

MUYONGO

from page 7

So, after subjecting him to intense debriefing, his South African handlers then directed him to put together a tribal political outfit that would enable him to qualify for membership in the DTA, which is an alliance of tribal factions. The South Africans believed that Muyongo possessed the kind of leadership qualities and experience which the DTA lacked to gain the necessary acceptance as a genuinely national political party.

In line with his masters' instruction, Muyongo then proceeded to put together a new political outfit in the Caprivi. This is called the United Democratic Party (UDP); and, in turn, this enabled him to join the DTA. Once inside that party, he was catapulted to the position of being President of the DTA.

This was, once more, luck coming his way. He could have used that opportunity to compensate for the other squandered chances. From that vantage point, he could have played a significant role in the consolidation of democracy, peace and stability in the country. He



Hidipo's new political project had already hit a snag.

could also have helped to shape a more constructive and coherent DTA political agenda during those eight years which he served as its leader in Parliament. But, true to type, he failed dismally in all these. Instead, he led that party to crushing defeats by SWAPO in the 1989 independence and all other elections.

Specifically, the following events were critical in dealing the DTA, under Muyongo, a fatal blow in that region. The first of these was the firing of

Felix Mukasa from that party and his position as Governor of the Caprivi Region. This came

elections, in February 1997. The party won only two seats on the Katima Mulilo Council,



Founding President Dr. Sam Nujoma, trying to pump some sense into Hidipo Hamutenya's heard, but to no avail.

about following months of acrimonious public dispute between him and Muyongo. The firing sparked off a steady trickle in 1997 of defection from the DTA to SWAPO, exhibited by the overwhelming victory won by SWAPO's Ernest Likando in the by-election held to fill Mukasa's vacant seat. The trickle continued to gain momentum, culminating in the DTA's crushing defeat in the Local Authority

on which it previously had a majority. At that same time, Muyongo suffered a personal setback that came with the announcement by the influential Mafwe sub-chief Simasiku of his long-time SWAPO membership. Indeed, with that announcement, the trickle, which now included the Linyanti intellectuals, turned into a flood, as evidenced by the move to SWAPO this year of some 300

ers and DTA members.

As it became clear that the DTA grip on the Caprivi Region had decisively broken, Muyongo was shown up to be a politically spent force that no longer added any value to the DTA's effort to strengthen its already shaky position in the country. With this, the jockeying for his position started within his party. Muyongo then resorted to his characteristic brinkmanship. He resumed his dancing on the edge of the volcano by clandestinely organizing an armed band of his followers to ostensibly wage a war of separation from the rest of Namibia. He promised the members of the band that they would be provided with weapons, training and sanctuary by UNITA and Lozi irredentists in Zambia's West-

He used a mixture of pseudo charm and preposterous lies.

One of these lies is the claim that Caprivi was never part of Namibia. He spread this lie fully aware that for more than a century now the region had been an integral part of Namibia. The second lie is that there is an agreement that Caprivi is not part of Namibia that he signed with Nujoma in 1964, supposedly witnessed by Kenneth Kaunda and Julius Nyerere, the Presidents of Zambia and Tanzania respectively. This is, of course, utter nonsense. The only agreement that was ever signed between Muyongo and Nujoma was the merger between CANU and SWAPO to fight together for the liberation of Namibia as one country.

The third lie is that the Caprivi Region has been neglected by the SWAPO Government in regard to development. He does not tell the world where the Trans-Caprivi Highway runs and glosses over the various educational and health facilities and water supply infrastructure established in the region since independence. The fourth lie, once he discovered that the edge of the volcano was erupting under his feet and that the dancing had come to an end, was to tell the people in the Linyanti village that their lives were in danger and that they had to leave the country, en masse, to go into exile.

In other words, having drifted so far in his risk-taking, Muyongo today is now in a prison; a real prison of his own making. The dancing has come to an end and those who he misled stand stranded at Dukwe refugee camp in Botswana like sheep without a shepherd. Such is the unlamented and tragic end of Muyongo's long-standing treachery, egomania and unrestrained opportunism. He wasted so much good fortune, only to end up the real tragic figure that he today is.



Jesaya Nyamu, right, and Hidipo Hamutenya, left, in the morning of their political careers in SWAPO Party. Today, they no longer look the same.

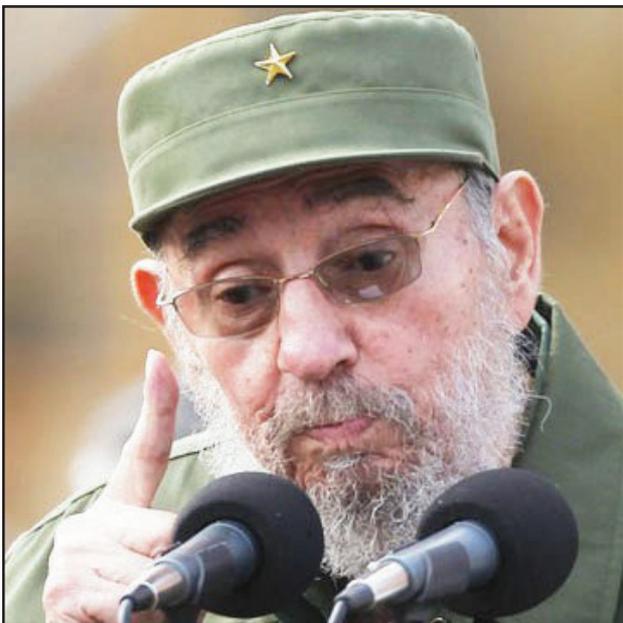
Fidel Castro celebrates 50th birthday of "vigilance" committees

HAVANA, — Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Tuesday chaired a mass rally marking the 50th birthday of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs).

The CDRs, considered as the "eyes and ears of the revolution," were created by Castro's government on Sept. 28, 1960. They now also undertake social welfare projects and assist hurricane disaster relief efforts.

Castro, dressed in his olive-green fatigues, gave an hour-long speech in front of tens of thousands of people, recalling the history of the CDRs.

He quoted from the speech he gave 50 years ago: "In the face of the imperialist aggression, we are going to imple-



Former Cuban leader Comandante Fidel Castro waves during celebrations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) in Havana September 28

ment a system of collective vigilance so that everybody knows who lives on the block, what they do, and what relations they have with the tyranny, and with whom they meet." (Xinhua)

Venezuelan ruling party claims victory in legislative elections

CARACAS, — Leaders of Venezuela's ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) on Sunday claimed victory in the legislative elections.

The voting began at 12,562 voting centers on Sunday at 6:00 a.m. local time (1030 GMT) and finished at 6:00 p.m. local time (2230 GMT) with a high turnout of about 70 percent. About 250,000 troops were on duty to ensure security.

Minutes after the official close of the polling stations, the PSUV claimed its victory although the national electoral council (CNE) said that the first results would be announced on Sunday night at 10:00 p.m. local time (0230 GMT Monday).

CNE president Tibisay Lucena said that in some states the voting centers were not closed at the established time as there were voters still standing in lines to cast the ballot.

Lucena also asked the candidates to wait peacefully for the

ern province.

It is quite astounding to think that there could, indeed, be people who were silly enough to believe in the possibility of such a fantasy. But exploiting blind loyalty among those people in his tribal surrounding who see him as some kind of a demagogue, Muyongo was able to mislead hundreds of people to agree to his foolish idea of the "armed liberation" of the Linyanti village.



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez speaks after casting his ballot at a polling station during the legislative elections in Caracas, Venezuela, Sept. 26, 2010. Venezuela held legislative elections on Sunday. A total of 165 seats in the National Assembly were up for grabs in the poll.

official results.

Meanwhile, PSUV campaign chief Aristobulo Isturiz praised the voters for their enthusiasm in casting their ballots.

"We have an electoral system to be proud of and Armed Forces which know how to fulfill their military civilian tasks," he told a press conference.

Before the voting began, Presi-

dent Hugo Chavez said that as the world's eyes were on Venezuela, the elections were "very important."

More than 17.5 million people were registered to vote on Sunday for 165 lawmakers to the National Assembly and representatives to the Latin American Parliament.

The new lawmakers will take office on Jan. 5, 2011 for a term of five years. (Xinhua)