



SWAPO MP Dr Moses Amweelo in a jovial mood with SWAPO MP, Paulus Kapia, at the National Assembly, while another SWAPO MP Erastus Utoni looks on. Photo by Levi Upula.

President

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ral areas.

These are projects aimed at improving the living conditions of our people through the provision of safe drinking water, electricity, access to land, sanitation and the expansion of Namibia's physical and communication infrastructure.

Health and education top the least. One of the major concerns Namibia faced over the last year was the occurrence of the new H1N1 influenza, with 72 cases confirmed and one death.

In response to that, Government responded quickly by implementing a response plan based on recommendations made by the World Health Organization, WHO. With technical support from WHO, infections were quickly contained.

A state of the art hospital is being built at Omuthiya, with assistance from the government of China. It will be completed by February next year. Many aging health centres and hospitals are up for renovations and overhaul.

Windhoek Central Hospital has a Cardiac Unit. The University of Namibia, UNAM,

has a medical school, enabling Namibia to train its own medical doctors for the first in history.

Hospitals fees as provided for by the Hospitals and Health Facilities Act have been revised. Vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, persons with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children as well as war veterans would no longer pay user fees at public health facilities.

Cabinet has also approved a proposal by the Country Coordinating Mechanism, which makes significant financial resources available to fund several health programmes.

Under this facility over the next six years, N\$1,6 billion has been earmarked to deal with HIV/Aids and strengthen health systems, N\$14,2 million has been earmarked to fight Tuberculosis, TB, while N\$138,9 million has been set aside to combat malaria.

"We will continue to focus on strengthening our health system in order to ensure sustainability of our achievements," said President Pohamba, adding that education, too, would receive its fair share. Education and health have been receiving the biggest chunks of the national budget

since independence.

Implementation of the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme, ETSIP, has started in earnest. It aims at addressing access, equity and quality in the education system.

President Pohamba said that Government wanted resources allocated to education to translate into quantifiable outcomes in terms of improved performance, availability of textbooks and other teaching aids.

The construction of school libraries and laboratories as well as improved physical conditions of school buildings and teachers' accommodation, especially in rural areas, have also been included in the allocation of resources.

"Funds have been made available to purchase text books for primary and secondary schools," announced President Pohamba. "Our target is to ensure a 1:1 ratio of the availability of text books in the critical subjects such as Mathematics, Science, English and Geography."

Over the last year, more than N\$40 million was allocated to providing sustainable, accessible and safer water supply in rural areas. Government regards clean drinking water as

Eva Golinger, who revealed that since the 1960s, the KAS has been striving to isolate and undermine the Cuban Revolution.

Golinger said the foundation is closely linked with the Cuban American National Foundation and the Center for a Free Cuba, both largely funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a Washington-based non-profit organization supported by the U.S. national budget.

The KAS was founded in 1956 and belongs to the German Christian Democratic Union. It has an annual budget of 100 million euros.

Granma added that amount allows the KAS to finance political parties, NGOs, or any organization that promotes the interests of the international right-wing, which is supported by the United States. (Xinhua)

Pragmatism and Values," attended mostly by CIA agents and experts in Latin America.

"Clearly we are in the presence of another intervention of the U.S. intelligence service in the field of global politics in Europe," Granma said.

The newspaper cited the Venezuelan-American researcher

essential for ensuring a better quality of life for the people.

Several water pipelines were constructed over the last year. Among them was Onambutu Project, with a pipeline network of 197km and 94 water points. N\$4 million was used for Phase III of the Tsandi South Project. It comprises a six kilometer power line, a pump station, a 172 cubic meters reservoir and 102 km rural pipelines.

N\$92,5 million was allocated to the Green Scheme over the last year. N\$49 million was set aside for Ndonga Linena irrigation infrastructure. N\$9 million was allocating to build silos around the country to promote increased grain production and ensure food security. As a result, silos with a capacity of N\$500 tons were constructed at

Omuthiya in Oshikoto and Okongo in Ohangwena.

On social welfare, nearly 8000 old age grant applications were approved over the last year. More than 3000 disability grants applications were also approved over the same period.

President Pohamba applauded both local and foreign investors who have also made notable investments over the last year. He cited the N\$2,6 billion Ohorong Cement, the N\$2 billion Namundjebo Plaza Hotel and the multi-million Super Dairy Farm in Mariental.

Government has approved N\$350 million for the fishery sector to buy a new modern and larger research vessel to facilitate multi-disciplinary surveys. N\$15 million is being spent on building Ongwediva Aquacul-

ture, while a N\$32 million fish farming project at Leonardville would be built soon.

"I am proud about the progress the SWAPO Party government has made in improving the living conditions of our people, as well as the challenges that we faced during the review period. I am proud because our nation continues to be on the right course, despite the turbulences caused by the global economic crisis," said President Pohamba.

"With each passing fiscal year, we are sharpening our capacity to plan better, to analyze and frame the challenges facing us so that we can provide appropriate solutions. This has enabled us to address the needs of our people in a more effective manner."



Deputy Prime Minister Marko Hausiku and Trade and Industry Minister Dr Hage Geingob. Back row: Safety and Security Minister, Nangolo Mbumba, and SWAPO MP Billy Mwaningange. Photo by Levi Upula.

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two, only to return later when the Ministry was merged once again.

Late last year and early this year,

some newspapers reported that Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development Permanent Secretary, Erastus Negonga, and the Executive Director at State House, Ndali Kamati, had received letters that

their contract would not be renewed.

This, however, has not been officially confirmed. The Prime Minister's media briefing this morning, (Friday), will put such speculations to rest.

Namibia and Burundi set to work together

Namibia and Burundi have agreed to work together in areas such as agriculture, trade and investment, education and health. This comes at the end of a three-day State visit by Burundian President, Pierre Nkurunziza, to Namibia this week.

Before President Nkurunziza left for his country on Thursday morning, the two countries signed a general cooperation agreement at State House, which committed the two countries to working together in economic, scientific and technical, social and cultural fields.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Affairs Minister, Utoni Nujoma, and his Burundian counterpart, Nsanze Augustin, in the presence of the two Presidents. A communiqué issued at the end of the visit revealed that the two Presidents had agreed to strengthen bilateral relations between the two

countries and deepen their relations.

On his arrival, President Nkurunziza had been emphasizing the need for cooperation between the two countries, especially in the field of agriculture, which is Burundi's mainstay of the economy.

Upon his coming to power in 2005, President Nkurunziza launched Burundi's marshal plan, called the Rejuvenation Plan, with the main focus on agricultural development.

Based on this, President Pohamba expressed optimism that the two countries would find areas of common interest. During his stay in Namibia, President Nkurunziza visited various agricultural projects and factories such as Meatco, Namibia Breweries, Neudam Agricultural College and Okapuka Lodge.

Burundi has gone through many civil wars at various points in its history. The recent bloodiest ones were in 1993, following the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye, and in 1994, following the killing of President Cyprien Ntaryamira in a plane that was shot down on decent into Kigali, neighboring Rwanda.

Rwandan President, Habyarimana, was also killed in the same plane. The years that followed saw orgies of senseless killings of innocent civilians. The civil war that ensued saw thousands of refugees fleeing and streaming into neighboring countries such as Tanzania, triggering one of the biggest humanitarian crisis in recent years.

"We are encouraged that since you took office in 2005, the hopes of the people of Burundi have been realized," said President Pohamba in his State Banquet Address. "Indeed, light has been shining from Mbujumbura, (capital) throughout the valleys and mountains of Burundi."

"Security has improved significantly... Hundreds of thousands of refugees have returned to their country. These are amazing results, especially when one considers how far Burundian people have had to come to reach this point."

Namibia Today is published by SWAPO Party, Department of Information and Mobilization.
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