

What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

◆ Posted by www.swapoparty.org
Yes, on the 19th of April, we will be celebrating our Great Party's 50th Anniversary in style throughout the whole country. Be part of the celebration dear comrades!
Aluta Continua

◆ Posted by Cde Imms Nashinge
SWAPO @ 50 50th Birth Day of our SWAPO PARTY should be well organized it

should visible everywhere the ORGANISING COMMITTEE pls come up with something we can help (POSTERS, BANNERS, STAMPS and so on!?) let's have a theme that will reflect back into time 50 years ago! Let our leaders tell story of the past! while they are still around! a delegation should be sent to former TANGANYIKA and erect up a monument (with CDE NUJOMA, PETER NAYENBA or anybody else)

somewhere there in Angola, Zambia, Cuba and all other sister countries that assisted us! it's an achievement for SWAPO from a liberation movement to a ruling party with a successful track record of good governance like this we have to be proud of ourselves. I hope someone take it up with the NATIONAL LEADERSHIP! A luta continua and happy 50th Birth day SWAPO!!!!

Budget

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tion Y. This is the purpose of the Development Budget our government has pursued over a period of time. The fruits and the taste of those fruits are in the future.

"We need to be consistent in the provision of services aimed at improving the opportunities for these young ones. Where a service is already being rendered, we must ask ourselves how can this budget improve such delivery of services?"

Cde Iivula-Ithana added that the obligation was a two-way traffic, saying that the recipients must also start dreaming, and dream bigger. She said that it was not enough to pass through school.

"One must want to succeed in life," she said. "Mediocrity cannot become the benchmark, and in this endeavor, we all have a role to play. Let us therefore engage generation Y continuously and share with them our values and our experiences, from which they can tap life-long lessons, sometimes unavailable in MBA classes. We can imbue a sense of standard and a sense of honour in our future."

Agriculture, Water and Forestry Minister, Cde John Mutorwa, said that the theme for this year's budget – Recovery and Sustainable Growth – clearly revealed that Namibia continued to maintain macro-economic stability and fiscal prudence through which the country could realize its national development targets and objectives as clearly outlined in the Third National Development Plan, NDPIII, the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and Vision 2030.

"Namibia has been on the move in the right direction," said Minister Mutorwa. "Namibia remains on the move, towards a planned and hopeful tomorrow. Our nation has been and continues to move forward. SWAPO Party has focus, vision, plans and programmes.

"SWAPO Party is a living being, an institution that will be exactly 50 years on April 19, 2020. It cannot and will not get tired. It cannot and will not lose



John Mutorwa



Elia Kaiyamo



Erastus Utoni



Peter Katjavivi

focus. Only some members and leaders at some points get tired and consequently lose focus. But the Party will move forward with more vigour and determination in building Namibia.

"This year's budget, in many respects, does seriously and properly address the main theme of the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, our social contract, for the next five years, with the Namibian people."

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, Cde Elia Kaiyamo, appreciated the increase in grants for senior citizens, which has now been increased from N\$450 to N\$500 per month. Senior citizens would also no longer pay at health centers.

"I noticed with appreciation that 13 libraries will be built on top of the four resource centers, to enable our people to read, and hopefully our parents will ensure that their kids and themselves will benefit from these libraries," he said in his budget contribution.

Safety and Security Deputy Minister, Cde Erastus Utoni, produced a list of many things which he said had made people happy, explaining that the reasons people voted for SWAPO Party regularly was because they were happy with the manner in which government was addressing issues such as education, rural electrification, communication networks, roads, grants for senior citizens and orphans.

"Our people are happy to see that the SWAPO Party government is serious when it comes to food security of its citizens," he said. "At Etunda in Omusati, we produce maize, bananas and many other produce.

"People are also happy to see that the SWAPO Party government is committed to engaging its citizens into income generating projects such as aquaculture projects like the ones at Omahenene in Omusati Region and in regions like Kavango, Caprivi, Erongo, Oshana and Karas."



Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda



It is always easy to talk and criticize. It always too, however, becomes extremely difficult to offer alternatives when it comes to solving the many challenges and problems Namibia is facing today. That difference comes out so vividly clear in last week's *Political Perspective* by Gwen Lister, Editor of *The Namibian*. Coming out as it did on *April Fools Day*, I almost thought and treated it like that – *April Fool's* joke. But, having carefully read it, I realized that it wasn't.

Once read carefully, one can clearly see that most of her complaints were lifted from Dr Absai Shejvali's nonsensical piece which appeared in *The Namibian* a few weeks ago. Like Dr Shejvali, Gwen sees not "future for this country" as long as SWAPO Party is in power. She has become another prophet of doom, only seeing and predicting "doom" for Namibia, while at the same time dismally failing to offer solutions to the current changes to avoid the doom she sees and predicts.

Look at this: "I am quite honestly depressed about the demise of our country, and tired of all the waffle," she wrote last week Thursday. "What will it take for us to get 'doers' office in our country so that we can stop the promises and really make a difference? Equally, what will it take for the people themselves to rise to the challenges that face our nation, and instead of complaining all the time, take more interest in what's happening around them and initiate and inject positivity and productivity in an attempt to change things for the better?"

It is a loaded and unrealistic complaint indeed, laced with political undertones which seek to project the SWAPO Party government as a "complete failure" and therefore "people (themselves) must rise to the challenges... and change things for the better." It means, in plain language, getting SWAPO Party out of power. If not, the Party's two-thirds must be reduced by all means. That has been Gwen's political agenda for years. Gwen was particularly irked by the new Cabinet as appointed by President Hifikepunye Pohamba, completely writing it off as a bunch of non-performers and asking "what will it take to put 'doers' in office...?"

She did not tell us who the 'doers' were but went on to say that "there is probably no difference between the speech former President Sam Nujoma made at the first Cabinet session of the newly independent Government 20 years ago, and this one by Pohamba in 2010." To cap it all, she went on: "...we have been droning on about the same set of priorities for two decades now and we have hardly made a dent."

In Gwen's eyes, the SWAPO Party government has hardly made any progress to solve the challenges Namibia has been facing since independence because we have not "put doers in office." Since the formation of the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, in November 2007, Gwen's paper has gone to every length to popularize, publicize and push through RDP, droning on every shoddy speech and accusation RDP has ever churned out, while complaining about the government "using state media and state resources for campaign purposes at the expense of opposition parties."

In short, Gwen's hopes were in RDP – heart and soul. Her "doers" were and still are in RDP. But her sunshine news coverage of RDP has never pushed it through to State House. The "doers in office" can only dream and look at State House by peeping through keyholes because they, like Gwen, have no alternatives to offer which Namibians can buy into. They have not offered anything better than what SWAPO Party has offered. And that has truly been reflected in last year's National Assembly and Presidential Elections.

Call them "non-thinking" voters but those people truly feel and see the differences in their lives before and after independence. Our education system may not be perfect – no education is perfect anywhere in the world anyway – but the quality of products it produces today is far better than what the cluster of lopsided education systems of the former South African apartheid regime ever produced. Look at the schools, houses, clinics and hospitals that have been built since independence! Look at the villages and towns that have been provided with electricity and portable water. Look at the gravel and tarred roads in rural areas that have been built and upgraded!

Before independence, there was no tarred road in Katutura. Kaizer Street, now Independence Avenue, just ended at Katutura Hospital. Gwen may not feel the difference because she has never lived in Katutura, nor has she lived in a house without flashing toilets or tap water. For her, these things were granted by virtue of her race. And she never ever, as a protest against apartheid laws, chose to go and live in one such house in Katutura. That decision could have broadened her world outlook as she could not only have seen but also felt both worlds.

Had she done that, she would not be making silly remarks like "I am quite honestly depressed about the demise of our country" because she could have felt the difference between what was not there before independence and what is there now. For her, tap water and electricity were there from birth. She has never seen or felt the opposite. In the crucible of the fight against apartheid, she chose to shout from the comfort zone of her house in a "whites only residential area" and missed out on many ugly and dehumanizing realities that defined not only where but also how black people should live – hence her endless ranting against the SWAPO Party government.

To claim that "we have hardly made a dent" since independence is as good a lie as saying that there is no east and west. Only a fool would deny that reality. Interesting enough, one of the challenges we face as a country is how to resettle thousands of landless Namibians. It is a challenge because commercial farmers simply inflate the prices of farms just to cash in on government money. And Gwen has never dedicated any of her political perspectives to urge commercial farmers not to inflate prices unrealistically.

She has never said that "I am quite honestly depressed about the demise of our country" because our banks, privately owned newspapers and white owned companies are still predominantly white at top and middle management levels, 20 years after independence. Blood, we know, is thicker than water. *The Namibian* will celebrate its founding, the so-called "25 years of *Independent Reporting*" and "Still Telling It Like it is." But as it celebrates its 25 years of "Independent Reporting" *The Namibian's* history is blemished by the fact that it has routinely failed to identify and produce a black editor from its staff members – 25 years down its history lane. Perhaps, Gwen regards this as an achievement!

To cut a long story short, the SWAPO Party government has done what it can with limited resources at its disposal. Facts are there to prove this point. And against facts, there can be no argument. Gwen, do not just see doom. See a bright future also. True, we have challenges. We have, however, been honesty enough to admit that. What we need now are solutions to solve those challenges we face. Gwen has failed to provide any solution on, for example, how to fix our education system or how to resettle the landless. She has just given us a litany of complaints. Any fool can do that. Prophets should not just predict and see doom. They should see a brighter future beyond the current challenges and show the way to get there. And that has been SWAPO's track record for 50 years now. People vote the way they do because SWAPO has shown a brighter future beyond the current challenges and paved the way to get there. No amount of negative bleating and constant misrepresentation of facts, which seems to be her only joy in life, will change that course.