

# Okahandja

from page 1

capacity. People, dressed in the SWAPO Party colours cheered, danced and pranced around the soccer field, singing liberation songs and chanting SWAPO Party slogans.

As the Secretary General was being introduced, the lyrics of Ndilimani had everybody on their feet, moving forward and backward, with their popular SWAPO Party hand-clenched fists high up.

Cde Iivula-Ithana told the cheering crowd there was nothing opposition parties could do to prevent a SWAPO Party victory because the Party was the most popular party in the country because of its track record.

"Our achievements speak for themselves," she said, holding Cde Steve Biko Booy's by the hand. "In SWAPO Party we implement what we have promised. In opposition parties, they just talk, talk and talk."

"We only have one candidate for the by-election who will implement the SWAPO Party government programmes and projects. That is Cde Booy's. This is your candidate. Cde Booy's will be your councilor, come February 24. Go out and vote for Cde Booy's."

Cde Iivula-Ithana lashed out at Ben Katamila, a former SWAPO party member who was expelled from the Party last week for defying Party instructions not to stand for the by-election. He is now standing as an independent candidate.

"We are a disciplined organization," she told the cheering crowd. "Where was Katamila? Now, he wants to stand as an independent candidate! We expelled him from SWAPO Party with immediate effect. He joins others in the dustbin of history, following the likes of Andreas Shipanga, Hidipo Hamutenya, Ben Ulenga, Mishake Muyongo and others."

"Look at Hidipo sharing a platform with UNITA, which has killed and maimed many Angolans and Namibians? He is in the dustbin of history. Katamila will follow them in there. We will teach them a lesson. I urge all the people of Okahandja to go out and vote for a SWAPO Party candidate."

"You all know this reactionaries called Kristophina Paulus (RDP candidate) and Katamila. "You have seen the mess she has created in Okahandja when she was your Mayor. We expelled her from SWAPO Party because of the dirty work she was carrying out in Okahandja."

"Now she comes back to you asking for your votes! What a joke! Reject them when the election comes. Vote for a SWAPO Party candidate, the Party with a proud history."

On the court challenge, the Secretary General said that the nine opposition parties which were challenging the outcome of last year's National Assembly and Presidential Elections were doing so confuse the people.

She added that if the High Court orders a recount, the possibility of SWAPO Party gaining two more seats was high as there were 10,000 spoiled ballots in its favour and more than 8000 votes distributed to other smaller parties.

SWAPO Party activist, Cde Marten Benhard called on all hibernators to leave SWAPO Party and join their political projects, saying that SWAPO Party would be content with those who were loyal to its aims and objectives.

"Be informed that we know you," he said. "Don't try to cover yourself in sheep's skin, feel free to come out and show us where you belong. I must make it clear that here in Okahandja, we do not want people who are SWAPO during the day and during the night they become the so-called opposition parties."

"Let us join hands and unite. We have to ensure that come the 24 February 2010, we all have to go straight to the booth and vote SWAPO Party. I know that we always vote for SWAPO Party and there is no secret about this."

SWAPO Party controls six of the seven constituencies that form Okahandja Region. These are Grootfontein, Omatako, Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Tsumkwe and Okahandja. Okakarara is under NUDO. The by-election was necessitated by the death of the late former SWAPO Party councilor, Cde Teofelus Eiseb, who passed away late last year.

# NSHR

from page 1

believe that the crimes of enforced disappearance, torture, and other inhuman acts have occurred and or are occurring on a "massive scale" in Namibia.

"Such crimes were committed as part of a systematic attack on the civilian population in the northern and northeastern border areas of the country," he alleged in the report,

# Measle

from page 1

hit by measles epidemic for the last past four months. So far, 15 people have died and the disease is spreading. The Minister said that only a mass vaccination could reverse this trend. Everybody has to be vaccinated except babies who are six months old and younger, as well as pregnant women.

"This mass vaccination is required because we have come to realize that people in Opuwo have little or no protection against measles," said Minister Kamwi. "The reason for this is because for many years, many parents have not been taking their children for vaccination and therefore, they have not developed protection against the disease."

The mass vaccination starts next week Tuesday and will last until February 15<sup>th</sup>. A strong technical team from Windhoek arrived in Opuwo on Wednesday. The team will remain in Opuwo until the vaccination campaign is over.

The Minister appealed to all community and government leaders, pastors and

which was widely distributed in and outside the country.

Ya Nangoloh also alleged that there were at least "six massive gravesites," adding that the long-term objective of his 95-page report was to "severely condemn the crime of enforced disappearance" and also to "publicize NSHR's discovery of unmarked and mysterious gravesites" in northern and northeastern Namibia.

Ya Nangoloh, it has turned out, was simply "severely condemning" his own lies and fabrications. That report has now

come to haunt its author and is one of the reasons why NSHR's donors have severed ties with it.

The report was dissected by the government following a thorough police investigation. Ya Nangoloh was invited to part of the investigation team, but, knowing that the investigation would reveal his lies, he chickened out.

"When the report turned out to be a load of lies, we were really embarrassed and were accused of undermining law and order by supporting a human rights organization that fabri-

cates stories to justify funding," said the diplomat.

"We simply had to freeze our funding. We are not here to fund lies. To sum up, that report has discredited NSHR in the eyes of the diplomatic community and cost it dearly. Few countries would want to have ties with such an organization. Namibia is too small a country for such crimes to have happened on a 'massive scale' without anybody noticing them. Lies do not live long."

Ya nangoloh could not be reached for comment.



Health and Social Services Minister, Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi, flanked by Deputy Minister of Defence, Cde Victor Simunja, in Opuwo. Photo by Levi Upula.



Military ambulances from the Ministry of Defence which will be used in the mass vaccination against measles. They are part of the Defence Ministry's assistance in the campaign. Photo by Levi Upula.

teachers to mobilize parents and guardians to ensure that people are convinced about the importance of the vaccination.

"Please, help the nation," said the Minister. "Go out in hotspots and discover the challenges faced by the communities. When senior offi-

cial from the Headquarters come for familiarization, take them to hot spots and report cases for the information of the Minister."



Some of the children and their parents who will be vaccinated when the vaccination campaign starts. Photo by Levi Upula.

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