



President Hifikepune Pohamba arriving at Bukalo Royal Headquarters for the Cultural Festival. Photo by Asser Niinda

SWAPO

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That action ensured Ncabi's graduation into apartheid detention centres and eventual rite of passage to join SWAPO in exile. Back home, the Ngambela of this traditional authority at the time, Robert Ntelamo, and our Natamoyo, Samson Ntonda and others, were imprisoned. Munitenge Joshua Moraliswani would be picked on a daily basis for questioning by the security apparatuses of the time. It was a difficult time. I therefore say thank you S WAPO, and my people will continue saying this thank you with every election like we have done in the past.

The history of the SWAPO PARTY and its connection with the Masubia community is well known by the SWAPO PARTY leadership. Incidentally, it was Your two Excellencies as SWAPO PARTY leaders who shaped that history in 1964, nearly 46 years ago.

Contrary to some elements who allege that my community is involved in tribalism, it was my subject Brendan Simbwaye who took a decision together with the Founding President of the Namibian Nation, Comrade Sam Nujoma, that it was necessary to wage a nationally based struggle for the liberation of our country Namibia. Since then, subjects of this traditional authority flocked to join SWAPO in exile and significantly contributed towards the liberation cause especially in the ranks of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PALN). We could enumerate endless incidences of bravery even beginning with the pre-colonial period through to the First and Second World Wars when our people stood together with other nations of the world to defend world peace.

Very few of you would know that the very first surrender of German territory to the Allied Forces during the First World War did not take place in Europe but here in Namibia, at Schuckmansburg, here in Caprivi Region. That is quite historic. It is the above acts of bravery which we celebrate as a community in festivals such as these. At the same time, we use this festival to celebrate the present. It is this past and present, combined, that forms the foundation for peace and prosperity, progress and nation building.

Allow me therefore, to reflect on the present achievements. At last year's festival I confirmed that a community Hammer Mill was procured through the assistance of

our own Itenge Development Foundation, indeed it is here with us. And we are proud of that. I also indicated that through the Itenge Development Foundation Education Fund, which I launched late 2008, we provided study bursaries to 25 grade 11 learners in 2009, paying for their tuition fees or school development fund, hostel fees, and assisting them with other school necessities such as school uniforms, books, toiletries, and many more.

I also ambitiously indicated that for the 2010 academic year, I want the fund to pay for about 50 learners. Well, I am happy to report that we currently have 50 learners benefiting from this fund in 2010, both grade 11 and 12. Significantly, the bursary scheme has expanded its geographical reach to benefit learners in the whole Caprivi Region,

covering as well schools in my counter-parts areas of jurisdiction, for we have beneficiaries at Simataa Secondary School, Sangwali Secondary School, and Mayuni Secondary School.

Indeed education transcends boundaries, and I am happy that my two counterparts are here today. Through the Itenge Development Foundation we have also managed to secure a grant of about N\$ 1 Million from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to construct a community lodge at the Ngoma Border Post. When fully established, it will provide accommodation to visitors in transit to and from Botswana and other countries and thus allow communities around Ngoma to generate income and improve their livelihoods.

Yesterday, (Friday, 30 July,) I joined the Minister of Education, our very energetic Minister Dr. Abraham Iyambo, and the Patron of the school Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Kamwi, plus their Excellencies

Ambassadors and High Commissioners at a fundraising gala event at Sanjo Secondary School just here in Bukalo.

Your Excellencies Cde President Pohamba and the Founding President. I was highly elated and overjoyed when the High Commissioners of Botswana and of Zambia reported that plans are already at advanced stage for twinning Sanjo Secondary School with Liswani Secondary School in Botswana and Sesheke Secondary School in Zambia.

Cde Minister of Education, these are profound initiatives that should be encouraged, especially for schools at border areas such as ours. Such cooperation should not be limited only to the school

level but expanded to involve exchange at the level of regional education offices. I can just say we are on the right track.

On the government's side, we continue to appreciate current projects being undertaken in my area of jurisdiction. The Muyako-Ngoma

gravel road is complete and was officially inaugurated on Thursday by the Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Dr. Chief Samuel Ankama. We highly appreciate this major development, for the transport of both goods and people has tremendously been made easy. We can talk of community projects but if road networks are poor or not linked to major transport corridors and urban centres their produce will rot and thus not serve any purpose.

I want to appeal that especially in the flood prone areas, our engineers and contractors should improve on the quality of our roads and especially placement and size of culverts to save government from continuous repair of roads after every flood. The Ngoma-Muyako Road was impassable due to floods this year in certain places and we hope this will be addressed. We thus appreciate this and other road infrastructure being constructed across the Caprivi Region, and there are many of them.

The development of Bukalo into a second town is another major project. I stated at last year's festival that residents are concerned with the slow pace of progress on this project and appealed that the line Ministry particularly the Caprivi Regional Council should address this aspect. The situation has not improved much and thus we still appeal in the same manner for the process to be hastened. We have received queries regarding compensation for affected residents and we believe its being attended to.

We appreciate the Kalimbeza rice project, we are now eating rice, home grown, and surely, it tastes better. We thank government for declaring it a national project, because that is what it is and thus I want to particularly thank President Pohamba and Founding President Sam Nujoma for the unwavering dedication to this project. We hope more green-scheme projects will be undertaken in this region. Already we have 50 000 hectares in my area of

jurisdiction at the flood plain available for projects especially such as soya beans and others which are compatible with water soaked soils.

In the long term, we believe a water canal through the Bukalo Channel to Lake Lyambezi will stimulate crop production along this



Founding President Sam Nujoma arriving at Bukalo Royal Headquarters for the Cultural Festival. Photo by Asser Niinda



A cultural group dressed in SWAPO Party colours entertaining guests during the Masubia Cultural Festival. Photo by Asser Niinda.

vastly rich agricultural soil and ensure that the lake has a constant inflow of water. Apart from crop production, the fishing industry around the lake will be restored to its former glory and the famous Zambezi brim will be a major export from this region. Already our people are making a livelihood from fishing for they even sell their fish as far as Livingstone in the Republic of Zambia. I believe if dry fish processing facilities are installed at the lake, and also cold storages, our communities will derive a major income from fishing.

I am surprised why the Katima Mulilo Town Council has not yet started a fresh water fish consumption festival where the Zambezi brim could be showcased, in conjunction with the fish farms we have in the region. We hear of initiatives such as the crayfish festival in places such as Luderitz, what prevents us from undertaking such initiatives?

We thank the government for the continued assistance to flood victims. This year and last year's floods were particularly historic in proportions and more devastating in their impact. Both the regional and national government's response was fast and reassuring. We highly appreciate the procurement of a bigger and reliable boat for use as water transport for our people along the flood stricken areas.

This is a welcome development, and indeed, one that is long overdue. The situation where our people cross borders into neighboring countries for shopping due to lack of adequate transport to Katima Mulilo especially during

flood times has become untenable due to loss of lives through capsize dug-out canoes but also generally counter-productive for nation-building. After-all we are saying buy Namibian

products, and for us, these are in Katima Mulilo and not neighboring territories.

It is in this same vain that I should appreciate government's efforts to attend to residents of Impalila Island, especially regarding the expansion of the clinic. We call upon other service providers especially state-owned enterprises such as MTC to emulate government's resolve to provide services to this isolated part of our country. It defeats logic for a resident of Namibia to go through a foreign network provider to speak to a fellow Namibian, and it is very expensive.

We thus hope MTC and other service providers will look at the unique situation of this island and not necessarily pure business principles which are driven by the number of residents in a given area. By the way plans are at an advanced stage for a five star hotel on Impalila Island, and we hope this will be a major tourist attraction for it is suitably located on the confluence of the Zambezi and Chobe

Rivers, and significantly, where Namibia meets Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and thus a quadric-point. It is within easy access to the Victoria Falls and the Chobe National Park.

Now that the University of Namibia has a campus in the region, we urge our researchers from the university to once again, like

they did on the rice project, lead the way in research experimentation to provide us with data on which crops are suitable for the soil type in Caprivi region, for our people to be advised accordingly. The local economy also depends to a large extent on the beef industry. The continuous outbreak of foot and mouth disease is of great concern and thus veterinary science is also of utmost importance in our part of the country. On such a high note of government achievements and plans, allow me to conclude by welcoming everybody to the 2010 Masubiya Annual Cultural Festival. It is very historical in that it brought together the President and Founding President, Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners and their Majesties, Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers, etc etc. I highly appreciate your presence and it has certainly added value to this year's festival. For my good friend Chief Herman Ndilimani lipumbu of the Uukwambi Traditional Authority who is visiting us for the first time, thanks a lot, and I appreciate the gesture and it will go a long way in nation-building. I hope you enjoy yourself. My fellow counterparts, chiefs in Caprivi Region, thanks for coming as usual.

To my subjects work tirelessly to preserve peace and stability in our country. Without peace and stability, there will be no progress, development, and prosperity. Continue to be tolerant and exercise restraint, as you have done on many other occasions, in the face of continued and persistent provocations from disillusioned individuals.