

COT

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“We recognize that broadband capacity, infrastructure and accessibility are imperative to provide improved government and private sector services. It assists in redefining the way in which citizens interact with each other, how they interact with their governments, the civil service and of course the private sector.”

Any government, he said, however well intentioned or armed with the best technology, would not be able to provide such services if they were not affordable by the people. The challenge was how to create that accessibility in a tangible and practical manner while being a commercially viable proposition.

“To reap the true benefits of broadband technology,” said the Prime Minister, “it must be accessible. Accessibility does not simply mean we have the various bells and whistles – it means that the citizens must have the capacity to access that technology. They must them-

selves have the knowledge base and the appropriate levels of familiarity with technology.

“They must not be intimidated by the technology and the paraphernalia that goes with it. Perhaps more importantly in developing countries, accessibility to technology must mean affordability. After all, if costs are prohibitive, then you can have the best system in the world but it won't get down to the citizens. They simply won't use it.”

CTO's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, said that whatever challenges that might be in the way, the time had come to make information available online to ordinary people, especially in rural areas. Connecting schools and health facilities in such areas had become a necessity which could no longer be placed as a last item on the development agendas of the member states.

“People in the world are talking about e-education, e-health, e-tourism, e-government and everything,” he said. “We should move fast to make information available online and easily accessible by all the

Said Ngurare, “When leaders are elected to Parliament, they must serve the people, not their own interests”. He further urged all tribes and ethnic groups in Namibia to unite and rally behind the SWAPO Party.

He bemoaned the fact that some leaders are now masquerading in the southern part of Namibia, telling people all kinds of “lies that SWAPO hates Namas, hence, they were not elected at the Electoral College amongst the top 50”. Said Ngurare, “when you are in parliament, work hard so that people reward you at the end of the day”. He also emphasize that all tenders

The Namibia Electoral Commission has announced the dates of the Presidential and National Assembly Elections that are slated for November 27-28.

As the Presidential and National Assembly Elections are approaching the door for parties to commence in all earnest with their campaigns for elections.

The President reminded the nation that the SWAPO Party successfully held its Electoral College to elect the candidates for the National Assembly and the launched the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto.

people.”

Delegates agreed though that it was virtually impossible to roll out broadband connectivity to rural areas where there was no electricity and where computers were still a luxury of the few. The challenge, they pointed out, was now for governments to step up rural electrification and infrastructure development, and to use donor funds as well as universal services funds to roll out broadband connectivity.

“We must look at, and identify effective ways on how to use donor funds and strategize on how best we can draft in investment banks to finance broadband infrastructure, thus facilitating and accelerating broadband roll-out,” said one delegate from Malawi.

“We must also put regulatory incentives in place to make broadband not only available but also affordable by ordinary people anywhere in the corners of our countries. That is the only way we can move forward. The faster we move the better. For, we cannot afford to lag behind in this regard.”

Alisa Amupolo from the Namibia Communications

must be decentralized so that rural people also benefit. He also thanked the Party leadership for a visionary work they have done over the past five years.

Cde. Ngurare was accompanied by Comrades Bernadus Swartbooi, Veikko Nekundi, and Titus / Huisemab, all Members of the SPYL Central Committee. Other prominent SPYL leaders present were Henny Seibeb, Lolo !Goraseb, Clive Willemse, Niklaas Links and Homateni, and Cde. Nico Mungenga, the SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator gave spiritual and moral support to the youth cause.

He called on all SWAPO Party members to go out and spread the Party's message of development and national reconciliation to all parts of the country.

The President vowed that the SWAPO Party will continue to conduct its mobilization work in a manner that is consistent with the Party's dedication to democracy, peace and national reconciliation.

The Head of State was confident that the people of Namibia will once again demonstrate their support for the SWAPO Party by giving a resounding new mandate in the forthcoming elections.

“SWAPO is the Party that brought Namibia's freedom. It is also the Party that made it possible for a new Namibia to join the community of free nations. It is the Party that paved the way for freedom, peace, and prosperity.

“We are committed to continue building on the firm foundation that has been laid since 1990 to provide a better life for all”, he said persuasively.

He called on the electorate to make the right choice by voting for the SWAPO Party in the upcoming elections.

Commission, NCC Advisor, said the meeting was worth attending as it came at a time when Namibia was about to complete the transformation of the NCC into the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia, CRAN.

“Namibia as a sector member of CTO has a comparative advantage to form part of the international platforms that are considered influential in the ICT trends on a global scale,” she said. “The context in which the CTO forum agenda was structured was well-thought out as it examined policies and regulatory issues on broadband

roll-out,” Amupolo added.

“The meeting therefore demonstrated best practices across the Commonwealth member states particularly in Asia – Pacific and set directions on policy and regulatory approaches towards the promotion of broadband roll out and infrastructure sharing as well as funding acquisition. This could shape Namibia's methodology in implementing its IT policy approach.”

The meeting culminated into a review of the Asia-Pacific's experience in implementing decisions on the World Telecommunications Standardization

has so far received 1316 Existing Customary Land Rights of which 443 applications were verified, mapped and placed before the Board for consideration. The certificates of the 443 verified customary land rights were issued on that day (Friday).

The Traditional Authorities ensured that the N\$25.00 for an application and N\$50.00 for the certificate fees were paid before the certificates were issued to the community members.

“The levies collected therefore by the Traditional Authorities concerned must be utilized properly”, Naruseb.

He further urged the Traditional Authorities, Karas Communal Land Board and the Officials from the line Ministry to closely work together with the community to ensure that the Existing and New Customary Land Rights are completed within the extended period.

Assembly to bridge the standardization gap, a challenge not peculiar to Asia but also to common in emerging markets, including Namibia.

Other issues discussed included frequency allocation, spectrum management, coherent broadband policy, rural communication, fixed and wireless broadband, e-governance, ICT investments and national and regional challenges which e-governance can address and how governments can deliver e-services through greater connectivity, and the latest satellite broadband technology.

According to the Minister, his ministry has so far completed a massive verification exercise of most of the Existing Customary Land Rights.

!Naruseb called on all community members who were not covered during the earlier process to liaise with the Ministry and the Communal Land Board and their respective Traditional Authorities for assistance. “Community members who did not apply or refused to apply must do so before the expiry of the extended period, that is 2012”, adding that “failure to do that, a person's Existing Customary Land Rights will not be recognized and one cannot claim ownership over the land.

“Once the certificate has been issued to the community member, the owner of such land remains the owner and such land is inheritable and transferable to the surviving spouse”, !Naruseb stated.

Customary

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gard to the management of land in communal and commercial farm lands. “As custodian of land, the Ministry (of Lands and Rehabilitation) is accountable for managing land resources in a sustainable manner to ensure that the levels of the people's standards of living are realized”.

Land issues within the Karasburg communal area falls under the jurisdiction of the Karas Communal Land Board. The Land Board is responsible for allocating and managing the land for the good of all community members. It is important that all members work together giving support to the Region and the Board for greater good, explained the Minister.

Karas Communal Land Board

SPYL

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been there one.

The staged was set for the re-launched of the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto by the SPYL in Rehoboth now.

Comrade Dr. Ngurare emphasizes the unity of youth in its cultural diversity. His without the speech address was mainly focused on youth economic empowerment and rural development.

SWAPO

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SWAPO Party have switched into higher gear to mobilize the electorate so that we can achieve another resounding victory.

This will be another mandate to continue implementing development programmes aimed at improving the living standards of our people.

“We will do everything necessary to ensure that our preparations are complete, thorough and implementable to the last detail”.

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Naruseb addresses Farmers Association

By Esau Muzeu

The Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Alpheus Naruseb, addressed the Keetmanshoop Emerging Commercial Farmers Association (KECFA) last Friday to discuss matters pertaining to the resettlement programme in Karas Region.



Cde Hon. Alpheus Naruseb, Permanent Secretary Cde Lidwina Shapwa and members of KECFA at Keetmanshoop.

The minister met members of the KECFA in Keetmanshoop in order to hear their concerns. Their main concerns was to find out where and how they can meet the government in the process. They also wanted to know what their responsibilities are after taking over the farms.

Addressing their concerns to the minister on behalf of the Association its chairperson of KECFA

Willem Ulrich Davids appreciated the SWAPO Government for introducing and implementing the Resettlement program in Namibia. “We want to meet the government half way. This we do by occupying farms immediately and take responsibility of our farms management as well as maintenance”.

The association had queries based on proper border demarca-

tions, ownership of the boreholes, properties such as housing in the Farms and the distribution of water. Some water have poor water infrastructure and problem with the blockage of entrances, those with access to the roads leading to the main road block the roads should that road pass through his/

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