Victory

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can make a difference. It is only SWAPO Party that can address issues like unemployment, poverty eradication, education and health and many issues.

"That trust is to be appreciated. There were many attempts to mislead those people, but they remained firm, focused and voted for SWAPO Party. All that they need to do now is to demand delivery on the leader they have elected on the promises which the Party has made. They must demand delivery on issues like portable water, housing, education, health and sanitation."

There are 13 888 registered voters in Okahandja Constituency on the voters roll provided by the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN. Out of that figure, only 5275 people voted. There were only two spoiled ballots, while 32 were rejected. Cde Booys is to be sworn in today in Otjiwarongo.

"I am happy with the results," said SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator for Otjozondjupa Region, Cde Otto Ipinge. "I salute and commend the people of Okahandja Constituency for a job well done.

"You have spoken. Your voices were loud and clear. You have shown them who you are. These parties wanted to implement their pilot project on their coalition in Otjozondjupa Region.

"They made a serious mistake by choosing our region. They must never try it again here. We have taught them a lesson they will never forget. This is what we mean when we say SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO."

The eight parties, led by the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, are the All People's Party, APP, the Republican Party, RP, the United Democratic Front, UDF, the Congress of Democrats, CoD, the National Unity Democratic Organization, NUDO, the Namibia Democratic Movement for Change, NDMC, and the Democratic Party of Namibia, DPN.

Coalition talks have been going on for sometimes now, following opposition parties' poor performance in last year's National Assembly and Presidential elections. Led by RDP's Hidipo Hamutenya and urged on by a few academics, opposition parties bought the idea of forming a coalition as the only way to "unseat SWAPO Party from power."

Cde Immanuel Ngatjizeko

Cde Otto Ipinge

Cde Elijah Ngurare

Initially, only four parties supported the idea, but three others joined the fray later on. Last week, Hamutenya said that opposition parties had "put aside" their "little differences" as the only way "capture power" from SWAPO Party. He added that Okahandja by-election was "just the beginning of things to come."

"Never again will we allow SWAPO alone to determine the destiny of this nation," he told the coalition alliance. "We will influence the political direction of this country and that is why we decided to put aside our differences to achieve a better Namibia."

Hamutenya made those words with an eye set on the outcome of Okahandja by-election, which he thought would hand the coalition a victory against SWAPO Party. The outcome of the by-election has shuttered that dream as all the eight parties performed poorly.

"This is just a plastic coalition," said SWAPO Party Youth League Secretary, Cde Ejijah Ngurare, shortly after the outcome of the election. "The coalition is finished. SWAPO Party is here to stay. Hidipo must eat up his own words now. The people have spoken.

"If you divide 1559 votes by eight, you get 194 votes. That means each of the eight parties only got 194 votes. Katamila did better than any of them. All it means is that even if these parties come together, there is no way they can unseat SWAPO Party from power."

Several academics, commentators and journalists had predicted that once opposition parties formed a coalition, they would put up a strong challenge to SWAPO Party, which could be a test case for this year's regional council's elections slated for November.

Others even predicted that Katamila would take many votes from SWAPO Party and his candidature was heavily publicized. He 'too, performed very poorly. "He (Katamila) has just ruined his political career," said Cde Ngurare.

Katamila was expelled from SWAPO Party last month for defying Party instructions not to stand as an independent candidate. SWAPO Party controls six of the seven constituencies which make up Otjozondjupa Region.

These are Grootfontein, Omatako, Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Tsumkwe and Okahandja.

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IUM

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Its current student population now stands at 2500, and is no longer in a position to enroll new students due to limited space. The current IUM new campus in Dorado Park, now still under construction, would soon be completed, thus easing the burden of limited space.

IUM Vice Chancellor and Founder Chairman of the Council, Dr David Namwandi told IUM's Orientation Ceremony last Tuesday that IUM had also introduced new programmes in the past year.

These include Honours Degree in Digital Communications Technology, a Pre-Academic Beginners English Course and an Executive Diploma in Secretarial studies. The interest shown so far indicates that the programmes were relevant and market related.

"We remain committed to our vision of encouraging and developing an African cadre of men and women who can operate at national and international standards in business," said Dr. Namwandi.

"Here at IUM, we strive to identify trends in development and challenges facing our people in practical terms. We have mounted programmes such as HIV and AIDS and Digital Communications Technology.

Some of the students who have enrolled at IUM during Tuesday's Orientation Ceremony. Photo by Levi Upula.

"We explore any avenue in an effort to seek solutions to our common enemy, that is poverty and unemployment. We will leave no stone unturned in producing graduates equipped with skills relevant to our situation, Namibia and the region."

Dr Namwandi said IUM would strive for excellence, producing graduates who could perform at national and international levels. He added that producing graduates who could be creators of wealth and work and those who could think out of the box was the bedrock of its programmes.

"We mould and shape graduates who are prepared to be risk takers, to be trail blazers, not always choosing the trodden path but to be innovators. It is my conviction that the future of the nation and the progress of its people are dependent on the wisdom and courage of those who have control over its destiny."

IUM recently received loans from the Development Bank of Namibia, DBN, and the First National Bank, FNB, to support the construction of its hi-tech campus at Dorado Park, which, Dr Namwandi said, would go a long way in addressing its current challenge of space.

"In this regard, I would appeal to our students and sponsors to bear with us as we go through the remaining few months before the completion of our campus," he said. "Let us exercise patience and cooperate with management and lecturers to ensure that the learning process progresses with as few hitches as possible."

In a move to improve service delivery on its long distance programmes, IUM has outsourced its distance programmes to IOL, which has the structures in place to ensure that distance programmes are offered efficiently and without compromising their quality. IUM has also opened its doors in Gaborone, Botswana.

Debate

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This was one of the items on the agenda for the SPYL Central Committee meeting which took place in Okahandja last Saturday. SPYL Secretary, Cde Elijah Ngurare, said that the succession debate had been "unnecessarily plunged" in the media.

"The CC condemned the tribal overtones in the so-called debate alluding to a 'non-Oshiwambo president' to succeed President Hifikepunye Pohamba," said Cde Ngurare in an interview.

"The CC affirmed the reality that there is no vacancy in the Presidency currently and President Pohamba has not even been sworn in, thus initiating such a self-serving debate can only be interpreted as opportunistic and preemptive."

The succession debate was triggered by Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development, Cde Kazenambo Kazenambo, in an interview with a weekly English newspaper three weeks ago.

In the interview, Cde Kazenambo suggested that the next president to succeed President Pohamba should be "non-Oshiwambo speaking person." That suggestion triggered a heated debate around the country, which culminated in an interview with Cde Kazenambo on NBC TV.

"The CC affirmed that any succession debate will not be decided in the soccer stadium but in the structures of the SWAPO Party in line with the rules and procedures of the SWAPO Party," said Cde Ngurare.

"We have thus resolved to call on the SWAPO Party leadership to prevent any sectoral agenda as witnessed during the Hidipo Hamutenya era to prevail in the SWAPO Party. All Namibians are equal and they are all in SWAPO Party."

The CC also suspended SPYL Deputy Secretary, Cde Juta Shikomba for six months with pay. She has to appear before a disciplinary committee. Three more CC members were suspended and relieved of their leadership positions in SPYL until the 5th SPYL congress in 2012.

Meanwhile, Acting Attorney General and Minister of Presidential Affairs, Dr. Albert Kawana, has called on the SPYL to be more vigilant than ever before, especially in view of the "regime change" theory currently being waged by the western countries to oust governments led by former liberation movements.

Dr. Kawana, who was a guest speaker at last weekend's SPYL CC meeting, said that SPYL's role was as important today, just as it was during the struggle for Namibia's independence.

"In fact, I would say we need now more than ever before, a much more militant and ideologically cogent SPYL in the Party," he said. "SPYL is, by constitution, the transmitting belt for the Party's ideology, policies and programmes, thus making it the core body in respect of the Party's continued survival and strengthening.

"While SPYL has been outspoken in its rejection of neo-imperialism, I wish to implore that in the future, you must reject with the same contempt the rising re-emergence of pseudo democratic tendencies masquerading as democratic tolerant practices which neo-liberalism represents."

Dr Kawana said SPYL should not be ashamed of defending SWAPO Party's revolution, its leaders and ideology. "There is no shame in defending the Party that you love," he said. "There is no shame in seeking African solutions to African problems and there is certainly no shame in defending SWAPO Party, despite what opposition forces and their reactionary sponsors say.

"We remain the most democratic formation in the history of Namibia. I challenge anyone to name one political party that can match SWAPO Party's democratic credentials. There is none."

On youth empowerment, Dr Kawana said that SPYL should take a lead in that battle, adding that it should not accept the fact that people remained poor in a rich country. Accepting that fact, he said, amounted to a betrayal of those who had died for freedom and independence.

"Our demand for black economic empowerment is made without apology. To benefit from the natural resources of our country is not a privilege but a birth right," he said.

"Let us declare anew the war for economic emancipation with special emphasis on previously disadvantaged Namibians. Let us support and continue the implementation of the pro-poor national budget.

"We will relentlessly pursue this economic war knowing full well that we have foot soldiers in the name of the SWAPO Party Youth League. This is the war we cannot afford to take prisoners and we do not intend to offer apology to anybody."

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