



When days were good and there was no love lost between the two. But the handshakes and the pleasantries that went with the signing of the memorandum of understanding a month ago could not sustain their political marriage.

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been resolved," said Gowases.

She did not say what those "outstanding issues" were but

sources said that the idea to merge the two parties was not taken well by RP members, with some threatening not to vote if the merger went ahead.

There were also other things

which seemed to have been overlooked, such as what would happen to the RP seat in the National Assembly. Some thought that technically, Mudge could cross the floor

"It must also not appear that there is a scramble for the millions of GIPF money, as word has it that some of those who have lined up for GIPF money want to resign immediately after these loans are signed," said the statement.

"We call on our SWAPO Party government and in particular Cabinet to intervene in this matter in the national interest. Other political parties have the freedom to wash their hands off when things get worse at GIPF but SWAPO Party and its government do not have that luxury.

"We are aware that the beneficiaries include FNB, (First National Bank,) Sanlam and other well known reputable white owned companies. So too are several reputable black owned companies.

"The concern is not about the credibility but about the transparency of the entire process which, if allowed to go in the present form, will be a scar on the political conscience of our Party and its government. It will cost us dearly if Cabinet directly or indirectly, would be perceived to be protecting anyone for whatever reasons."

SPYL release came in the wake of media revelations that GIPF was about to dish out loans worth N\$1,8 billion to several local and foreign companies in what has come to be known as unlisted investments and unlisted property where the risks are extremely high.

Some of the companies which have lined up for the N\$1, 8 billion were involved in botched investments which saw GIPF lose N\$660 million through the discredited DCP. Some of the contracts have already been signed, while others will be signed in a matter of days.

"GIPF has turned itself into a bank. This is a worrying trend and there is no guarantee that those loans will be honoured. People just create companies, apply for loans and have the companies liquidated a few years later. The money is lost and individuals wax rich," said one source.

The highest earner in the new scramble for GIPF billions is a new property development company called Safland, which has lined up for N\$450 million under GIPF's unlisted investment policy which replaced the discredited DCP.

Preferred Management System, PMS, previously received N\$7 million from GIPF but had never paid back the money. It will now receive N\$250 million. Kongaland will receive N\$150 million. The second biggest recipient is Old Mutual, which will receive N\$350 million. GIPF's new investment policy makes allowance for investment in property as a separate asset. The policy acknowledges that there was "far more corruption in the property area than any other, due to governance standards being low, value being subjective, trade illiquid and conflicts of interest managed poorly."

"There is more to these loans than what meets the eye," said one source last week. "If one closely looks at the characters and promoters of these companies, one gets the shock of one's life. The game is larger than what we see. The characters conducting the orchestra in the background are very interesting, to say the least."

Last month, the National Union of Namibian Workers, NUNW, called for a probe into the GIPF saga, saying that

with his seat to RDP. But, they have learned a bit late that, that option was not going to work.

"I thing that is one of the outstanding issues which the RDP leadership really overlooked," said one commentator. "Parliamentary procedures are not easy to meddle with. The biggest loser in this whole saga was going to be RP itself. People join parties out of principles. You cannot just tell people that we have stopped here, go and join this or that party. What if its principles do not appeal to me?"

"The merger has also not been properly managed because members needed to be properly informed about what was in it for them in the merger. Some have hoped to register as candidates either in regional or local authority elections as RP members, but with the merger, their chances became slimmer. Honestly, this did not come as a sur-

prise to me because I knew it would not work."

When the two parties signed a deal to work together last month, Mudge said: "I, as a true believer and with the authority bestowed upon us, declare here today, in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, that today will mark the beginning of the end of the SWAPO Party government."

Last week, the prospects of Monitor Action Group, MAG, coming to fill the vacuum took RP's leadership by surprise. Legal experts interviewed by local journalists also weighed in, suggesting that the seat may remain vacant until 2014 when Namibia holds its Presidential and National Assembly elections.

If the worst comes to the worst, the seat is likely to go to MAG Namibia's Constitution is silent about "floor-crossing,"

making the MAG option the only possibility.

"Other political parties will exploit the confusion created by this on and off merger thing, when elections are just around the corner," said one SWAPO Party member. "How can people trust the affairs of the country in the hands of such leaders when they cannot even put their parties together? These people are not serious.

"For us in SWAPO Party, this is a blessing in disguise. Let us give them a knockout while they are confused. They have no direction. They do not know what to do. They have really made a cartoon of themselves."

Last week, Mudge said that all RP members were told to go and join RDP. Now that the merger is off, Mudge has to go back to his members to tell them to stay put – a very embarrassing exercise indeed.

those serving on the board and management had blatantly abused and betrayed the trust bestowed on them by the government and the workers.

"It is not our responsibility to hide things and sweep them under the carpet pretending to want to protect the union while in reality we are out to protect our friends who stole from the workers," read one of the reports to the NUNW congress last month.

"Our loyalty must be to the workers and the unions and not to our friends in leadership just because we are in business together or we eat the stolen money together. The GIPF dollar is a national asset as it affects thousands of workers and, above all, it affects the entire economy and cannot be left to NANTU and NAPWU alone."

As at March 31, 2010 GIPF fund value was at N\$39 billion. Sources said that government could use part of that money to create more jobs by investing

it in industries with the potential to create more jobs.

"It is with the above background that SPYL wishes to reiterate its earlier calls for GIPF not to be used as a get-rich-quick scheme by the well connected in our society," said Dr Ngurare in his statement.

"Strangely, we notice also that amongst those to benefit include members of various political parties. The dollar, it seems, has united politicians at last, just like in Parliament, interesting indeed."



Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr Tjama Tjivikua, receiving a petition from the students. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

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dressed to the Polytechnic Council, said that students were not satisfied with the way top management was running the institution, specially the financial administration. They said that top management issued out cheques to other top management cadres without the consent of the accounting managers.

"We are all aware that this institution has competent accountants," read the petition. "We question the procedure and the intention behind the cheque that was issued to Mis Olivier Neuvera, totaling N\$30 800, where only the Rector and Ms Olivier signed the cheque. We seek clarity on this issue."

The students also questioned the way and the manner in which Professor Farhard Aghdasi was sacked from the institution. Polytechnic management claimed that he was sacked because he had "failed to perform" as Vice Rector: Academic Affairs and Research.

But sources within the Polytechnic said that he was sacked because he had refused to take instructions from Olivier, who was his junior. Professor Aghdasi had worked for 15 top universities in Africa.

"It is a wild mystery (for him) to come and underperform at the Polytechnic of Namibia," read the petition. "We move that Professor Aghdasi should be reinstated or the Rector must provide reasons beyond doubt

that he was really underperforming."

The students said that based on the research they had carried out, it was clear that 90 per cent of the staff members were not happy with the treatment they were getting from the top management. When staff members were demoralized, the level of service delivery went down and this, by default, affected students, said the petition.

The students also questioned the institution's priorities, especially when it came to students facilities and infrastructural expansion. They wanted to know the status of the multi-purpose plan, whilst the council agenda indicated that there were plans

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