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SWAPO defends budget

MPs say Namibia's 'needs well addressed'

By Asser Ntinda

SWAPO Party members of the National Assembly have come out in full support of the N\$28 billion budget tabled by Finance Minister, Cde Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, in the National Assembly last week, describing it as a pro-growth budget built on a clear future vision of Namibia which addresses the needs and aspirations of the Namibian people.

Speakers after speakers commended the government for the emphasis it had placed on education, health, poverty reduction, rural housing and sanitation, youth and skills development, unemployment, promotion of small and medium enterprises and the increase of old-age pensions.

"All of these priority areas have featured prominently in the SWAPO election manifesto, which the government is committed to implement," said newly elected SWAPO Party Chief Whip, Professor Peter Katjavivi.



Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana



Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

"We therefore welcome the budget and its specific objectives underpinning our government's determination to address the key areas of our

country's social and economic sectors.

"The budget outlines measures to invest in our country's economic development. Above all, it avoids cuts to essential services as well as putting the country on the path to growth and progress"

Justice Minister and SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana applauded the budget in many respects, saying that the country's plans should seek to engage the youth and bring them into leadership positions before the baton was passed on to them as the next leaders.

"Our last parting task is to put them fast bound on the track of responsible citizenry through our institutions and programmes, which should be a task of the ministries of Youth and Sports and of Education," she said.

"Colleagues at these ministries are best equipped by age to understand the expectations and aspirations along with the circumstances of this genera-

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SWAPO elects Katjavivi its Chief Whip in NA

By Anna Nakambale

SWAPO Party has elected Professor Peter Katjavivi as its Chief Whip in the National Assembly, and Cde Katjavivi moved quickly to thank the Party for the trust and confidence it has placed in him.

"I accept the responsibility of being the Chief Whip of my Party in this August Assembly," he said. "In undertaking this responsibility, I will be counting on the support of my SWAPO Party colleagues as well as gaining the goodwill of members of the Opposition.

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Protesters took control of a government office in Tulas on April 6, and on April 7 clashes between protesters and police in the capital Bishkek turned violent. At least 65 deaths and 400 injuries have been confirmed. Overnight it was reported that President Bakiyev had fled the capital in his private jet south to Osh, and that opposition leaders were forming a new government led by former foreign minister Roza Otunbayeva. (See full story on page 8)

Leaked video shows US military killing of two Iraqi journalists

By Patrick O'Connor

Leaked US military helicopter video footage, published on the Wikileaks web site on Monday, has shed light on the circumstances of the killing of two Iraqi journalists in July 2007. Reuters' photographer Namir Noor-Eldeen and his assistant Saeed Chmagh were shot dead while on assignment in eastern Baghdad. They were among 10-15 Iraqis killed and badly wounded in the incident, including two young children and other civilians targeted as they



Footage of a leaked video showing US military killing two Iraqi journalists.

attempted to provide assistance to those first attacked. The video footage, with accompanying radio messages among

the US troops involved, is further evidence of the criminal character of the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq.

The US military previously attempted to cover up the incident, challenging Freedom of Information requests made by Reuters. The news agency's demand for an independent investigation was also rejected. An internal military investigation conducted in 2007 exonerated the troops involved in the incident, concluding that the force used was justified and within the rules of engagement.

The leaked video footage

was recorded by at least one Apache helicopter. Media outlets have reported that US military officials have acknowledged that the material is genuine. According to Wikileaks, several military whistleblowers provided the web site with encrypted video, which its staff was subsequently able to decrypt. The leak will no doubt further fuel military hostility toward Wikileaks. A March 2008 classified Pentagon report (which was itself leaked to the web site) declared that

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