



Part of the crowd that turned up to commemorate Human Rights Day. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

## Thousands

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ing that by commemorating Human Rights Day at the very site where she set the police van on fire, Namibians were also honouring and paying tribute to other Namibian sons and daughters who resisted colonial occupation and foreign domination.

“Their acts of bravery and gallantry added fresh and valuable momentum to the contemporary struggle for national liberation and independence,” said President Pohamba. “The fight for our nationhood and

freedom was motivated by the belief that all human beings are created equal, with inalienable rights to freedom and dignity.”

The Old Location brutal eviction taught Namibians one lesson: that Namibia’s independence would never come on a silver platter. Unless they were united, they would never successfully defeat the colonial and apartheid forces of South Africa, hence the formation of SWAPO in April 1960.

Since the formation of SWAPO that day, it had fought militarily, politically and diplomatically, bringing about Namibia’s independence in 1990, thus allowing SWAPO

Party to build a non-racial nation, democratic and united nation with a progressive constitution.

This year’s commemoration was held under the theme “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” The theme reflects the government’s understanding and commitment to the dignity of humankind and equality of all people.

“We believe that the enjoyment and respect for human rights is a fundamental ingredient to the development of our country and the building of a better future for our people,” said President Pohamba.

## Hidipo

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“Hidipo made a serious political miscalculation,” said one SWAPO Party Central Committee member. “He should not have gone that way. He is such a person who always thought that SWAPO Party revolves around him, rather than the other way round.

“In his thinking, SWAPO was him, and without him, it would automatically disintegrate. Now he has learned a lesson, albeit too late. He has himself to blame. Being a political fool that he is, he has squandered all his political fortunes at one go.

“Now he has turned himself into a laughing stock. Other opposition parties are now angry with him because they thought he would take votes from

SWAPO Party and not from them. Those opposition parties are now destroyed. They have themselves to blame too.”

This is not the first time that Hidipo has found himself in a serious condition. In the middle of this year, he collapsed in full public view at the residence of the High Commission of British where there was an event organized to mark Queen Elizabeth’s birthday.

He later claimed that the collapse was caused by “bad food.” Since his defection from SWAPO Party in November 2007, Hidipo has become a butt of many savage jokes in stories and cartoons.

“It is shame that keeps him there in RDP,” said another SWAPO Party Central Committee member. “If he had a way, he would come back to SWAPO Party. His decisions were informed by his own ego.

To some of us, the eight seats RDP got was just too many, yet he thinks he deserves more.

“Now he is politically dead. We are waiting for him in the National Assembly where we will mock and vilify him like hell. He is in for a rough ride. Let him come back from Germany and face us. If he thinks that the worst is over, then he is a fool. The worst is to come.

“We will ask him about many things, like the Pidico scandal, the demise of the Development Brigade Corporation, DBC, the N\$100 million that went missing from the Offshore Development Corporation, ODC, and many others.”

Since his flight to Germany last Sunday, RDP officials have been denying that he has left the country. Later on, they changed the story and confirmed that he was out of the country “attending an opposition parties’ conference” in Germany.

Sources said that the “opposition parties conference” was just a cover-up as he could not leave the country at that crucial time when people were waiting for the results of the elections.

When contacted for comment, RDP’s Director General of Administration, Libolly Haufiku, could neither confirm nor deny that Hidipo was out of the country. “I have nothing to say,” he said. “Write what you want to write. That is all I can say.”

“Our government will therefore continue to uphold the values enshrined in the Namibian Constitution and to ensure that the fundamental human rights of the Namibian people are not violated with impunity.”

The President called on Namibians to respect the rights of others, especially when it came to respecting and upholding the rights of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

“In this context, employers

must respect the rights of our workers,” said President Pohamba. “Namibian men must also respect and honour our women. The human rights of our women must be respected. The beatings, mutilations, rape, burning and killing of our women must stop. Other forms of abuse and gender-based violence must also come to an end.

“I appeal for a stop to the violation of the human rights of the mothers of our people. The

mothers of our nation must be respected and honoured. Those who do not heed this call and engage in any form of abuse must face the full wrath of the law. Our nation has had more than enough of the ugly and unforgivable incidents of violence and violation of Namibian women and girls at the hands of merciless men.”

The commemoration ended with the laying of wreaths at the shrine.



The 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Kalahari Holdings was graced by the top leadership of the SWAPO Party. From left: SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Kalahari Holdings Board Chairperson, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma and the First Lady, Penexupifo Pohamba. Photo by Anna Nakambale.



Kalahari Holdings Board Member, Dr Elijah Ngurare, narrating how Kalahari Holdings came to be what it is today. Photo by Anna Nakambale.



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