

NBC

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hopeless but the "consultancy company" walked away with over N\$140,000. No tenders were sent out for that. A South African Company called "Clear-Water" was contracted to give the NBC a "face-lift" in terms of "graphic images." The contract was worth just over N\$1,7 million. No tender procedures were followed.

//Gowaseb said that the NBC had never dealt with a company called "Clear-Water." "Go back to the people who are giving you such false information. Are you not ashamed of yourself? What you have is all rubbish. I do not want to talk anymore. Bye."

Namibia Today has documents showing that NBC had indeed made out cheques to "Clear-Water."

NBC tender regulations dictate that if the goods or services will be more than N\$5000,00 but less than N\$50 000,00, three "separate written quotations" must be obtained. None of these regulations were adhered to in the above two cases.

Last year, some 20 NBC managers went to Midgard for a "two-day strategic workshop." For the two days they spent there, the bill was N\$200,000. One NBC employee said the idea was not bad but queried the wisdom of choosing such an expensive place, given the financial situation in which the NBC had found itself.

When //Gowaseb moved to the NBC, he never used the regular Director General's Office. He moved into another one. He had his new office and the boardroom fully furnished. The cost ran into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"How can an Acting Director General make such financial undertakings?" said another senior manager. "What is happening here is illegal. There is no corporate governance. These are worrisome observations of the massive irregularities and outright corrupt practices being allowed at the NBC in the name of improving the national broadcaster."

Some employees and man-

agers said that since the appointment of //Gowaseb, positive changes, especially Television image, had been observed, much to the delight of the Namibian nation, creating an impression that all was in "good leadership."

"But behind those scroll bars Namibians see on TV, there are massive irregularities and outright corrupt practices which should not be condoned," said another employee. "The Board or the line Minister should investigate the massive wastage of resources, irregular staff appointments and promotions currently taking place right now. These things have knocked the NBC budget off balance. We are back to where we were eight or ten years ago."

A forensic audit report on NBC conducted by Grand Namibia in 2006, which is in possession of Namibia Today, revealed some damning findings on appointments, promotions and transfers, exactly the kind of things happening now at NBC.

Between 2001 - 2006, it only found three requests for advertisements out of 228. Of the 228 appointments tested over the same period, the audit found only 82 advertisements. Of the 228 appointments tested, only 107 job applications could be found.

Of the 228 appointments tested, only a short-list of potential employees for 51 interviews could be found. Of the 274 promotions tested, only 56 performance appraisals could be found. Grand Namibia was commissioned by the Auditor General's Office.

"We were damned for such practices. Now we are back to square one. I thought Bob Kandetu was the worst Director General the NBC ever had. I was wrong. Things are worse than they have ever been. Will the government bear the ballooning NBC salary bill? I wonder. We are dealing with public money. If we are serious, there must be an investigation."

"We are not against //Gowaseb as a person, and certainly not because he is Damara. I am also Damara. Things are not being done the right way. I want to see how the government will bail out the NBC this time around."

SWAPO

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the election campaign.

The rally was well attended. The stadium was packed to capacity, the majority of those in attendance being the youth, singing, dancing and prancing to the hot lyrics of Ndilimani Cultural Troupe.

The election will be held on February 24, 2010. Speakers after speakers at last weekend's rally were all confident that SWAPO Party's victory was guaranteed, now that there were divisions within the opposition parties on how to field their candidates.

"Shame on them," said SWAPO Party Youth League Secretary, Dr Elijah Ngurare. "They cannot even agree on a candidate! Three opposition parties have agreed to endorse a candidate for the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP.

"She is Christofina Paulus, the disgraced former mayor of Okahandja. You kicked her out because she was incompetent. She was just messing up things. She is now coming back to you again through a hopeless political project.

"Say no to her. The youth, the born-frees, our mothers, our fathers, grand mothers and grand fathers, everybody, stand up and go and vote for a SWAPO Party candidate."

The non-nonsense Jerry Ekanjjo, who was the main speaker, minced no words and ridiculed the three opposition parties which had agreed to endorse the RDP candidate. These are the All People's Party, APP, the National Unity Democratic Party, Nudo, and the Republican Party, RP.

"What will now happen to your manifestos? Will you throw them away? What will you tell your members and follows. What happens to your principles which you claim to hold so dear? Nudo! What will happen to 'nana'?"

"Nana is Nudo's slogan. "Coalition or no coalition, SWAPO Party will win hands down. Members of these opposition parties have been manipulated into a dead-end by RDP. For the RDP controlled opposition, you have been let down by your leaders.

"They are now telling you at the last minute to vote for an RDP candidate. Why can't you put up your won candidate? Why an RDP candidate? Whether you band together or not, SWAPO party will emerge victorious. There is no doubt about that."

SWAPO Party controls six of the seven constituencies that make up Otjozondjupa Region. These are Grootfontein, Omatako, Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Tsumkwe and Okahandja. Okakarara is under Nudo.

"SWAPO Party will stand alone," remarked SWAPO Party activist, Computer Maize at the rally. "We will defeat



The joy of being a SWAPO Party member. This man was caught dancing to the lyrics of Ndilimani in Okahandja last weekend. Above, another SWAPO Party member in unmistakable mood. Photo by Asser Ntinda.



them. The RDP controlled opposition, are you now throwing away your manifestos and adopting the manifesto of RDP?"

A SWAPO Party candidate will be known today, Friday, at nine o'clock in the morning in Okahandja. The Party has short-listed three candidates for vetting. These are Cdes Steve 'Biko Boois, SWAPO Party activist; Valerie Aaron, SPYL District Coordinator and Martin Benhard, SWAPO Party Okahandja District Coordinator.

Leader of the National Leaders assigned to Otjozondjupa Region, Cde Immanuel Ngatjizeko, who is also Minis-

ter of Labour and Social Welfare, has firmly shot down recent media speculations that SWAPO Party was split in Okahandja.

The media reports alleged that "frustrated party members" were planning to put up an "independent" candidate "of their own to contest" the by-election, allegedly because those "short-listed" were "not properly nominated."

Said Cde Ngatjizeko: "There is nothing like that. There is no split. All the procedures were followed. Nominations were properly done and all the requirements were met. What are they talking about? SWAPO Party does not allow indepen-



dent candidates.

"The moment a person does that, you automatically kick yourself out of SWAPO Party. There is one Ben Katamila who is spreading lies about procedures not having been followed properly. These are lies. SWAPO Party is united. We will win Okahandja Constituency."

Ngurare takes on NGOs, financial institutions

At the onset, allow me, on behalf of the SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL), to wish our Nation a happy and prosperous 2010. It is a historic year, because on the 21st March this year, our country will celebrate 20th Anniversary of freedom and independence. It is our expectation that on that day Namibians, young and old, black and white, shall hold hands in the spirit of peace, unity and prosperity to celebrate the victory of our freedom and independence for two decades under the able and tested leadership of the SWAPO Party Government. As SPYL, we cherish our independence, because without it our freedom of choice and freethinking would have been a captured desire, yearning to be free. Those who had laboured and sacrificed for freedom did not have the option to exercise free thinking in a Namibia that was under colonialism and apartheid.

On this point, SPYL wish to stand in solidarity with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, NUNW and other progressive compatriots who have condemned the insensitive ruling of the Supreme Court on the inhumane modern contract labour system also known as Labour Hire. There is no comparison or justification for its existence in a free and independent Namibia. In this regard we fully support the Minister of Labour for having initiated a process of enacting a legislation to correct



Cde. Elijah Ngurare

this anomaly. We are in total solidarity with the workers and the Ministry in this regard. Dear Comrades, today, our country stands proudly tall among the family of nations. It is a duty and responsibility of every Namibian to make our country proud. To make it proud requires that all its citizens exhibit in deed and action unwavering patriotism. Last week, the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Comrade Joel Kaapanda, issued a press statement informing the nation that the leader of RDP Mr. Hidipo Livius Hamutenya went abroad to lie that the 27 and 28 November 2009 Elections were rigged and that election officials were dismissed when it apparently became obvious that SWAPO was losing election and allegedly the election officials were replaced with Intelligent Officials: what a twisted logic this is? The SWAPO Party Youth League

wholeheartedly supports the statement by Comrade Kaapanda and applauds the government for exposing the naked lies of those whose only political life support, thrives through spreading lies and propaganda. **Fellow citizens**, Is it right for a citizen let alone a leader of political party to parade himself before a foreign audience and lie about a country he dreams of ruling? What interest was he serving by going abroad to lie, is it for Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, Comrades and Friends, At the onset, allow me, on behalf of the SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL), to wish our Nation a happy and prosperous 2010. It is a historic year, because on the 21st March this year, our country will celebrate 20th Anniversary of freedom and independence. It is our expectation that on that day Namibians, young and old, black and white, shall hold hands in the spirit of peace, unity and prosperity to celebrate the victory of our freedom and independence for two decades under the able and tested leadership of the SWAPO Party Government. As SPYL, we cherish our independence, because without it our freedom of choice and freethinking would have been a captured desire, yearning to be free. Those who had laboured and sacrificed for freedom did not have the option to exercise free thinking in

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