

## Putin swims in lake in southern Siberia's Tuva region



Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin swims in a lake in southern Siberia's Tuva region August 3, 2009. Putin, a judo black belt who has flown in a fighter aircraft and shot a Siberian tiger in the wild, plunged into the depths of Lake Baikal aboard a mini-submersible on Saturday in a mission that added a new dimension to his macho image. Picture taken August 3, 2009. Xinhua

## SWAPO PARTY



The President, Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of SWAPO PARTY, and the entire rank and file members of the SWAPO PARTY, hereby wish to salute the Vice-President of the SWAPO PARTY Cde. Dr. Hage G. Geingob for reaching the wise age of 68, on the 3 August 2009. We commend you for your visionary leadership and steadfastness in the socio-economic development of Namibia. May God Bless you many more birthday returns!



# 68<sup>th</sup>

**SWAPO, UNITED! SWAPO, VICTORIOUS! NOW, HARDWORK!**



## SWAPO Party



### Hochland Park Branch Rally!

The Hochland Park Branch Executive Committee INVITES every SWAPO Party member and supporters residing in Hochland Park & Rocky Crest to the SWAPO Party Rally which will take place in Rocky Crest suburb.

**Date:** Saturday, 8 August 2009.

This Rally will be addressed by **Hon. Minister Cde. Jerry Ekandjo: SWAPO Party Secretary for Information & Mobilisation** and the **Hon. Governor Cde. Sophia Shaningwa** as one of the leaders assigned to Khomas Region.

You are therefore encouraged to extend an invitation to your friends and neighbours in order to welcome our leaders.

A fundraising braai is also arranged starting **Friday 7 - 8 August 2009.**

**Venue:** Cde. Tiboth's House, Erf 1062, Gran Canaria Str – Main Str. Gough Island Str.

Join us for the march which will start on Saturday at the junction of David Meroro Str. and Long Island Street.

**Time:** 13H00 sharp.

**Dress code:** SWAPO Party colours

**Contact persons:** Cde. Joe Auala 0811243708 Cde. C. Maketo 0813030033 Cde. N. Victor 0812720841 Cde. M. Onesmus 0811286012 Cde. E. Hawala 0811222244 Cde. B. Simana 0812104397



## Zoom In



By Asser Ntinda

The past weeks have seen a number of foreign journalists being arrested at the coast while trying to secretly film the culling of seals at Cape Cross. Two were arrested, tried and fined accordingly. Another South African journalist was again arrested but was later released. It is all about seal culling and the manner in which the seals are culled.

I still find it extremely difficult to understand the interests foreign journalists and some local non-governmental organizations, NGOs, have in the culling of seals and the negative publicity that they give, which seems to be their only joy in filming, thus damaging Namibia's image internationally. Apart from that, this campaign is tantamount to economic sabotage, which no country in the world should entertain.

Moreover, we have laws that we have passed as a sovereign state. Such laws should not just be in books to be violated at will by an assortment of some uppity whites who see and repackage themselves into some sort of "civilized" people whose latest burden is to civilize the "natives," whom they always regard as backward and brutal.

It must be pointed out that our laws are passed to be strictly obeyed by everybody who enters Namibia. What is most puzzling in this is that these people dare not violate laws in their own countries, but become brave to violate the laws of other countries, in this case Namibia. I resent that degree of arrogance. Jim Wickens from Britain and Bart Smithers from South Africa, who were tried and fined under the Namibian Marine Resources Act, never had permission to film in Namibia.

They just did not bother to apply for permission to the Namibia Film Commission to do so. They also entered Namibia without tourism visas, proceeded to film in a protected area. As if that was not a serious offence, the British High Commission "demanded the immediate release" of the two journalists, according to some media sources. The British High Commission could have been modest enough to condemn these journalists for their complete disregard of our laws, and call for their "immediate release" later. But it seems that was not worth their efforts.

Worse still, the Media Institute of Southern Africa, MISA, also only condemned the arrest of the two journalists. It never said a word about the incomprehensible manner in which these two journalists chose to disregard and disobey our laws. It just joined and sang, with monotonous regularity, from the same hymn that London has provided. Namibia is a sovereign state, just as Britain is. These people must respect our laws, just as they do in their own countries. Allowing them to violate our laws with impunity risks our country being rubbished as a banana republic by every Peter and Paul.

Wickens comes from Britain, a country that is ruthless in maintaining law and order. By law, no sensitive place in Britain can be filmed or photographed without "permission" from the feared D-Notice Committee, which "advises" editors and senior journalists on sensitive stories that are likely to damage Britain's national security and national interests. If Wickens and Smithers are brave enough to violate laws, they should start in Britain, not here.

Charmers Roberts, one of the oldest diplomatic correspondents of The Washington Post, once remarked that "national interest" comes first before any story. In 1961, The New York Times heard that the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, was training some 6000 Cubans for the "liberation" of Cuba and wanted to do the story. The Department of Defence "pleaded" with it to drop the story, which it did. That training resulted in the Bay of Pigs, one of America's terrible war mistakes in history.

In Britain, journalists religiously obey the laws, but they want to do the opposite when they come here. I have always said that Britain has more laws restricting media freedom than any country in Africa. Until 1992, there were about 50 secret sites in Britain, all covered by "D-Notices" and no editor ever dared write about them. So much for the free press of Britain! In fact, until recently, newspapers in Britain could not even publish the name of the Head of MI5, not even taking pictures of the MI5 buildings in Theobalds Road in Holborn, Central London. Journalists should obey laws to make their work a lot easier. Schools of journalism should take the lead in this regard. I know the sensitivity surrounding the culling of seals, especially the way they are culled. But death is death. There is no death that is better than the other. For, life is the same. Just go into any abattoir and see how cattle are slaughtered. You would never want to go back again to that abattoir. Or enter any restaurant that sells crayfishes and see how they are killed – thrown alive in boiling water! Boiling water yes, but none of these big-mouthed journalists or NGOs has ever raised their voices. Why are the seals so special than any other animals in the eyes of these people?

These people should summon the morals of their conviction and condemn all deaths. Condemning the way seals are culled and condoning the manner in which crayfishes are killed is double standard at best and selective morality at worst. Until these so-called environmentalists give us the best alternative to culling seals, Namibia will have no option but to do it the way it does it. But to just say stop seal culling is rubbish and no one will take it as an alternative. It is as good as asking Britain to stop slaughtering cattle.