

What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

◆ **Posted by: Swapo Tuli (Windhoek, Namibia)**

I totally agree with Cde. Willy Mary Amutenya, He said and i quote "SWAPO members and supporters are victoriously going to do it again. This will be a thorn in Madam Gwen's flesh because people of her taste have no chance at all. BUT that is what "democracy" is all about - respect and accept of the majority vote/rule. SWAPO IS HERE TO STAY FOR MANY- MANY YEARS TO COME." and please Madam Gwen must really stop minding with mighty SWAPO Party affairs.. VIVA SWAPO Party!!! I salute you Cde. Amutenya..

◆ **Posted by: Amunjela**
Never pay attention to the prophency of doom (Gwen, Hidipo, Ya Nangolo), November is coming - that is where SWAPO is most powerful and will push them further into the dustbins of history. Aluta Continua - Bornfree

◆ **Posted by: Amunjela**
we shouldnt argue with fools like Gwen, Hidipo and the rest because people might not notice the difference but fellow comrades rest assured - come November we will dig a grave for RADOPA and bear them.

Posted by thresia nepolo
Born frees dont be misled by those who are claiming SWAPO party led government did nothing for 20 years in power. lets look at african countries, namibia is a latest country to get independence but compare it to other countries (some even get independence as far as 1960s) we are one of few countries in africa which are better developing. lets give credit where deserved!

◆ **Posted by Ndapewa**
Just as is the case in any democratic country in the world, there will be political analysts predictign what the out come of the elections will be. We saw it in America, South Africa and Germany in their most recent elections. Why should it be classified as propaganda in Namibia when the truth is told that the SWAPO PARTY will emerge, as always, VICTORIOUS AND UNITED after the 2009 National and Presidential Elections?!

◆ **Posted by Ndapewa**
Comrades, now because the IPPR has predicted that the SWAPO will win 54 seats, RDP 6, DTA 4, NUDO, CoD 2, UDF 2 and APP 1. the "activist" and his political cohorts are aggrieved because this is not in keeping with their ambitions. Former Cde NYAMU is FURIOUS and Ya Nangoloh is as usual defending the RDP... Ya Nangoloh goes as far as attempting to use empirical evidence to prove that the research is incorrect. Mr ya Nangoloh when you give your grossly exaggerated opinions on things they are always right. When IPPR researchers give their opinions you are quick to come to the defence of the RDP... quit with the political

opinions and stick to HUMAN RIGHTS!

◆ **Posted by peter**
swapo party is the people and the people are swapo.

◆ **Posted by Joel Rubeni**
Viva SWAPO Party of Namibia!!!

◆ **Posted by Cde Kanamutenya_Windhoek.**
Reading the posted from Shuumbi (Oshakati) it was interesting to hear about this guy the editor of the Informate, really what is this guy is up for? One wonder, he just write artele about other people, even private, does this means democracy? People privacy should be respected, it was no long time a go his paper had been misused by people with political agenda to tanish other people image, let the case of Min of WHK debt, those are private issue had nothing to do with public consupction, each individual negotiate how he settle his own issue with any type of cridors, if some fail to honour their obligation that is their responsibilitie and should face the law of this country, therefore no need to confuse the public with the political officer bearer in their private capacity. Shame on Max!

◆ **Posted by Shuumbi (Oshakati)**
Did I read ECN director trying to defend ECN against the accusations by Informante (the poorly edited tabloid and anti black news piece) editor Max Hamata. Well Max is just finishing what his puppet dad did during colonial era, while working at SWABC now NBC reporting for his puppet masters. Is he not a son of the infamous Belibeli or Berybery Hamata? just wondering, Max is a clown.

◆ **Posted by atusheni**
What is very interesting is to read in their public relations paper (the namibian)that our website is a launchpad for hatespeach towards individuals. Is this not a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black. Every friday one is guaranteed to read an article chosen to serve as ammunition against one of our comrades esp our president and the founding father. Their cartoon pieces speak for themselves. They are intolerant to the disbursement of information that is not within their control. Constantly crying about freedom of speech, why should this tool only be acceptable when in their hands. They are very conservative in the positive news done by the president and yet very liberal in the negative or anything that implies negativity. They choose to publish unflattering pictures of our leaders from archives purposefully, and still claim to tell it as it is. theirs is a farce and i urge our party to expose the truth behind their manipulative ways. If editors may comment on public figures and their opin-

ions, then the public also has a right to comment on the editor and her opinions. to now claim that it is hate speach is tentamount to the markings of a coward / cowardess who is incapable of receiving it as she ditches it. Constantly praises are heaped upon her through her own paper oh come now, who is fooling who here.

◆ **Posted by Ester**
I was read the political perspective of Meme Gwen Lister of The Namibian newspaper last friday. It seems she wants reconciliation with SWAPO website and Namibia Today. Well, as for me, I think that is a good thing. But I only a question for Meme Gwen Lister, why does she allow Briggitte Weindlich and Jonathan Cobra to insult and lie about SWAPO? Remember Jonathan Cobra write that the Governor of Omusati Region is Usko Nghaamwa, but The Namibian newspaper did not correct that.

◆ **Posted by Jackson T lipinge (Outapi)**
commrades let them finish their words. we will show them soon. November is nocking at the door. Tse otwakindja!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

◆ **Posted by Jackosn T lipinge**
Please Namibian people let the history goes on, we want to learn the past so that we can know the future. Nuuyoma is a leader and remain our leader. SWAPO should rule this country. VIVA SWAPO!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Owu hole o SWAPO? ongyoyo mombanda!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

◆ **Posted by onesmus shipale @ polytech**
we the bornfree will make sure that SWAPO will be in power to continous with the development it started already, we are going to vote for our better future.

◆ **Posted by C-Mine**
SWAPO is the one

◆ **Posted by KK**
The bornfrees have got an enormous task to ensure that the generations that will come after them will be as proud as they are today because of the sacrifices of the heroes and heroieins of the land of the brave.

◆ **Posted by Cde.Nuuyoma Neshiko**
Gongratulations the Bornfrees that registered, now you are assured that come 27-28 November 2009, you will cast your first vote for SWAPO Party and President Hifikepunye Pohamba. You future will be secured for ever! You will be part of the SWAPO Family celebration that start on 27 November 2009 to 21 March 2010. SWAPO Always Victorious! Osho atuke kava ningila! Thank you so much the Bornfrees, the future of Namibia is in your hands, so vote wisely! Vote for SWAPO PARTY & Aluta Continua!



Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda



"The hate speech has to stop," so writes Gwen Lister, Editor of The Namibian, on Friday, 2, 2009. "And SWAPO in particular really needs to take a stand and instil a sense of discipline in key areas of the party or be responsible for the consequences that could take Namibia from being a relatively peaceful democracy down the road to ruin."

In life, hypocrites are always the ones who speak loudest all the time. At times they easily forget their horrible double standards and selective moralities, which, in most cases, reek of sheer arrogance informed by superiority complexes.

In Namibia, it is not rare to find an assortment of uppity whites behaving like school principals, telling government leaders in general and SWAPO Party leaders in particular, that "do this and don't do that" as if they were unruly school boys and girls who should be whipped into line and have "discipline instilled" in them. These are the Gwen Listers, the Henning Melbers, the Andre du Pisanis - the list is long - of this world.

In the above example, Gwen has problems with many blogs and messages that appear on SWAPO Party website, and secondly, with Namibia Today, which she refers to as SWAPO's official mouth pieces "which constantly engage in libellous personal attacks and damaging diatribes about those they perceive as their political opponents."

People driven by exaggerated egos and self-righteousness have short memories, it seems. For several months now, members of SWAPO Party in particular and of the public in general - concerned about the fragile peace that we have - have urged Gwen to have a second look at those sms messages which appear in her paper from Monday to Friday.

Most of those sms messages are so insulting and defamatory that they could hardly be published. In those sms messages, both President Hifikepunye Pohamba and Founding President Sam Nujoma have not been spared. Both have to live with constantly being called "this puppet" and "that dictator" respectively.

Gwen has persistently refused to have a look at those sms messages, insisting instead that the right of the people to "express themselves" should not be "curtailed." SWAPO Party kept quiet. So, too, did the concerned members of the public, who assumed that may be some sense of responsibility would creep into Gwen's head and do something about those sms messages. Nothing ever happened.

SWAPO Party, never the one to sit by idle and watch as its priceless history and its liberation icons are being destroyed - thought about other alternatives and, rightly so, came up with the idea of having its own website. The result has been overwhelming. Gwen can't take it any more. With the launch of the SWAPO Party website, her monopoly over such messages is gone. Forever.

Gwen should be reminded that it was her negative stance against the Third Term for Cde Nujoma and her newspaper's constant negative reports on the war in the DRC which, to a large extent, prompted SWAPO Party to revive Namibia Today. Equally, it was her refusal to do something about those insulting sms messages which, to a large extent also, prompted SWAPO Party to launch its website.

Now it hurts. It did not, then, when she has monopoly over those messages. Now she insists that "discipline must be instilled in key areas of the party." But it was "discipline" then to insult Comrades Pohamba and Nujoma in the name of "freedom of expression." But when SWAPO Party takes measures to defend itself, such measures are described as "intolerant and undemocratic" that could take "Namibia from being a relatively peaceful democracy down the road to ruin."

It must be pointed out that Gwen has no monopoly over arrogance. It is time someone stood up to her. And this nonsense of she alone is right and everybody else is wrong must stop.

Talking about Namibia Today's "lies and distortions!" She tells us to compare the coverage of both (SWAPO and RDP) electoral colleges" where we would find that the "SWAPO event in fact had broader coverage than that of RDP." Yes, but look at the negativity that ran through SWAPO Party's coverage and the positivity that littered the RDP coverage. That is what people resent. If that is what she calls "fair coverage," I beg to differ. And look at this: "The publication (Namibia Today) in question," she wrote last Friday, "is dangerous, anti-everything but SWAPO rhetoric....." Gwen is not the first person to describe Namibia Today with such adjectives. It does not surprise us either. The former apartheid regime of South Africa described Namibia Today and The Combatant with such adjectives and banned the publications in Namibia during the liberation struggle.

Gwen also talks about "distortions"! She only needs to be reminded and look at how her newspaper covered Founding President Nujoma's "hate speech" in Oshana Region. Some people have angrily reacted to what Cde Nujoma said in Oshana, not because what he was quoted to have said was actually what he said. Few, if any, among those who have angrily reacted were there. Many among those who were there were shocked to the bone about what they read in The Namibian and the angry reactions that ensued.

The speech was distorted and taken out of context, deliberately it seems. First Cde Nujoma never said "take hammers and beat up all English people." His reference to Zimbabwe was also awkwardly built into the story to instil fears in, and drive away, the white community from SWAPO Party, which RDP is now busy canvassing for its support. It was therefore no coincidence that a white man tops the RDP list of "elected candidates," while Cde Nujoma was being quoted as urging Namibians to "take hammers and beat up all the English people."

Cde Nujoma never said those things. He said that Britain wanted to colonize Zimbabwe again. That was why it had imposed sanctions on that country for it to give up its land reform programme. Zimbabwe would never be a colony again. If the Britons try to re-colonize Zimbabwe, we would take hammers and beat them up, as we did during the liberation struggle. That was the context in which it was said. And surely, they would be fought back if they try to re-colonize Zimbabwe. In his heart of hearts, Oswald Shivute, who wrote the story, knows the truth. If what we read was what he had written, then it is all the more despicable. If that was the end product of rigorous editing, it was an unforgivable act of betrayal of sacred journalistic ethics, which Gwen claims to uphold. Suffice to say that those who have angrily reacted to what Cde Nujoma was reported to have said were reacting to a distorted version of what he had actually said.

Lest we forget, Shivute worked for the Ovambo Bantu Administration for many years, which SWAPO Party fought against and destroyed. Not that Shivute should be constantly reminded about that, but he should also not arrogate to himself the moral high ground when he has got skeletons in his closet. If hatred informs his stories, it can be traced in that historical corner, which is not so pleasing to look at.

It is not unusual for The Namibian to concoct and drum up negative stories in the run up to an election Namibia has conducted. The current onslaught against SWAPO Party should be seen in that context. The doctored sms messages, fabricated in the darkrooms of the said newspaper, would not dent SWAPO Party's national appeal. Lest we forget, too, The Namibian's overriding objective is and has always been to reduce SWAPO Party's two-thirds majority. We can only ignore this stark reality at our own peril. In the 1999 elections, she used CoD's Ben Ulenga to achieve that objective. In the 2004 elections, she used alleged "divisions" within SWAPO Party, centred around Cde Nujoma's "refusal" to "step down" as President of SWAPO Party. This time, she is using RDP's Hidipo Hamutenya, whose defection from SWAPO Party in 2007 was described as a "political earthquake" by Du Pisani.

As Ndilimani Cultural Troupe would sing: "Oshiwana Penduka, wu lengaa lengee... (Namibian nation! Wake up and check on all sides....) In a democratic set up like ours, SWAPO Party has no qualms with anybody. We can coexist as individuals and as political formations. But SWAPO Party will vigorously fight against those who seek to bring about its destruction. Those who want that fight to the end, SWAPO Party will give it to them. When all is said and done, the last man will switch off the lights.

Namibia Today has catalogued many lies and distortions Gwen's paper has churned out over the years, like the one about Cde Nujoma having "tried" to have Hamutenya "expelled" from SWAPO Party but was "blocked" by his "colleagues" a day before the 2004 extra-ordinary congress. Chronicling such lies now again would not change her mind. Let her wallow in the morass of almost self-righteous negativism, which seems to be her only joy in life. We should not deprive her of her rights, however silly and weird such rights may be.

She alone has made that choice. She alone, too, must live with its consequences. For, the fruits of helpless negative bleating and constant misrepresentation are not so tasty. Just as the media have the right to free speech, so too does the public have the right to free choice, anchored on a considered understanding that emphasis on the negative is not the most effective way to educate and inspire the nation to great heights. We must be honest to celebrate what is positive about and among us. We must acknowledge our achievements. And they are many. We must equally admit our shortcomings, as we have done so on many occasions, in the difficult challenge of nation-building. Therein lies the celebration of our humanity.