

RDP *from page 1*

Party's political dominance and "taking over political power." At the launch Hidipo was introduced as RDP interim President, with David Bezeidenhout as his Deputy, and Jesaya Nyamu as interim Secretary General. Nyamu was expelled from SWAPO Party a few years ago for subversive activities, which called for, among others, the "weakening from within" of the "new" Pohamba administration.

Those subversive notes were authored by Nyamu in his five-page plan he coined shortly after the 2004 Extra Ordinary Congress, where Hidipo's presidential ambitions were shredded and his political fate sealed. Since then, Hidipo had been secretly organizing and spearheading the formation of a "rival political party" as recommended by Nyamu in those notes in 2004, which came into being at the end of 2007.

"One of the reasons why many people are leaving RDP is because none of the things they were told ever happened," said one of the four people who left RDP to join SWAPO Party at Outapi two weeks ago on the phone and was thrilled to have shaken hands with President Hifikepunye Pohamba, who welcomed them back to SWAPO Party a week later.

"I am happy to be back home. I appeal to my colleagues who were misled like me to do the same. There is no hope for RDP. It is dead. If none of the things they told you ever happened, what more are you waiting for? RDP cannot win these elections. Whatever you were promised after an RDP victory is an empty promise.

"There will never be an RDP government anytime soon in Namibia as they have told us. Just look around and see how well attended SWAPO Party rallies are always, compare them with those of RDP and you will see the dif-

ference. I am no longer interested in RDP politics.

"From today, my vote is no more secret. I will vote for SWAPO Party, and I will vote for President Pohamba, whom I had the honour to shake hands with a week ago. I will never forget that moment when I received my SWAPO Party membership card from him that Saturday.

"I will remember that moment and the feelings that overwhelmed me then when I enter that voting booth on 27 November 2009, knowing full well that I have both my ballot papers crossed correctly, and wait for the celebrations."

Simon Shileka is one of the SWAPO Party Branch Coordinators as well as SWAPO Party Regional Councilors in Omusati Region. He said that SWAPO Party had organized itself well at all the branches and in all constituencies in Omusati Region, adding that there was no chance for any opposition party to win.

"Here in Omusati Region we mean business," he said telephonically. "There is no opposition to SWAPO Party here. Only a few pockets of individuals here and there and they don't mean much. That is why they resort to acts of provocation. They want to be beaten up and make political noise out of it. We will not play into their hands. This house-to-house campaign will bring many problems. It should just be stopped.

"It makes people angry, especially when their houses are entered into by people from political parties they do not welcome. So far it is only RDP that is doing this and the sooner they stop the better for all of us. There is no doubt about SWAPO Party winning.

"Our victory is more than certain. But we do not want to be provoked on our way to that landslide victory. We also do not want to and will not provoke others to their landslide defeat. That is our position as SWAPO Party members as we wait for these elections."

Witbooi *from page 1*

a nationalist, a hero, a comrade, a traditional leader, one of the beacons of Namibia's struggle for national liberation, a reconciliator, a humble servant of the nation, a patriot, a loving husband, father and uncle, a dear brother, a dedicated SWAPO Party cadre and a servant of God", said Comrade President Pohamba.

For the most part of his life, the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi knew nothing else but a life of the struggle for national liberation, a life of detention, and a life of Christianity.

To many Namibians, the departed Comrade Witbooi was a man of vision and conviction. He actively participated in the national struggle for Namibia's freedom and independence.

His early life was not only shaped and influenced by the political situation prevailing in Namibia but also by the political situation experienced by the fore bearers of this land such as the legendary Hendrik Witbooi, his grandfather.

"The late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi was a pillar of strength, a fountain of wisdom, a source of inspiration and a torchbearer who stood firm in the face of colonial brutality in defence of our people's

rights to self-determination, freedom and independence. The life of the late Comrade Witbooi was a life of selfless sacrifices, bravery and visionary leadership", said President Pohamba.

"Through his words and actions, he demonstrated his determination to building Namibia that was free from ethnicity, tribalism, regionalism and racism.

"He was a servant of God while at the same time a passionate supporter of PLAN. He provided PLAN with vital information which led to successful military operations in the South. To him there was no contradiction between the bible and AK47 used to free a nation from bondage".

As one of the leaders of SWAPO, the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi also played a crucial role by contributing to the development of policies and programmes of the Party. He was one of those few leaders who could openly travel abroad without fear in order to consult with the exiled SWAPO leadership. This culture was maintained until 1989 when all the exiled leaders of the SWAPO Party came back home following the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 which paved the way for Namibia's independence.

Said President Pohamba: "Comrade Rev. Dr. Hendrik Witbooi is no

more but his legacy lives on. As a nation, we can only keep his legacy alive if we remain united; if we keep promoting the policy of National Reconciliation; if we maintain peace, security and stability in our country; if we hold hands and march forward in unity to build Namibia in order to secure the welfare of future generations. His presence will be sadly missed in the line-up of the voters on the 27 - 28 November 2009 Elections".

Speaking at the same occasion, Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation added more weight on the late Witbooi, as a relentless and fearless fighter.

Dr Nujoma said the late Witbooi was a dedicated Teacher, Pastor, a Revolutionary and fearless freedom fighter, Traditional Leader, Acting Vice President of SWAPO, First Minister of Labour and Manpower Development, Vice President of SWAPO Party and First Deputy Prime Minister.

"He distinguished himself as a selfless and fearless dedicated freedom fighter that devoted his entire youthful and adult life to the just cause of our genuine Freedom and Independence.

"He followed in the footsteps of his great grandfather, the legendary Namibian Hero, Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi who fought heroically

against German colonial oppressors. Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi defeated the German colonialists at Vaalgras and captured weapons and ammunition. But he later died in action at Khoichas near Keetmanshoop on 29 May 1905 against the German colonial troops. However, the struggle did not stop there. Jacob Marenga continued the struggle".

After Marenga the Late Comrade Rev. Hendrik Witbooi, continued with the struggle. At the peak of the liberation struggle, many PLAN combatants were tasked to operate clandestinely in the central and southern parts of our country.

History has it that the late Witbooi turned Gibeon into a PLAN underground military base. "PLAN combatants were accommodated and operated in disguise as contractors at his house in Gibeon, but they had a clear mission to carry out military operations against the enemy. Among them were the Late Comrade John Pandeni, the then Minister of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and Comrade Hon Peter Ilonga, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Services. These Comrades were successful in carrying out military attacks against enemy infrastructures including blowing up bridges, telecommunication networks as

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NAMIBIA Presidential and National Assembly Elections 27 - 28 NOVEMBER 2009

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

The constitution slates that The Republic of Namibia is established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State founded on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. A Democratic government is one that gives its people the opportunity to choose their political parties and candidates, based on promises and undertakings made by such parties and candidates. These choices are made by voting in elections. The people of Namibia vote government into power to run the affairs of the country and make laws and policies on their behalf. Government is therefore accountable to the constitution of the Republic of Namibia and all its people,

Pursuant to the electoral Act No. 24 of 1992, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) was established as a semi-autonomous body with its own administration and budget. Although the entity functions as a government ministry, it enjoys absolute autonomy and independence in organizing and managing Namibia's election processes.

The ECN is responsible for the conducting all electoral activities in Namibia including:

- Voter registration;
- Registration of all parties;
- Nomination of candidates,
- The organization and administration of elections and
- The announcement of results.

In addition, the ECN is accountable for voter education and information.

"Mandated to deliver free, fair and credible elections, we aim to cultivate a culture of human rights, national reconciliation, political tolerance and participation in governance and electoral processes. We also aim to promote sound understanding of the process and are mobilizing resources for the conduct of the 2009 General Elections" says Mr. M Ndjarakana, CEO of the ECN.

The ECN is justifiably proud of their success record since inception in 1994, with the delivery of independently assessed and accredited free and fair national / presidential elections in 1994; 1999 and 2004. This is all due to the capacity, capability and experience of staff and their delivery of a credible process.

The institution is proud of this record and plans to maintain it during the 2009 Presidential elections. The commitment to transparency is no more in evidence than in the way that the ECN has handled the re-tendering process for the printing of the 2009 ballot papers.

The ECN's mandate is to deliver free and fair elections is rooted in our Constitution, whereby governance demands that we ensure citizen participation: equality; human rights; economic rights; adherence to the Bill of rights; Adherence to the Rule of Law; Political Tolerance; Free exchange of Ideas; Accountability; Transparency; Multiparty System; Economic Freedom and Freedom of the Media,

ECN - YOUR PARTNER IN DELIVERING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TO NAMIBIA



One of the Namibian Student in China Cde Hiskia Asino donated electronic material in SWAPO Colour for SWAPO campaign to the founding father Cde Sam Nujoma, the material were donated to Ndilimani Cultural Troupe. Cde SG Pendukeni Iivula Ithan receives the donation on behalf of Ndilimani Cultural Troupe. Photo by Levi Upula

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