

## People

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could never reach their full potential if we did not prioritize education."

Healthcare was the privilege of a few. Thousands of people had little or no access to health services in the rural areas to which they were restricted. The SWAPO Party government built new hospitals, clinics, health centers and renovated existing ones, thus providing a broad spectrum of healthcare services to the people.

"The SWAPO Party focused its attention on addressing the challenges facing the majority of our people," he said. "We focused especially on the previously disadvantaged groups.

"We therefore adopted policies

to address labour issues, introduced social safety nets and increased access to land through resettlement. We enacted the Labour Act. We set up the Social Security Commission, SCC. We adopted a land reform policy.

"Today, our nation enjoys greater prosperity and equity than at independence. The benefits of our hard-won independence slowly but surely reaches all corners of our country."

Oshana now has 132 schools, of which 59 are primary schools and the other 64 are secondary and combined schools. There are also six private schools. Most of those schools were built after independence.

"I urge all of you to vote for SWAPO Party and for Hifikepunye Pohamba as SWAPO Party Presidential candidate," said President Pohamba.



Minister Jerry Ekandjo handing over car keys to Ondonga Chief Immanuel Kauluma Eliphaz.  
Photo by Anna Nakambale.

## Govt

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All the cars were handed over to the traditional leaders by the Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development, Jerry Ekandjo, who cautioned them to properly take care of the cars.

"These cars remain the property of the government," said Minister Ekandjo. "They are given to you by the SWAPO Party government to carry out your traditional responsibilities in the communities you serve.

"You should not abuse them. You should not load cattle or goats or crates of beers in those cars. That is not what you were given them for. You are given these cars to administer the affairs of your subjects."

Only 48 cars could be handed

out to traditional authorities. The one that belongs to the Ovambanderu Traditional Authority could not be handed over because there is still a dispute in that authority regarding the succession issue which had seen the matter being brought before court.

The dispute revolves around who should succeed the Ovambanderu Chief, the late Chief Nguvauva Munyuku II, who passed away a few years ago. Two of his sons, Killus Nguvauva, current Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and Kiharanjo II Nguvauva, are fighting for the position that was left vacant by their late father.

The car would therefore remain with the Ministry until that dispute is resolved and the authority unanimously agrees amongst themselves as to who the real successor should be. The Ovambanderu Traditional Authority is recognized by the government. The dispute is only about

the succession issue.

"It is not the responsibility of the government to tell traditional authorities who their chiefs should be," said Minister Ekandjo. "Traditional authorities themselves should resolve such issues and come up with one traditional chief. We as a government cannot dictate to any traditional authority as to who their chief should be."

The drivers of the cars were given a one week basic training in Windhoek on how to use government vehicles. Each traditional authority has one driver who will now receive an allowance of N\$1000,00 per month. The maintenance and the running cost of the cars would be borne by the government, like any other government cars.

The cars would bear the name of the traditional authority to which it is attached. They will also be fitted with bull bars and tow bars. The Minister told the smiling chiefs that those bars had already been or-

dered.

The chiefs, visibly overjoyed, clapped hands as the keys were handed over to the drivers, who were equally excited. Not all the chiefs had cars before and this gesture would make them mobile and efficiently attend to the problems of their communities.

Since not all the chiefs could receive their keys directly from the Minister, a special arrangement was made for the King of Ondonga, who is also Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders, King Immanuel Kauluma Eliphaz, to receive his key on behalf of the other chiefs.

Speaking on behalf of all the recognized traditional authorities in Namibia, King Kauluma commended the government for the offer, saying that it confirmed that the government appreciated the important tasks traditional leaders were performing in their communities, such as land disputes, cattle theft and many other problems.

"Again," said Peter Kauluma, Senior Headman and Advisor to King Kauluma, who read the King's speech, "it is a well known fact that in most cases, the traditional authorities are eager to do much beyond their expectations, but it is not always possible because of the vast areas, long distances and also sandy roads they have to travel, sometimes on foot.

"Let me assure you that these vehicles really came at the right time and I want to draw your attention to the fact that the government is trying its level best to encourage our traditional authorities to do their work effectively and efficiently without delay.

"Therefore, in this regard, I wish to ask every one of you here today to join me to give a round of applause to the government, for the job well done. Keep it up and wish to urge our government to continue doing so."

King Kauluma cautioned his colleagues to use the cars for the purposes they were intended, which, he said, would motivate and encourage the government to allocate more funds to traditional authorities. The King also appealed to the drivers to keep the cars clean and obey traffic regulations and other relevant laws governing the use of government cars.

"We don't want to see you disappointing our traditional authorities," said King Kauluma. "Please keep the vehicles clean, take them in for regular service as indicated in the service books. Let me assure you that this is just the beginning.

"We have a long way to go. Rome was not built in a day. Please, let us go and make use of these cars wisely in fulfilling our duties in order to keep Namibia a peaceful country."

# VOTE SWAPO



**"Striving for Economic Independence and Prosperity for All"**

**Safeguarding Democracy, Unity, Peace, Stability and the rule of law**

**Strengthening Economic Management and Accelerating Economic growth**

**Upliftment of our people's Health Standards**

**Provision of Housing, Water & Sanitation**

**Environmental Management and Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources**

**Social Upliftment and Empowerment**

**Human Capital Development and Utilization**

**Safety Nets for vulnerable groups**

**Promotion of Gender Equity**

**Enhancing Foreign Relations & International Cooperation**

## Pohamba in Oshikoto

By Levi Upula

Oshikoto Region became a hive of activities last Sunday as thousands of people flocked to the Regional Capital, Omuthiya, for a SWAPO Party rally that was addressed by President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Hundreds of people on bicycles and in cars bedecked with the blue, red and green colours of SWAPO Party marched the streets and converged at a site where they were addressed by the President on his campaign trail.

Eenhana in Ohangwena Region and Omuthiya in Oshikoto Region became famous last year when they handed the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, a stunning defeat when they held a by-election for the Eenhana Constituency and local authority elections respectively.



President Hifikepunye Pohamba

At Omuthiya, SWAPO Party won with more than two-thirds majority, taking six seats in the seven-seat council. None of the opposition parties that contested the elec-

tions scored enough votes to gain a seat. DTA got five votes, CoD 26 and RDP 123.

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Tel: 061-276370/78/79/80

Fax: 061-276381

Cell: 081 124 2749

General E-Mail: [inform@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:inform@namibiatoday.com.na)

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Letters: [letters@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:letters@namibiatoday.com.na)

Editorial: [editor@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:editor@namibiatoday.com.na)

Personner: [asserntinda@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:asserntinda@namibiatoday.com.na)

Queries: [enquires@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:enquires@namibiatoday.com.na)

Subscription: [subscribe@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:subscribe@namibiatoday.com.na)

SWAPO Party: [swapoparty@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:swapoparty@namibiatoday.com.na)

Accounts: [accounts@namibiatoday.com.na](mailto:accounts@namibiatoday.com.na)

# VOTE SWAPO

To maintain a safe environment for our children



SWAPO PARTY

