By Jeroboam Shammika

In the run up to elections, each party has to lay out its plans for the electorate to decide, which party is likely to reflect their hopes and aspirations. In many countries the field of foreign policy does not usually attract attention of the voters, with the exception of some countries like USA. Reading through the SWAPO-Party Manifesto 2009, one discovers that it is clearly aligned with the provision of Article 96 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. The Manifesto is a promissory note of the future commitment of the SWAPO led government to the SADC and the UN. This shows how SWAPO has been committed to a foreign policy that supports good neighbourliness, peace, stability, protection of human rights, sustainable development, peace, and human progress is ensured.

This demonstrates that the Foreign Policy will be consistent with the objectives of Vision 2030, National Development Plans and other national strategic goals. The promotion of good neighbourliness and international goodwill are some of the important commitments forming a cornerstone of the SWAPO led government’s foreign policy. President Hifikepunye Pohamba reemphasized that “The SWAPO Party remains committed to a foreign policy that supports good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and cooperation”. The Manifesto also makes it clear that the commitment of the SWAPO led government to the SADC will remain unshaken. Hence the 2009 Manifesto reiterated that “The SWAPO Party remains committed to a foreign policy that supports good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and cooperation”.

Again President Hifikepunye Pohamba reemphasized that “The SWAPO-Party will continue to promote democracy, peace, stability, protection of the territorial integrity of Namibia and defend the unity of our people as symbolized by our battle cry of "One Namibia, One Nation". This is an indication that the Foreign Policy will continue to draw legitimacy from the foundation of democracy, international law and the genuine desire of the people of Namibia. In the next five years, SWAPO has committed itself to pursue a foreign policy that will continue to draw inspiration from the lessons of the history of Namibia’s liberation struggle, international solidarity, as well as the supreme sacrifices made by the martyrs of anti-imperialist struggle and those of the liberation struggle in Namibia. This is clearly stated on page 36 of the 2009 Manifesto as well as on the message from the President paying homage to heroes and heroines who sacrificed for the independence of Namibia. President Pohamba further went to underscore that “The SWAPO Party remains a total control of the ballot boxes. Come November we will destroy those who say about SWAPO, SWAPO oya kindja - not matters of their provocation and our journey, come November Omayoka nrinala kindja Ongonyo.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8