

KUNENE REGIONAL COUNCIL	
Constituency	Party Affiliation of Winning Candidate
Epupa	Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)
Kamanjab	United Democratic Front (UDF)
Khorixas	United Democratic Front (UDF)
Opuwo	Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)
Oujo	South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)
Sesfontein	United Democratic Front (UDF)

ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL	
Constituency	Political Party Affiliation of Winning Candidate
Arandis	South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)
Daures	United Democratic Front (UDF)
Karibib	South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)
Omaruru	United Democratic Front (UDF)
Swakopmund	South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)
Walvis Bay Rural	South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)
Walvis Bay Urban	South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)

Red lights! Will SWAPO Party reverse this trend in November? This is how the Party performed in these two regions in the last Regional Council's Elections in 2004.

SWAPO

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Ohangwena are controlled by SWAPO Party. Judging from last year's National Assembly and Presidential elections, the picture will remain the same. Shortly after the creation of RDP, former SWAPO Party Councilor, Carlos Shinohamba, conspired with RDP and resigned his post as councilor for Enhana Constituency, saying that he was going to "study."

It emerged later that the real intention was to create a vacancy in the Ohangwena Regional Council for RDP to test its strength there and plot a march to State House from there, sweeping all the by-elections that would have ensued.

When a by-election was held at Enhana in 2008, RDP got the shock of its life. SWAPO Party won with over 4000 votes, with RDP trailing far behind with only just over 400 votes.

"I am not boasting but the picture will remain the same," said Cde Shuukwanyama. "We have penetrated all the constituencies here. All of them are SWAPO Party constituencies. People here, young and old and the 'born-frees' will vote for SWAPO Party candidates."

SWAPO Party Youth League Secretary, Dr Elijah Ngurare, is a busy man these days, crisscrossing the country and urging the youth to vote for SWAPO Party. His is rarely in Windhoek, preferring to be where the people are – villages in rural areas.

"We want to show these political projects that we mean business," said Dr Ngurare, who had just returned from Hardap and Karas Regions. We want to have control over all the 107 constituencies.

"I have been to the regions and have spoken to the people myself. Their moral is very high. They have confidence in SWAPO Party, as they have always been. They are very hopeful in terms of delivery of services, in terms of the implementation of the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto.

"The people are saying that whatever we do must be in the interest of the Party and the people themselves. Individuals' interests must come last. I am confident that we will sweep these elections."

Namibia is divided into 107 constituencies. SWAPO Party controls 96 of them. In Omaheke Region, which has seven constituencies, SWAPO Party controls four. The National Unity Democratic Party, NUDO controls two – Otjinene and Aminius. SWANU controls Otjombinde. In Erongo Region, UDF controls Daures and Omaruru constituencies.

Otjombinde used to be under SWAPO Party but internal fighting over candidates fielded by the Party resulted in various factions, which cost the Party that Constituency. However, in the last National Assembly and Presidential elections, SWAPO Party performed incredibly well, a sign that Otjombinde may come back to SWAPO Party, come November.

"We need to work hard to win Otjombinde back," said Festus Ueitele, SWAPO Party Omaheke Regional Coordinator. "We should remain united and avoid factions which cost us Otjombinde Constituency. We should not allow individuals' interests to destroy the Party."

"What happened in Otjombinde Constituency should be a lesson and eye opener for all of us. I am confident that this time we will take it over. We have to do quite a lot to penetrate constituencies that fall under NUDO in Omaheke Region.



These are some of the thousands of people who have joined SWAPO Party from UDF and DTA, strengthening the Party's dominance in Kunene Region. Photo by Asser Ntinda

Aminius Constituency is where Herero Chief Kuaima Riruako comes from. He is also the President of NUDO."

Another constituency that is controlled by NUDO is Okakarara in Otjozondjupa Region. Okakarara is the only constituency in Otjozondjupa Region that does not fall under SWAPO Party. SWAPO Party officials in that region said they would put up a spirited fight to take it over this time around. The remaining constituencies are still safe.

There are not going to be major upsets in the Regional Council's elections throughout the country, because in those elections, the winner takes all. The problem, SWAPO Party leaders say, is with Local Authority Elections where the proportional representation system is used.

The system allows votes that are not enough for a seat to be given

to the nearest runner, allowing that candidate to have a seat in the council, even though he or she did not get enough votes for a seat. It is through that system that has allowed RDP to have a seat in the Omuthiya Local Authority in Oshikoto Region.

"We have no problem with Regional Council Elections," said Shuukwanyama. "We must campaign and work extra-hard when it comes to local authority elections. That is why opposition parties are talking about forming a coalition to target certain municipalities and have control over them. We must campaign hard to avoid such a situation."

So far, there are no problems in Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshana, Kavango, Caprivi, Erongo and Khomas regions. But in Hardap, Karas, Kunene Omaheke and Otjozondjupa regions, SWAPO Party needs to work hard not only

to retain the constituencies it currently controls but also to make inroads in those that it does not control.

"The leadership needs to stamp its authority and quell infighting in Hardap and Karas Regions," said one SWAPO Party leader. "Those individuals are destroying the Party ahead of the elections. We do not want Otjombinde scenario to play itself out in Hardap and Karas Regions."

Dr Ngurare said one thing that would also work in SWAPO Party's favour was that opposition parties were going into those elections without a coherent strategy on how to face SWAPO Party, adding that they were still recovering from the bruises they sustained in the Okahandja debacle.

"They are fragmented," he said. "At times they seem to forget that they are also different political parties which should face one another.

Their preoccupation now is how to face SWAPO Party, not how to sell their manifestos. If they form a coalition, whose manifesto will prevail? None among them is eager to go it alone.

"Shortly after its formation, RDP claimed that it would reduce SWAPO Party's two-thirds majority. It also claimed that it had 390 000 registered members. Where are they today? They are cowards. That is why they are talking about forming a coalition. No opposition party wants to stand against SWAPO Party alone. SWAPO's punches are heavy to face them alone.

"Coalition or no coalition, we will defeat them in both the Regional and Local Authority elections. There is no doubt about that. However, we should not sleep on our laurels. We need a coordinated strategy that will destroy those opposition parties once and for all."

Invest

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bers from China Manned Space Program who had been in the country for a week.

Namibia was the first country in Africa to receive the delegation from China Manned Space Program. The delegation attended the launching ceremony of the Exhibition Hall at China Space Tracking, Telemetry and Command Station in Swakopmund.

Dr Nujoma, who is also Chancellor of UNAM, told this year's National Science Week that Namibia needed to increase the

number of graduates coming from its two institutions by increasing more academic programmes covering essential fields so that Namibians could meet the human resource required to propel the country's socio-economic development and realize Vision 2030.

He said that the output of professionals, technicians and artisans must be more than double every year from UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia, adding that this was the only way Namibia could reach the target of becoming an industrialized country by 2030.

"The challenge is how can we achieve this?" he asked. "We need to increase the number of learners

that take science and technology subjects in our schools. Currently, there seems to be negative perceptions in terms of science and mathematics.

"These subjects are regarded by learners as being difficult subjects or subjects that are boring. This kind of perception must change by ensuring that we enroll and produce competent mathematics and science teachers at our Faculty of Education at UNAM who can inspire the learners through quality teaching of these subjects."

Negative perceptions could be reversed at very early stages at primary and secondary levels, he said. Learners should be exposed to sci-

entific games that included reasoning, critical thinking and problem solving.

"We need to expose our learners to outputs and applications of science," he said. "When people are exposed to these applications of science and mathematics, then we will most definitely see an increase in learners choosing science and technology related fields of study.

"The challenges for teachers, especially in the rural areas where computers and laboratories are scarce, is to become more innovative, by developing demonstration tools that make science and mathematics more attractive."

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Angolans

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The decision was taken recently in Cabinet, following a request by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration in 2006 to grant permanent residence permits to Angolan nationals who came to Namibia during 1930 to 1975. The request was granted.

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However, while implementing the decision, new legal challenges emerged. While implementing the decision as an interim measure while their applications for Namibian citizenship were being processed, the Ministry realized that it would not help them to access social grants because such grants were only applicable to Namibians.

A total of 2273 Angolans who came to Namibia in 1930 to 1975 are unemployed elderly and could not afford to pay N\$12 173 for the required documents. The government of Angola also does not have

any records for these people.

Government has also authorized the Ministry of Home Affairs to grant Namibian citizenship to 150 other groups of individuals who were registered and who came from South Africa, Angola and Zambia to Namibia before 1977. They would also become Namibian citizens by naturalization.

"Cabinet directed the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to register all stateless people in the remaining nine regions to allow them to qualify like those mentioned in the above para-

graph," a statement from Cabinet chambers read.

"Cabinet further more instructed the Ministry to exempt 5808 persons from the normal requirements before granting them permanent residence permits and subsequently Namibian citizenship.

"It further directed the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to make budgetary provision of N\$17 718 million annually from the 2010/2011 financial year onwards to allow the payment of pension grants to the qualifying above-mentioned persons."