only saw it grow, with many people who hitherto were not really politically active now coming out into the open, displaying SWAPO Party colours in a way they have never seen. The public display of flags shocked them. "Everywhere we went, we were shunned and avoided like dogs with rubies," she said.

RDP was launched on 17 November 2007 in Windhoek with a view to "challenging" SWAPO

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Comrade President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the First Lady Penxupifo viewing the remain of the late Rev. Dr Hendrik Witbooi. Photo by Levi Upula

## Lion of Karas Region succumbs to cancer

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** - Thousands of mourners paid their last respect to the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi as he was laid to rest at Gibeon Cemetery last Sunday.

The late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi who battled with cancer for years but eventually succumbed to the dreaded disease at the Windhoek hospital was finally laid to rest at his preferred eternal resting place.

His wish to be buried at Gibeon was honoured and was gratefully given a State funeral as one of the heroes of this brave land.

At the interment in Gibeon, comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba,

President of the Republic of Namibia announced that Gibeon Cemetery will become one of the shrines of the Namibian revolutionary historical monuments in Namibia.

The life journey of the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi has come to

an end. Gibeon Cemetery has become his last resting place.

Comrade Pohamba reminded the Namibian nation that "we owe it to the martyrs of our revolution to remain united and with commitment and fortitude, and create a

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## Namibians pay tribute to Witbooi

By Kayele M. Kambombo

**WINDHOEK** - Namibians from all walks of life paid their last respects to the late comrade Reverend Dr Hendrik Witbooi at the me-

morial service held in his honour at Parliament Gardens before he was laid to rest last Sunday at Gibeon in Hardap Region.

"Namibia lost a freedom fighter,

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Cde Kombadayedu Kapwanga and Eli Nefussy have given various donations to the Swapo Party Voter education Campaign for the November 2009 elections valued at N\$ 100,000 in their own capacity. This includes a photo copying machine and free petrol. Here they are handing over a donation of Ndilimani Cultural Troupe CDs, worth N\$15,000, to the Swapo Party Youth League to be distributed to the youth branches in all regions. In the past Cde Kapwanga has managed to organize donations of N\$500,000 per election for the last three elections for Swapo Party. Cde Jessy Nombanza received the donation while Cde Lucia Lipumbu looks on. Photo by Levi Upula