What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

♦ **Posted by Cde.Katusha kaNamibia**

Dear Comrades,the Mayor of the City of Windhoek on Nbc news on Wednesday,28 July 2010 alluded that the auction of lands/plots on 23 July 2010 was a resounding success.Is it a success,when young people could not afford to buy plots in Aus Blick and Dorado Park? or Is it success because the black people cannot afford to buy those plots?The auction never been a success rather a failure of the city of Windhoek to transform the society particularly the young people to own lands in the City of Windhoek.How many black people bought the plots that day?How many young people?I have witness two Chinese national buying plots in Aus Blick that day.How many africans own plots in China or Europe? The City of Windhoek auctioned the houses of elderly and poor people in Katutura and now discriminate the black people by selling the plots through auction.We need new alternatives in the City of Windhoek Comrades!SWAPO should be ready to bring in new alternatives in the City of Windhoek.Aluta Continua!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

♦ **Posted by Lameck S.**

I tend to have a diverging view from that of Cde Tala. It's not at all matter of scale and facts; however, it's a matter of upholding the principles of integrity and moral values, the GIPF saga is in a true sense a breach of trust towards its members of the fund (public servants). Public Servants lets stand up for what's right and denounce in all earnest the misappropriation of our funds.

♦ **Posted by Tala (It is a matter of scale)**

I do not condone any mismanagement whatsoever. However, we need to look at facts. If I spend/invest N$2 out of a N$100. A mere 1.5%. Would owners of that money be very mad? N$600, 0000, 000 out of N$40,000,000,000 has been used in the so called saga at GIPF. It is also just 1.5%. It is a matter of scale.

♦ **Posted by Cde.Katusha kaNamibia**

Dear Comrades,I cannot understand why Government employees cannot access part of their pension to build their houses or to do business.The money is being squandered by GIPF, even given to some of the briefcase companies,N$ 660 Millions is gone.Politicians should act now,time for talking is gone.Comrade.President,Prime Minister and Cabinet should act now!We have teachers sleeping in iron corrugated sheets at schools were they are teaching,while their pension is being squandered.We have Police officers through out the country that are sleeping in tents and iron corrugated sheets,while their pension is being squandered.Government employees should start access part of their pension now!We gave them the mandate.GIPF, give the money to teachers and Police officers to build their houses now!Aluta Continua!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

♦ **Posted by Cde.Katusha kaNamibia**

Cde.Kanamutenya,I totaly agree with you.Politicians must act now and put a stop on auctioning lands/plots.We are talking of social & econimc transformation of society hence the City of Windhoek is selling plots through auction,where only a few can benefit.When will the City of Windhoek will empower the people particularly the black Namibians.Is the City of Windhoek only for the rich? Imagine for one to register for auction,you have to register with N$50.00 non refundable fee plus N$ 500.00 refundable fee. According to the city of Windhoek employee,800 people registered for the auction.Take N$ 50 x 800 =N$ 40 000.00.There were 210 plots that was auctioned for more than N$ 510 000.00 with the highest auctioned at N$ 1.5Millions.

Mr.Mathew Shikongo and his Councillors must stop the auctioning of plots now.With 800 people registered for auction,the plots were only bought by around 50 people.Aluta Continua!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

♦ **Posted by Cde.Katusha kaNamibia**

Dear Comrades, whatever people say,I shall put my vote for Cde.Kaaronda.He proves himself beyond reasonable doubt.We need leaders in NUNW,who can articulate issues without fear or favour.Cde.Kaaronda is one of those leaders thus far,who on number of occassion outspoken on issues of great concern such as GIPF,TransNamib,Pupkewitz and many others.

Therefore Cde.Kaaronda deserve another term to engage the Government & Private sectors to create much need employment for our people particularly the graduates.I have no doubt that Cde.Kaaronda will take NUNW to another level and encourage the workers to join the unions.I want Cde.Alfred Angula as Deputy Secretary of NUNW.I think the two will make out a great combination of unwavering leaders that will enables the workers to ripe the benefits of the NUNW through social & ecomic transformation.VIVA NUNW.Aluta Continua!!!!!!!!!!!

♦ **Posted by Cde KANAMUTENYA, polytec_Namibia**

Cont on page 6

♦ Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare

"Windhoek is the cleanest City in Africa": Does this mean that our City Councillors are the best in Africa?

♦ **Rachel Valentina Nghiwete**

No, it just means Windhoekers are clean and law abiding citizens... (do not litter...)

♦ **Janeth Tany Blacks**

I disagree to this comrade but firstly what is a city before I say I disagree this?

♦ **Tango Junior**

We Namibians are just well mannered, and to talk the truth and give credit where it is due, our city management are trying their best,, but we are just failing to have land to accommodate our individuals houses, plots at the auction are just bought by the rich to go sell them for more again.

♦ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

@Cde Rachel, I like that...lol...and other African cities they don't have law abiding citizens...who liter...lol@Cde Janeth, a city is a local authority administered by a Council of elected representatives such as Windhoek, Swakopmund and our Arandis...lol

♦ **Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare**

@long time Cde Tango, I agree with you on the prices for auction and acquiring of land/plots etc. Someone said the other day more than 90% of Windhoek is owned by Banks – this is scary ! I think it is a matter of policy by the Council, what I understand is that there are three methods of land/property alienation: auction, tender and private treaty. The latter is the most poor friendly....the city management could seek permission from the Council or line Minister to effect it. Or let us hear from the

Cont on page 6 - 7

View Point

By Wang Guanqun

Yuan and absurdity of U.S. demand

The conventional wisdom is that once the value of the yuan is increased, the US trade deficit with China would start falling. This rationale has prompted many Americans to push for further, faster revaluation of the yuan even after China changed its currency policy.

For those who endorse such logic, the yuan's value is a paramount factor behind China's - and their countries' - trade balances. But for John Ross, former deputy mayor of London in charge of economic and business policy, the trade gap between a country and China would widen instead of narrowing down, at least in the short term, if the yuan's values go up.

Ross, a visiting professor at Antai College of Economics and Management in Shanghai Jiaotong University, says that once the yuan's value rises the Americans would demand further revaluation, ultimately forcing the yuan to rise to a level that would not only disrupt China's trade and economy, but also pose a threat to the entire world economy.

Moreover, the number of jobs in the US would not increase unless the federal government changes its economic policy and raises investments, which is the real solution to its problem. Pressuring China to raise the yuan's value sharply will not help.

"Most people, particularly those abroad, don't know the real situation. The reason they want the yuan to be revaluated further is because they think it would reduce China's trade surplus. But let's say up to 18 months, this is not true."

From what happened between 2005 and 2008, when the yuan rose 21 percent against the dollar, it's clear that China's "trade surplus rose, too", Ross says. Any revaluation of the yuan raises the price of exports and reduces the price of imports, which means China's trade surplus would get bigger as its currency rises.

By examining historical data, Ross has found that China's exports and imports grew simultaneously after 2005 in terms of volume, but the prices of exports rose more relative to import thanks to the revaluation of the yuan. "That's why its trade surplus with the US is bigger today."There's a big debate among economists over what would happen in the long term if the yuan rose further, he says. Some people think China's trade surplus would increase, while others think it would fall in the long run. "But there's no difference (in what they say) would happen in the short term."

Seen from the history of US trade, its overall trade deficit rose at nearly $70 billion a month until 2006, he says. Then it stabilized before rising again after the passage of the worst period of the global financial crisis. "That's why (American) people are getting agitated because it has worsened But it is not rising because of China, for - I'm using US figures, not Chinese figures - the trade surplus of China with the US is rather stable, slightly under $20 billion a month."

In other words, claiming that the trade deficit of the US is rising because of China is simply not true, he says. "It's because its (America's) trade deficit with the rest of the world is rising, too."

The US has a trade deficit with about 90 countries. "If you reduce its trade deficit with China, all that would happen is that its trade deficit with some other country would increase."

US hawks, however, have always targeted China and pressured it to dance to the tune of their demand. Even if China has pledged to make the yuan more flexible by reforming its exchange rate mechanism further and peg it to a basket of currencies to better reflect the demand of the market, some US politicians and industrial leaders say it's "too little too late" and demand the Chinese currency be revaluated by up to 40 percent.

Forcing the value of the yuan to rise would cause further uncertainties in the world economy, which today faces other big challenges such as the European Union debt crisis. "We are not (living) in a normal stable economic environment; we are just about recovering from a very bad financial crisis and what happens in the next six to 18 months is very important and would have a very big effect," he says. "The last thing the world needs at present is a short-term increase in China's trade surplus because of an increase in the value of the yuan."As the yuan's value rises, the US would demand more revaluations, thus making it unaffordable for the Chinese and world economies. "The point is that the US has not given it a really serious thought."

Ross says economic history shows that the only way for the US to increase exports and jobs is to raise its level of investment. The Americans are famous for their low savings rate while China, Japan and some other countries boast high savings that can be used for investment.

The US suffered job losses because of the global financial crisis and because the savings rate in America was (and still is) very low. "It's very easy to explain the financial crisis in the US: The investment level of the US has not gone up in the past 150 years," he says. "The only way the US could increase its growth rate, which can create more jobs, is to raise the level of investment in its domestic market."

Ross accuses the US of trying to slow down growth of other countries by pressing them to raise the exchange of their currencies and lower their rate of investment. "The two effective means of slowing down an economy are to increase the exchange rate of its currencies sharply and force it to reduce its level of investment," Ross says. "This is what the US did for Japan in the 1970s and in later decades."

"What are the two demands the US places on China? One is to raise the exchange rate of the yuan. The second is to increase the share of consumption," he says. "But the increase in the share of consumption means reducing the share of investment and if China does these two things simultaneously, then its economy would slow down a lot."

Will that benefit China or, more importantly, the world economy?