

Opinion/Letters

# TOWARDS SWAPO Party Economic Empowerment

By Dr. Elijah Ngurare,  
Secretary of SWAPO Party  
Youth League

The term "jobs for comrades" in recent years has been thrown all over the place to create the intended impression that members of SWAPO Party are the favoured ones when it comes to government jobs. It further sends the illusion that to be SWAPO is a license to tenders and economic opportunities in government.

It will thus not be far-fetched to assume that in the minds of some ordinary people SWAPO is a rich political organization. I believe it should, considering that the Namibian people have entrusted the political mandate of governance in it. However, what is the reason why we as a Party are not economically empowered 20 years after independence? Is it true that a membership card of the Party is permission to stardom?

Could it be that those employed or deployed on the ticket of SWAPO may have begun to give such jobs or opportunities to friends, tribal mates or families and not necessarily on the nod of the SWAPO Party ideals? Indeed, the peasants and



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poor people of our country consistently, loyally and predictably go to the polls to vote for the SWAPO Party in order for it to govern. It is the leadership of the Party at Sections, Branches, Districts and Regions that work as the Party's foot soldiers in each election campaigns.

When the victory is secured and new members of Parliament and Cabinet, councilors

etc are sworn in majority of the elected become disjointed and disconnected from the economic needs of the Sections, Branches, Districts and Regions of our Party structures. It can be added of course the Wings and affiliate (NUNW).

Those who become in charge of Government Ministries/Agencies/Offices of Government hardly initiate a business venture to directly benefit the party structure yet tenders for their Ministries/Agencies/Offices come and go and in most cases benefitting even the persons in charge through proxies etc.

It is uncommon if ever that one hears even at the level of Secretariat of the Party where a given Minister on his volition or adherence to the principle of economic empowerment of the Party to share information on a business venture which could benefit the Party.

Only a few do so. Where are the others and who then is going to empower the party structures if not those deployed by the Party in government? These days it is not uncommon to know that a government tender or project first is initiated within the corridors of our government

and some people are appointed as captains of industries not necessarily that such a person is SWAPO but rather depends on the relationship or economic interests he/she might serve for the appointing authorities or the persons connected to the same.

The SWAPO membership these days is actually a negative attribute in some quarters where jargons such as "too SWAPO; too militant" are ever

too prevalent. I close off by arguing that the term SWAPO Party Economic Empowerment is used here deliberately and if it makes you the reader on the ticket of SWAPO uncomfortable than my objective is achieved. But just remember that you and I will die one day but the Party must live on forever.

This will be guaranteed by the economic standing as well as political standing and

strength of SWAPO structures at Sections, Branches, Districts, Regions, National including Wings and Affiliate. In other words from the President to the Permanent Secretary or Councilors in the SWAPO Party Government it is their obligation and duty to empower the structures of the Party economically. Last question: Why are some comrades richer than SWAPO Party that feeds them?

## A FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NEEDS UNIFIED EFFORTS

By Salomo Mekondjo Nambinga

As I was authoring this formulation, I continuously kept on Imagining a gender based free Namibia where our daughters, sisters, mothers and aunts would walk freely, peacefully and harmoniously without fear of men. It is that Namibia that I am yearning and longing for. It's that Namibia that we should fight for with unified efforts. As a nation we cannot afford to be at ease when even an innocent four year female child cannot play outside her parents' house freely. In my previous articles namely "Time to act on barbaric violence against women", Informante, 16/07/2009", "Violence Must End", Namibian, 06/11/09 and "Creating A Nation of Gentlemen", Namibian 2009 respectively I strongly condemned gender based violence against women. In this article, I have identified some institutions that I strongly believe can play a major role in addressing gender based violence against women namely family, school, and church, police and Justice System. Today, I shall deal with the first two.

### THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

I am firm believer in a family as a foundation of any society. Hence, it is my strong conviction that whether a male/female headed family has got role to play in the upbringing of children. When a home/family fails to breathe wisdom into children, the whole nation will be poisoned. We are living in a patriarchal society where men are traditionally given more power than women, thus sometimes go to the extent of abusing women because of that mean mentality. Therefore, in order to break these stereotypes, it calls for parents to take up the responsibility of rising up male children in such a way that they learn to respect women from



Salomo Mekondjo Nambinga

early stage. Male children must be taught at home that women are their equals, but most importantly that as men are expected to protect them against any harm, for the are physically powerless than them. Parents have got the responsibility of ensuring that their sons are brought up based on the principles of love and care of women. This also requires fathers to be good role models to their sons. Research activities have found out that sons whose fathers commit domestic violence, they are likely to do the same when they grow up.

Nowadays, it is very unfortunate that only few parents sit with their children and teach them acceptable norms and moral values of the society. Some parents only equate upbringing of children to the provision of materialistic things, thus failing to rise up children in totality e.g emotionally, spiritually and psychologically.

### THERE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The school is a place where children are moulded and nurtured to become responsible citizens. Hence, our teachers must ensure that children are educated in totality by striking a balance between developing their cognitive and effective domains respectively. It is in schools where the concepts of gender equality and respect of human dignity must be addressed. Teachers are agents of change in any society. They are

educators, community activists, information transmitters and advocates of social justice and most importantly they are agents of behaviour change and formation respectively. Hence, they must strongly speak out against gender based violence against women in their classrooms and communities. Equally, they must educate male learners the importance and value of women.

The role of the teacher in any society can be summarized in a powerful quote by Ivan Welton Fitzwater as follows: "I am a teacher! What I do and say are being absorbed by young minds who will echo these images across the ages. My lessons will be immortal, affecting people yet unborn, people I will never see or know. The future of the world is in my classroom today, a future with the potential of good or bad. The pliable minds of tomorrow's leaders will be moulded artistically or grotesquely by what I do. Several future presidents are learning from me today; so are the great writers of the next decades, and so are all the so-called ordinary people who will make the decisions in a democracy. I must never forget these same young people could be the thieves or murderers of the future. Only a teacher? Thank God I have a calling to the greatest profession of all! I must be vigilant every day lest I lose one fragile opportunity to improve tomorrow".

To be continued!

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FOR THE CITY OF WINDHOEK



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**Tender Documents:** Available as from Monday 07 February 2011 at 14h00 at the Customer Care Centre, Rev. Michael Scott Street, Windhoek.

**Levy:** N\$100.00 (Non-refundable)

**Enquiries Technical:** Mr. K Nikodemus - Tel: +264-(0) 61-290 3469

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**Enquiries Technical:** Mr. R Nambinga - Tel: +264-(0) 61-290 3122

**TENDER NO. INF 520/2009**

**Title:** CONVERSION OF EXISTING HOUSE TO CITY OF WINDHOEK MUSEUM, ERF RE/ 1576, ROBERT MUGABE AVENUE.

**Description:** Alterations & Additions of existing house, construction of new Kitchen & Braai area & general refurbishment.

**Closing Date:** Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 at 11:00.

**Site Inspection & Tender briefing:** Compulsory site inspection will be held in the Committee Room of the Architecture Division on the corner of Garten and Rev. Michael Scott Streets, on 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 at 11:00.

**Tender Documents:** Available as from the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 at 11:00, at the Customer Care Centre of the City of Windhoek, Rev. Michael Scott Street, Windhoek.

**Levy:** N\$ 250.00 (Non-refundable)

**Enquiries Technical:** Mr. L.B. Nuujoma -Tel:+264-(0) 61-290-3046 -Fax: +264-(0) 61-290 2306  
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