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SWAPO ready to sweep elections

Kunene Region under magnifying glasses

By Asser Ntinda

SWAPO Party functionaries in all the 107 constituencies around the country are sharpening their campaign strategies to ensure that the party does not only do well in the upcoming regional and local authorities' elections slated for November this year, but snatch away constituencies that it does not control.

Most of the Party's regional coordinators spoken to are predicting a landslide victory in the regional elections, saying that opposition parties have been weakened by their inability to penetrate the country's 107 constituencies.

The region that has caused SWAPO Party headaches for several years is Kunene Region, and that is where the Party is not leaving anything to chances. SWAPO Party controls only one constituency in Kunene Region, Outjo. The United Democratic Front, UDF controls three – Khorixas, Kamanjab and Sesfontein. Epupa and Opuwo constituencies are controlled by the DTA.

SWAPO Party officials in Kunene Region are confident this time around that come November, things will not be the same again. Party functionaries have been upping their campaign tempo over the past years. This has resulted in thousands of people joining SWAPO Party from the DTA and UDF.

If last year's National Assembly and Presidential elections are

anything to go by, SWAPO Party is likely to snatch some constituencies from both the DTA and the UDF. For the first time since independence, SWAPO Party defeated the DTA in the National Assembly elections in Epupa Constituency, scoring 2384 votes, followed by the DTA, which got 1972 votes.

This was its first defeat in Epupa since independence, a sign that its dominance in that constituency has dwindled significantly. The difference is 412 votes.

"That is a big margin," said Yolanda Nangombe, SWAPO Party's Regional Administrator for Kunene Region. "We mean business this time. We will snatch most of these constituencies from these opposition parties. SWAPO Party has made significant inroads in those constituencies. We are confident that victory will be ours. Our time to take over Kunene Region



The battle for Kunene Region – SWAPO Party sets its eyes on all the six constituencies. It currently only controls one constituency, Outjo. These are some of the thousands of people who have joined SWAPO Party. Photo by Asser Ntinda.

has come."

In Opuwo Constituency, SWAPO Party got 3052 votes, while UDF got 3116. The difference was 64 votes. In Kamanyab Constituency, SWAPO Party scored 1206 votes, followed by the UDF with 864 votes. In Sesfontein,

UDF just got 17 votes more than SWAPO Party.

"For us, the coming elections will be smooth sailing because we have no strong opponents to fight," said Nestor Shuukwanyama, SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator for Ohangwena Region.

"Those who thought the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, would garner many votes here have been disappointed.

"We slammed them before they could even walk. We have made RDP an empty shell. It is nothing. As for the other parties, we do not

even bother with them. The people here are behind SWAPO Party. No single constituency will be lost here. However, we should not sit back and relax. We must campaign hard."

All constituencies in
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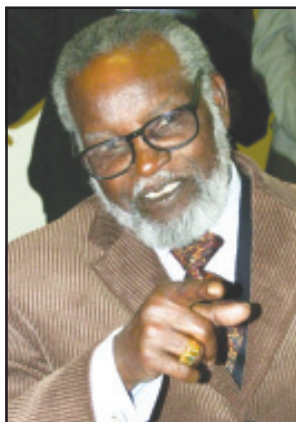
Invest in science and technology, says Dr Nujoma

By Asser Ntinda

Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma says that if Namibia is to turn around the slow rate of economic development, currently now estimated to be at four percent, the country must invest heavily in science, technology and innovation.

Opening the National Science, Technology and Engineering Week at the University of Namibia, UNAM, the Founding President said that investing in science and technology was also the best way to address increasing unemployment and other signs of under-development such as poverty, hunger and disease.

He was referring to the development of high level scientific and



Dr Sam Nujoma

technological expertise in niche areas identified and noted for bringing about rapid socio-economic development for Namibia.

"Currently, the picture in terms of annual output of science and

technology graduates from our tertiary institutions may not seem to be large enough, but I am confident that the situation will improve given the increased investment our government intends to undertake in promoting these very important fields" he said.

"This is evidenced by the establishment of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at UNAM for producing professional engineers, while the Polytechnic of Namibia will continue producing the much needed technologists."

The National Science Week was graced by the presence of two Chinese astronauts, Yang Liwei and senior colonel Liu Boming, who were guests of honour at the event, which was hosted by UNAM. It

was held under the theme "My Environment, My Treasure."

Liwei is the Deputy Director General of the China Manned Space Engineering Office, while

Boming is an astronaut of the Shenzou-7 Mission. They were part of a delegation of six mem-

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Govt grants citizenship to 4 949 Angolans

Government has authorized the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to grant Namibian citizenship to 4 949 Angolans who came to Namibia from 1930 to 1975 and whose applications for permanent residence permits have already been approved.

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