

What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

◆ **Posted by Cde Kanamutenya, Whk**
ViVA Ndilimani Ya Namibia VIVA, Please I wan info how I can buy myself a NDILIMANI VIDEO, wher can I get their DVD/or Video. Call 061 217248

◆ **Posted by Cde. Joseph Gabriel (dj matangala@ndilimani cultural troupe)**
SWAPO Party will rain for ever. Its keep up with that good job Ndilimani is SWAPO and SWAPO is Ndilimani

◆ **Posted by Daniel**
I love SWAPO Party..

◆ **Posted by Cde. John Elly**
I would like to urge all Councilors and Governors, especially those in rural areas to work hard and make sure that the SWAPO Party manifesto is fully implemented. Let us all work together to alleviate poverty amongst our people. ViVa SWAPO

◆ **Posted by**
WORLD CUP IN AFRICA , WILL AFRICA MEDIA

SHELL AFRICA RESPONSIBLE TO OUT SIDE WORLD ? OR THIER READY TO BEEF UP.

◆ **Posted by cde. Steven Axasman**
Dear Comrades, let us discuss the issue BIG, will it really help alleviate poverty or create dependency syndrome?

◆ **Posted by Mekondjo**
Ndanger Ashipala is a hero please, ayehe na late Ngoya Ya Kayala.

Meat Board takes issues with Namibia Today

We act on behalf of Mr Paul Strydom.

With dismay and disappointment our client was confronted with the front page newspaper article under the heading "Corruption allegations fly high at Meat Board" in your edition of Friday, 01-08 Thursday April 2010.

The allegations involve a local audit company which has conducted several study projects for the Meat Board without going through any tender process, as well as the daughter of our client of the Meat Board who was awarded a bursary by the same audit company to further her studies at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

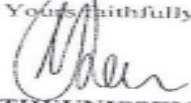
The allegations in the context of the article implies that our client and his daughter received personal favours from the audit company as quid pro quo for work given to them in an improper and illegitimate manner by our client.

The said allegations again in the context of the publication are wrongful and defamatory of our client, as they were intended by your newspaper and were understood by its readers that our client is dishonest in his management of Meat Board affairs and thus is a person of low integrity and without moral fibre.

Your newspaper is a paper widely distributed throughout Namibia, and also widely read by the general public.

This letter serves as a demand to your newspaper to indicate to us within seven days where and when any tender process was prescribed in any legislation or policy of the Meat Board for the allocation of work of the aforesaid nature and which contracts offered to the local auditing company did not comply with such.

It is recorded for purposes of this letter that the recent allocation of work to the relevant audit firm was made with the consent of the Board of the Meat Board of Namibia. It is furthermore recorded that the bursary was awarded to our client's daughter in the normal course of events and with her having complied with all the requirements of the relevant audit company for the award of such a bursary. The two matters are independent and have no relation to each other.

Yours faithfully

THEUNISSEN, LOUW & PARTNERS
per: TJA LOUW

Namibia Today's response

Your letter dated 20 May 2010 has reference.

In that letter, you demanded that we indicate to you "within seven days where and when any tender process was prescribed in any legislation or policy of the Meat Board for the allocation of work of the aforesaid nature and which contracts offered to the local auditing company did not comply with such."

We have referred your letter to our lawyers for a legal opinion. Based on the legal advice we will receive in due course, we will revert back to you on your demand. It is very interesting that in our story, we did not mention any name of one of your client's general managers, but you were able in your letter to confirm that a bursary was indeed granted "in the normal course of events and with her having complied with all the requirements of the relevant audit company for the award of such bursary." You did not, however, say who that "senior manager" was.

We take note of that admission and omission. That was precisely why we contacted Mr Paul Strydom, Meat Board General Manager, to clarify the issue there and then. But he refused to comment on it, saying that he wanted first to know who our sources were. What was so difficult for him to say that the daughter in question met "all the requirements?"

Meat Board is a public company and its actions must be beyond reproach to allay unnecessary suspicions and queries. In short, Meat Board's decisions and actions should not just be clean and fair, but they must be seen to be clean and fair. Justice, they say, must not just be done, it must be seen to be done.

The fact that you have people within the Meat Board murmuring about that bursary and nobody wants to clarify it publicly points to a serious lack of transparency. And that does not auger well for a big company like Meat Board.

While we are waiting for the legal opinion on your demand, we have decided, for transparency reasons and for the sake of our readers who have read our story in the said edition, to publish your letter of demand verbatim.

Accept our highest cooperation in this regard.

Sincerely yours

Asser Ntinda

Editor: Namibia Today.

cc: Cde Jerry Ekandjo, Secretary for Information and Mobilization, SWAPO Party.



Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda



For several years now, Namibians have been subjected to a rather tardy project, the so called Basic Income Grant, BIG, which has been pushed down our throats without any regard to some of the basic questions being raised against it. It appears the proponents of this project have been set from the word go that it should be pushed through or forced through, come what may.

The brain behind it, or so we were told, is Bishop Zephania Kameeta, the former SWAPO Party Member of Parliament and former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Throughout the arguments, we were told that BIG would "reduce poverty" and "improve the living standards of the people." A common thread running through the arguments being advanced by those who are in favour of BIG is that each and every Namibian should get N\$100,00 in grant per month, working or not working.

It means that everybody from President Hifikepunye Pohamba to the last man in the street, should get N\$100, 00. The inclusion of people who are gainfully employed in BIG schemes defies logic. It does not make sense. In the first place, it already disadvantages those who are not working by banding them together with those who are working and earning a living.

If the idea is to help poor people and those without jobs, define the project in that context. It would be morally wrong for a person already earning a salary to storm the queue of those "listed" for BIG. For now, few people would buy Bishop Kameeta's arguments, respected as a church leader that he is.

In fact, President Hifikepunye Pohamba was just right when he said the whole project would create a dependency syndrome from which we would have difficulties extricating ourselves. Money is a function of production. Its value is defined by the degree of productivity and the contribution that productivity adds to the growth of the national economy.

Doling out money like wedding confetti is as good as asking the Bank of Namibia to print more money — Uganda's Idi Amin style — and give it to all and sundry. Inflation will set in, as more money will be chasing few goods because there is no production. And who will bother to work anyway when money is being dished out freely? Nobody!

I know we should think big and spiritual leaders must also come up with some viable proposals aimed at solving the many problems we are facing as a nation. But on BIG, Bishop Kameeta, has not offered a viable alternative. If BIG was there not asking government to dish out money freely but suggesting various development projects where people can work and earn money derived from their labour, surely nobody will oppose BIG.

But in its current format, BIG is one fastest way of turning Namibia into a lazy nation that will never understand the value of money and labour. I would have loved to see Bishop Kameeta suggesting that each and every person must get a piece of land and start producing some products for own consumption and sell the surplus. That will reduce poverty and instill in people the value of hard-work to earn a living through work. BIG, in its present format, is a recipe for disaster. Such traps we must avoid at all cost.

Quite recently, a local daily caught up with a German freelance journalist, Klaus Weichhause, who shredded the project and cut it into pieces, casting aspersions on BIG and revealed some dark figures behind it which we did not know before. The BIG debate has been going on for several years now and a pilot project was implemented at Otjivero near Omitara in Omaheke Region a few years ago.

But none among its proponents has ever told us that German billionaire Gotz Werner was the founder and brains behind BIG, funding its operations and its pilot project in Namibia. Why was his name withheld? Namibia is now being used as a testing ground for a project that was rejected in Germany for various sound economic reasons. Why are the proponents of BIG not being honest with us and tell us the truth and the motives behind this scheme?

Werner, according to Weichhaus, tried and failed three years ago to convince Germans that the project was viable. He is now using Namibia to convince Germans that BIG worked in Namibia and they should just introduce it there as well. Weichhaus had this to say: "Now with the Namibian BIG, they want to convince the Germans to implement it there."

Of course Bishop Kameeta would deny that Werner was funding BIG in Namibia. He had already denied it anyway. But at least now we know that not all that glitters is gold. We are being pushed into some dirty traps we do not know. To hide behind remarks like "the poor and the unemployed, who make up half of the Namibian population, still cannot believe that President Pohamba said: 'We cannot dish out money for free to people who do nothing,'" (as Bishop Kameeta said recently,) will not belittle the embarrassing revelations by journalist Weichhause.

Namibians, under the SWAPO Party government, know what they are doing and what they want. BIG should come up with development project proposals in which the government can buy into. I know Bishop Kameeta is capable of coming up with something better than BIG in its present format. Maybe the NBC should invite Bishop Kameeta and journalist Weichhause to *Talk of the Nation* so that we can hear more. For now, BIG remains what it is — BIG for nothing. It should be shredded and dissected for what it is.

Boxing

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"Should anyone come with a fake ticket at the boxing event the security forces will thoroughly deal with the culprit. You better not do it, because the

police will deal with you thoroughly", bodes Tobias.

The only authentic (genuine) tickets for the Hitman/Acosta fight are only sold at the Namibia Boxing Control Board, Windhoek Country Club Resort and Casino, Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias Boxing Pro-

motions and Kalahari Sands Hotel and Casino.

The tickets go at N\$1000 for VIP, N\$450 for the middle row and N\$ for the grand stand.

Tobias said that the security will be very tight and all tickets will be checked and screened at the entrance.