

# Namibia Today

Vol:11 No. 38

FRIDAY 15 - 21 Thursday October

2010

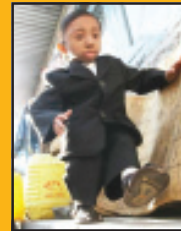
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# RP divorces RDP

## New merger suffers a fatal blow

By Asser Ntinda

The Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, suffered a major fatal blow on Wednesday evening when the Republican Party, RP, served its new found coalition partner with divorce papers, 36 days after the two parties signed a "memorandum of understanding to work together" in the coming regional and local authority elections slated for the end of November (next month), and 13 days after a gala dinner organized in Windhoek to seal the RP's coffin.

The announcement has created more confusion among RP and RDP members of the two parties, a few weeks before the regional and local authority elections. The damage will not be easy to repair before the elections.

RP Chairperson, Clara Gowases, sent out a media release, on Wednesday night, saying that RP would no longer relinquish its one seat in the National Assembly and that it would also not deregister as a political party on Friday, (today), as earlier announced.

The abrupt announcement came as RDP President, Hidipo Hamutenya, was speaking on NBC TV programme, "One on One," in which he tried hard to evade questions as to where his party stood on various issues.

"I think he knew what was

happening and that was why he was a bit uncomfortable to answer questions directly," said one political analyst. "Maybe he was informed about the RP's decision while he was on his way to the NBC. That was why he was a bit off-balance.

"He really looked forward to this merger working, only to be told at the last minute that it was off. He wanted to use this merger to target the white community in the country. The dream has just fallen off. He is a suffering politician indeed."

The one page press release said that despite the fact that RP's management committee and the rest of the leadership had worked diligently to deal with all the outstanding issues to meet the deadline as announced by the RP's President, Henk Mudge, it had become clear that it would not be possible.

"The Management Committee has therefore requested the President of RP not to vacate his seat in Parliament tomorrow, October 14, 2010, (Thursday) and not to deregister RP on Friday, October 15, but to have the status quo continue until all the outstanding issues have been resolved properly," said the statement.

"Due to the decision by the Congress that the Republican Party be dissolved and due to the fact that a number of Management Committee members of RP will have to take up membership of RDP on or before October 18, 2010, in order for them to be registered as RDP candidates for the upcoming regional council and local authority elections, the Management Committee has taken a resolution that full Power of



Back to back. RDP President Hidipo Hamutenya and RP President Henk Mudge could not go on honeymoon. The political marriage is over.

Attorney be given to the President of the RP, by which he has been authorized to deregister

the RP and vacate the RP seat in Parliament, on a date as soon as possible but only when all

the outstanding issues have

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## Cabinet halts GIPF doling out of loans

By Staff Reporter

Cabinet has instructed the Board of the Government Institution Pension Fund, GIPF, to suspend, with immediate effect, the signing of any contracts, disbursement of funds and loans which have not been disbursed by October 7<sup>th</sup> this year until further notice.

The tough decision came in the wake of media reports on how the GIPF has been squandering workers pension funds without conducting thorough



Minister, Joel Kaapanda

examination of the companies getting loans from GIPF and the viability of the businesses it was funding. In the process,



Dr. Elijah Ngurare

GIPF lost N\$660 million in bad debts.

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## Poly students stage demo

Students at the Polytechnic of Namibia staged a peaceful demonstration in front of the Rector's Office on Thursday, calling on the Minister of Education and the Anti-Corruption Commission, ACC, to investigate allegations of fraud and mismanagement at the Institution.

The demonstration was organized by the Students Representative Council, SRC, which said that it (SRC) was brought into being to represent, protect and

advocate for the rights of students.

The petition, which was ad-

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