

ITU says ICT is key to economic growth

Nearly 20 Heads of State and Government attend ITU World Telecom Forum

By Asser Ntinda



Geneva, Switzerland - The International Telecommunications Union, ITU, has urged both developed and developing countries to use information communications technology, ICT, as stimulus plans to fast-track economic growth and solve the world's biggest financial crisis.

This is the central theme that runs through wide-ranging debates at the ITU Telecom World Forum which started in Geneva on Monday. The five-day forum, which ends today, was held under the theme "Open Networks, Connected Minds" and brought together nearly 20 Heads of State and Government and top-level executives from the information and communication technology industry around the world. Namibia is represented by delegates from the Ministry of Information Communications Technology, The Namibian Communications Commission and Telecom Namibia.

There were more than 300 exhibitors from all over the world, showcasing their latest products and services, alongside national and regional pavilions. Topics discussed ranged from "ICT for economic recovery and sustainable development, technology foresight, new regulatory models, cyber security to ICT and climate change.

The forum noted that while analysts were cautiously optimistic, it was likely that economic after-

shocks would continue for some time as structural adjustments took place. Participants examined how policy makers could respond, and the role of ICT in governments' economic stimulus plans.

"Should investment in broadband networks form an essential part of such plans," asked ITU Secretary General Dr. Hamadou Toure. "And what are the implications for developing countries and the digital divide? It is important to address these and other important issues as policy choices made now will determine how much nations benefit from next-generation technologies, NGN."

Dr. Toure and six other dignitaries, who included UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Tanzanian Prime Minister, Mizengo Pinda, and several ministers of information and communications technologies, called on a packed hall of government, business and youth leaders to collectively harness the power of ICT technology to find solutions to the world's biggest challenge—the world financial crisis. Dr. Toure said that ICT had already made tremendous progress since ITU Telecom World Forum in 2003 in Geneva.

"Back then, we had just achieved the first billion mobile phone subscriptions. By the end of this year, we will have 4,5 billion.

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SWAPO Party member and supporters took a long walk, toyi-toying during the well attended rally at Greenwell Matongo. Photo by Levi Upula

SWAPO Party colours dominated Katutura

By Levi Upula

WINDHOEK - It was just Blue, Red, Green colours displayed everywhere in Katutura last weekend as the SWAPO Party comrades were toy-toying through the streets inviting all its party members to join the rally.

Five branches in Moses//Garoeb district had meetings on Saturday morning. One of the meetings was addressed by comrade. David Namalenga.

Namalenga told the huge crowd

to rally behind SWAPO Party in the forthcoming Presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled for November 27-28.

"We all know very well that SWAPO will win, but that is not

enough. We want all 72 seats in Parliament to be occupied by the SWAPO Party", says comrade Namalenga.

He told the born-frees that it is their time to ensure that SWAPO

Party wins the upcoming election with 100% votes for their future, adding that the future of the born-free is in their own hands and that

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SWAPO Party prepares its leadership for elections

By Kayele M. Kambombo

Comrade Jerry Ekandjo officially opened the High Level Preparatory Workshop on 2009 Presidential and National Assembly Elections for the SWAPO Party regional top leadership on Wednesday in Windhoek.



Cde. Jerry Ekandjo

The SWAPO Party Secretary for Information and Mobiliza-

tion and Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Information, Publicity and Voters Education told the gathering that the SWAPO Party was founded on the clear vision and principle of bringing about freedom, justice and solidarity against the injustices, dehumanizing and oppressing systems of colonialism and apartheid.

The SWAPO Party, as now the ruling party for two de-

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The Secretary of SPYL Comrade Elijah Ngurare receives various cheques donated by Cde Leevi Hungamo, Director of Hangeveni investment Holding. Photo by Levi Upula

Namibian Companies Sponsor SWAPO

By Levi Upula

A number of reputable Namibia companies have decided to sponsor the mobilization campaign of SWAPO Party. Handing over the donation on behalf of mainly patriotic white Namibian companies,

the youthful Director of Hangeveni Investment Holdings, Cde. Leevi Hungamo, said "since Independence Namibia is safe haven for business and entrepreneur spirit and

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