



SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana

Star rally

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has chosen to stand as an independent candidate, has been expelled from SWAPO Party.

She said that while SWAPO Party members had the right to elect or be elected to positions of authority, they also had obligations to observe and comply with Party decisions, resolutions and directives of the majority, even if they had voted against them.

"In this regard," she said, "as a self-respecting, disciplined and democratic organization, SWAPO Party cannot allow anarchy to rein within its ranks, no matter what their status in the society.

"Accordingly, the Politburo examined and considered carefully the circumstances surrounding Katamila's activities leading to his decision to stand as an independent candidate, contrary to the letter and spirit of the SWAPO Party Constitution and the Guidelines for the Election Procedures for Party officials to the government level of SWAPO Party.

"The Politburo therefore unanimously decided to expel Katamila from SWAPO Party with immediate effect. We call on all SWAPO Party members in Okahandja Constituency to support the sole candidate of the SWAPO Party, Cde Booyo."

Katamila becomes the third person to be expelled from SWAPO Party since independence. The first was Abraham Ndumbu, who was expelled from the Party in the early 1990s. The second one was

aimed at creating chaos and confusion to influence public opinion to be hostile towards SWAPO Party and its government.

NBC

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employee.

"Things are really bad," said one employee. "It is difficult to reverse some of these promotions and permanent appointments, even though they were made un-procedurally. Legally, it is difficult. We are in a mess. I feel sorry for the new Acting Director General.

"She is inheriting a mess. All past efforts to streamline the NBC structure and cut costs have been rendered useless. With a salary bill now close to N\$100 million per year, we just hope that the government will increase, not cut, its subsidies, as has been the case over the past years. It is a tough balancing act."

Employees say that whatever the case, the acting Director General has few options. Drastic and unpopular deci-

"The victory of SWAPO Party is irreversible. The people of Namibia are SWAPO and SWAPO is the people of Namibia. We urge all MPs elect

sions have to be made fast to avoid a complete collapse, they say. This is no time for business as usual.

Top management has been increased to about 30 people. Top management used to be made up of heads of departments only. Now there are heads of departments sitting in top management meetings with two or three of their juniors.

"It is a vote of no confidence in the heads of those departments," said one employee. "Recent transfers and permanent appointments must be seen in that context. Things have gone really bad."

In just nine months, NBC staff complement rose to nearly 500 permanent employees, up from 366 nine months ago. There are also 113 contract employees now. In December alone, nearly 50 people were appointed permanently by the Acting Director General, Matthew //Gowaseb.

Most of the posts were never

to the National Assembly to prepare for the inauguration of the new government in March 21st, 2010.

"Namibia is free forever. We

advertised. //Gowaseb has denied any wrongdoing, saying that everything was done with the approval of the Board, and not him alone.

At his farewell meeting last week, an angry and emotional //Gowaseb pointed a finger at one senior manager, publicly accusing him of leaking confidential information to Namibia Today.

As the mess unfolds, employees are also asking tough questions about the leadership of the Namibia Public Workers Union, NAPWU, at the NBC. Some allege that their shop-stewards are not doing enough to promote and protect their interests.

The workers say that most of NAPWU leaders at the NBC are managers now and should therefore not serve on the shop-stewards council because of a conflict of interest.

"Do we have the right as workers to stand up and give this information to NAPWU?"

SWAPO Party members will at all times, stand tall and proud in the defence of our sovereignty, freedom and national independence.

said one employee. "We are paying union fees every month but these people we trusted and appointed to represent us are not active at all.

"The Chairperson of the Shop-stewards council has resigned over such controversies. We don't trust you anymore because the last time you had such meetings, you were promoted in structures still to be approved by the Board, knowing that it was not a normal labour practice."

News of the resignation of the chairlady of the shop-stewards council has caught several employees by surprise. They are now planning to approach the mother body, NAPWU, and air their concerns.

"We must contact NAPWU ourselves, request a meeting with their representatives as soon as possible," said one employee. "These people will never answer or listen to our concerns. We are wasting our time."

China to invest 12 bln yuan into rural environment protection in three years

BEIJING, — China's central government plans to spend 12 billion yuan (1.76 billion U.S. dollars) on rural environment protection in the three years to 2012, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said in a statement on its website Thursday. MOF Vice Minister Zhang Shaochun said the ministry will work with the Minis-

try of Environmental Protection (MEP) in the coming three years to help treat rural pollution, a move expected to benefit 100 million rural population. With garbage and sewage water exposed in open air, the fragile rural environment in many Chinese villages has aroused attention from the top-level.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao

urged at a State Council meeting on Wednesday that the nation should accelerate pace in solving pollution problems in the rural areas and strengthen rural hygiene work.

To curb the rural pollution, China set up a fund for rural environmental protection in 2008, with a combined 1.5 billion yuan from the central bud-

get earmarked in 2008 and 2009.

The MEP estimated that spurred by the central fund, local governments had added investment of more than 5 billion yuan to support pollution treatment projects in 2,165 villages in the past two years, benefiting more than 13 million rural population. (Xinhua)

China calls for efforts to preserve peace on Korean Peninsula

BEIJING, — A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Thursday called all parties to

preserve peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula after the two Koreas exchanged artillery

fire around a contentious maritime border.

"We noticed reports and

hope concerned sides can step up efforts to jointly safeguard peace and stability on the peninsula, which conforms to the fundamental interests of all sides," spokesman Ma Zhaoxu told a regular briefing.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea fired artillery shells Thursday into waters near the contentious sea border called the Northern Limit Line off the west coast of the peninsula, for the third time in two days.

The Republic of Korea responded to the first round of firing on Wednesday by firing some 100 Vulcan cannons as a warning, but only sent two warning messages without firing warning shots in response to the later shootings.

No casualties or injuries were reported as the two sides did not fire at each other.

The contentious maritime border, where the most recent naval skirmish between the two Koreas took place in November last year, was fixed by the U.S.-led United Nations Command after the 1950-1953 Korean War. (Xinhua)

Over 70,000 inoculated against A/H1N1 flu in Macao

MACAO, — A total of 72,566 people in Macao have been inoculated with the A/H1N1 vaccines so far, Macao's Health Bureau announced on Wednesday.

Some 3,016 people were inoculated with the vaccines on Wednesday alone, and the Bureau started the inoculation in late November last year. Chui Sai On, the chief executive of Macao Special Administrative

Region (SAR), along with many officials of the SAR government have been inoculated with the vaccines, and Chui also called for local people to get inoculated, saying it was the most efficient way to stop the flu from spreading.

The SAR government has purchased a total of 700,000 doses of A/H1N1 vaccines, and local medical staff, children, old people and patients with

chronic illness were among the group of local people who were firstly inoculated with these vaccines. According to the statistics from the Health Bureau, there were no new A/H1N1 flu cases reported in local hospitals by Wednesday. (Xinhua)

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