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Kapere, his continued support to the liberation cause after the torture he endured was testament to the fact that he was prepared to die for the love of his people and country. He was consistent and truly patriotically stubborn in his conviction for a free and democratic Namibia. He was consistent and predicable leader of the SWAPO Party, a political formation and ideology he cherished until death. He fought against slavery and apartheid; he fought against racism and tribalism; he fought against neo-colonialism and imperialism. He fought for the independence we enjoy in Gibeon and throughout Namibia. His footsteps must truly be emulated. The present generation must now proclaim their steadfastness to ensure that the future generation of Namibia shall never again be subjected to slavery and servitude for which thousands have sacrificed their lives.

## SWAPO

from page 1

out the successes and achievements made by the SWAPO Party government since independence, reminding those who claim that SWAPO had not achieved anything that they should open their eyes and see for themselves.

“Some people really need medical attention to check whether they are really mentally fine,” he said in Oshiwambo, amid ululation and clapping of hands. “How can a person claim that the SWAPO Party government has not done anything when that very person drives on a road tarred by the SWAPO Party government, goes to a clinic built by the SWAPO Party government, his children attend schools built by the SWAPO Party government?”

“We have indeed distinguished ourselves as a Party and Government that has the capacity to govern and implement development policies for the benefit of the nation. The 2009 Election Manifesto that we have adopted will guide us as we build on our achievements recorded over the past years. We will build a better country and a better nation, a nation able to excel in this competitive world.”

The President committed the SWAPO Party government to fighting crime, combating poverty, unemployment, providing efficient and high quality services, including education, health care, housing, electricity and potable water. The government, he said, was determined to build on the firm foundation that had been laid over the past 19 years, adding that it had surpassed its own goals in many respects.

The legacy of the late Hendrik Witbooi must be built on the foundation of Gibeon and its rich political and cultural history. On 3 November 2006, I visited Gibeon with the late Cde. John A. Pandeni where he held discussions with now the late Cde. Hendrik Witbooi. I was humbled to be present as these two great leaders recalled with nostalgia their days of the liberation struggle and the pain they had endured in Gibeon and its surroundings at the hands of Apartheid regime with their informers and puppets. I recall vividly how the late Cde. Witbooi with compassion and radiant energy as he was reminiscing to those years; he spoke about Cdes Jerry Ekandjo, Peter Ilonga, Ben Biwa, Marten Kapewasha and many others. Now the late Hendrik Witbooi is no more but his legacy lives on. How painful and unpredictable life is: never knew that would be gone so soon to God's eternal Kingdom! The legacy of the late Cde Hendrik Witbooi shall forever live in the

Turning to the youth, the President challenged them to ensure that Namibia reached its full potential as they were the guarantors of the nation's destiny. The youth, he said, would be empowered to be the hope and inspiration towards a better future. Education, he added, was therefore a priority for the government to equip the youth with relevant knowledge and skills for them to participate in exploiting Namibia's natural resources to benefit the country and its people. Helao Nafidi now has four primary schools and one secondary school, which did not exist before.

“We are committed to building a nation that can proudly compete with other nations and win in all areas of human endeavour,” said the President at Outapi. “We are committed to building a country that is capable of looking after all our people, allowing them to reach the highest levels of socio-economic prosperity.

“Our track-record speaks for itself. It speaks of progress. It talks of dedication, and it speaks of commitment to the improvement of the living conditions of all our people. We will not relent on our commitment and dedication to work to improve on the record of achievements that we have made so far.

“When we came to power 19 years ago, many communities, particularly in rural areas, had no access to potable water, electricity, affordable housing, jobs and social security. Health care was not accessible to most of our people... We remained committed to address our people's concerns. During the coming elections, I urge you to vote for your future by voting for the SWAPO Party. Let us march together in unity towards a landslide victory in November.”

youth of SWAPO and of the entire Namibia.

We are conscious that our freedom and independence came about because of the blood of our fallen heroes and heroines shed on the battlefield and in the streets and villages of our country. We must therefore resonate with the undeniable fact that at no time during the colonial history of Namibia has the country been more peaceful and stable than during the past 19 years of our independence under the able and capable leadership of SWAPO Party and its visionary departed leaders like the Comrade Hendrik Witbooi and the late Comrade John Pandeni. We the living and generations after us must avow the memory of the late Cde. Hendrik Witbooi that never again must Namibia be defined by tribalism or racism. Never again be defined by economic racism or economic tribalism. It must be defined by tribal, racial and ethnic harmony and economic prosperity wherein a Namibian in Gibeon or Okangwati has the same economic rights and privileges as a Namibian in parliament or in any air-conditioned corporate or political offices of Windhoek. I learned from the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi these attributes of nationalism and more. Our late National Hero, Dr. Hendrik Witbooi, can be summed up as having been brave, kind and compassionate, effective and efficient political leader,

humble, friendly, honest, religious and cultural leader, hard working and above all he has been amongst few SWAPO Party leaders who are

unwavering, uncompromising and patriotically stubborn against discrimination, nepotism, tribalism, racism and corruption!

ONE NAMIBIA ONE NATION; !GÂISE SÂRE KAIKHOEB!

## Oshikuku-Okalongo road to be tarred

By Levi Upula

**The 23 kilometer long gravel road between Oshikuku and Okalongo will soon be tarred to provide safer transport for people and goods, thus contributing to national economic development.**

It will cost N\$112 million to tar the road, using labour-based methods and creating more jobs for residents in the process. President Hifikepunye Pohamba officially inaugurated the ground-breaking ceremony last weekend, which was attended by several government and regional councils' officials.

He said people who would be employed would gain experience which they could use to get permanent jobs on similar projects. Once completed, the road would make it easy for people to access the Angolan market through Omuvelo Wa Kashamane border post, thus promoting increased trade between Angola and Namibia.

“Upgrading this road will provide the residents of Okalongo and surrounding communities with easier access to public institutions such as clinics, schools, churches,



President Hifikepunye Pohamba at a ground-breaking ceremony for the upgrading of the road that will be built between Oshikuku and Okalongo. Photo by Levi Upula.

post offices and other facilities,” said President Pohamba. “It will also make it easier for our people to have access to a wider market for their products.

“This development is a testimony to our SWAPO Party government's commitment to building and expanding our national road infrastructure to make travelling of our people safer in order to engage in trade and access basic services. The road forms part of our national road network and will contribute immensely to the economic development and poverty alleviation in Omusati Re-

gion.”

The government intends to promote trade between different administrative regions of the country, as well as economic integration of the Southern African Development Community, SADC, region.

The SWAPO Party government has compiled a comprehensive road master plan programme to build new and upgrade old roads. Sound road infrastructure, said President Pohamba, would stimulate economic activities like tourism and trade, thus contributing to the country's economic growth.

## Message of Condolence

**The Board of Directors, management and staff of Agribank express their heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family, friends and the whole nation, for the untimely passing away of Reverend Comrade Hendrik Witbooi.**

**We pay tribute to the late Reverend Comrade Hendrik Witbooi, who was a dedicated and fearless leader.**

**We wish the family and the Nation strength during this time of mourning.**



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*May his soul rest in eternal peace!*

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