

What people say

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

◆ **Posted by Cde. Land of the Brave**

One wonders who will participate in such demonstrations, not a sober minded humankind of course. RaDoPa, the so-called NHSR and cohorts are all losers, and it will remain so. Naya pone umbi natango, shaashi SWAPO otaikalele! Viva SWAPO Party Viva!

◆ **Posted by Cde. Katusha kaNamibia**

The Rally for Disappointed People (RDP) will apparently march this weekend. This time disappointed by the Supreme court. I am hereby calling all the people, misled by this Rally to come back home and be the winners again. Come back to SWAPO! SWAPO always victorious, I proud of being a bonafide SWAPO member. We shall disappoint them again come the Regional & Local Authority Elections on 26-27 November 2010. They went to the high court & the Supreme court after Presidential and National Assembly Elections. Where they will go after the Regional and Local Authority Elections? We shall humiliate them at the ballot box again, just like what happen in Okahandja Constituency, Presidential & National Assembly Elections. VIVA SWAPO! Aluta Continua!

◆ **Posted by Cde. Land of the Brave**

Viva The Leader of the Namibian Revolution Cde. Dr Sam Nujoma! You are a true African hero.

◆ **Posted by Albertina Nalukale Ndundu, Tsandi, Omusati Region**

Thank u dr. Cde ngurare n tatekulu

sam shafiihuna Nuuyoma. It my first time to see u coz i always want to meet dr. Ngurare and I am proud of u. I would like to ask you when a u coming to visit us at omusati region? I would like to you again to mobilize parents about the important of swapo pioneer in omusati region. Thank you very much. yours in swapo pioneer party.

◆ **Posted by Benitia Aihuki, swapo pioneer omusati region**

Thank you for calling us and celebrating together may god blessing you thanks alot.

◆ **Posted by Leena Nagendji David, swapo pioneer, omusati region**

First I want to give a lovely hallo. I also want to say thank you Dr Erial Ngurare for making us feel happy and for the preperation and every thing good you have done for us. Wishing you all the best.

◆ **Posted by Shaalukeni Johann Flower, pioneer from Anamulenge District, Anamulenge Branch**

Comrade Ngurare, I want to thank you for the wonderful event that you have managed to organised for us. Thank you cde. We have really learned a lot from this event. May God bless us. Long live cde.

◆ **Posted by Meme Etuna Shileka, swapo pioneer, omusati region**

I would like to thank Cde Elia Ngurare and SWAPO Party for organising the special even. I salute you.

◆ **Posted by Hendrina**

◆ **Silas, Grade 4, Omusati Region**

Thank you very much Cdes SPYL for the invitation u made to us, the swapo pioneers from outapi - omusati region. We gained so much from the gathering, especially on what cde DR SHAFIISHUNA told us about the history of our liberation struggle and importance of education.

◆ **Posted by Cde. Land of the Brave**

One wonders where these notorious thugs will hide now. The City Police should also patrol such areas (rivebeds etc.) on a regular basis. We Namibians condemn violence, We say No to Gender Based Violence. My hat is off for Cde. Founding Father. SWAPO Victorious!

◆ **Posted by Saima Ipinge**

Thats the only way forward Cde. Dr Nujoma. Although bush clearing can cause some serious damage to the environment, I also feel we have no other option at the moment but to clear the bushy riverbeds. Thanks the Founding Father for taking a lead! VIVA SWAPO Party.

◆ **Posted by Simson Andrekia**

What a night it was yesterday at Unam! Listening to Drs. Aupindi & Mathe, and Sackey Shanghala was all I needed last night to have a clear direction to what I want to achieve in life. This young Drs are so inspiring and hence role models in Namibia. Now im full of myself simply because I dont want to be full of someone else!



Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda



When the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, started luring other opposition parties into some sort of a coalition to challenge SWAPO Party in coming elections, political pundits wrote off the idea, arguing that it would not stick because such parties have nothing in common that unite them. That assessment was spot on.

This week, RDP, announced that it no longer entertains the idea of a coalition at all, thus killing and burying its own initiative in full public view. RDP is a project that has gone off the rails. Even some opposition parties which almost fully fell for the idea have now realized that there is absolutely nothing worth discussing with RDP.

Early last year, RDP lured and convinced some opposition parties to field one candidate in the regional by-election which was held in Okahandja Constituency in Otjozondjupa Region. The other parties agreed but waited for more detailed discussions and modalities on how the coalition would work. Most importantly, they wanted to have a say in how a candidate should be chosen.

In arrangements like that, one needs some detailed and clear-cut guidelines on how they would work together and how the interests of so many different political parties would be served by one person. Arriving at that agreement, however, is as well-nigh impossible as trying to empty a swimming pool with a spoon. Even RDP itself which mooted, initiated and led the process knew in their heart of hearts that such an arrangement would not work. If anything, it would only serve as a marriage of convenience.

Sure enough, it did not take long before opposition parties who had bought the idea of fielding one candidate in Okahandja got the shock of the political life. Without consulting them, RDP simply announced that the "coalition's candidate" would be Christophina Paulus, who is also an RDP member, thus double-crossing the others. It dealt with them in bad faith.

Such opposition parties were caught off-guard. When RDP made the announcement, it was too late for them field candidates of their own. They grudgingly went along with the idea, as there was virtually nothing they could do, given the time constraint.

The RDP candidate was massacred there. We thought that the idea of forming a coalition got buried there as well. We assumed, too, that opposition parties which were hoodwinked into that futile and suicidal exercise had learned a lesson or two. They are, we have now learned, slow learners indeed.

Then came November's Presidential and National Assembly elections in which, in its calculation, RDP estimated to get "at least 30 seats," enough to dent SWAPO's two-thirds majority, thus making it impossible for the ruling Party to form a credible government, just as it happened in Zimbabwe and Kenya. It only managed to get eight seats. Its leaders could not believe it.

What surprised political analysts as well as ordinary people was that the same RDP which cobbled together the same opposition parties into the Okahandja debacle managed, once again, to fool them into another political quagmire – boycotting not only the outcome of the elections but also Parliament itself.

Slow learners indeed but that might be too light a phrase to describe their latest move, but two opposition parties, namely the Congress of Democrats, CoD, and the DTA, saw the foolishness of RDP's latest political outing and eventually returned to Parliament. RDP, they have realized, was simply trying to short-circuit them into their larger political chess-board.

RDP wanted a bigger crowd to boycott the elections and Parliament. This would have enabled it to make a lot of noise in Europe, which has repackaged itself into some sort of custodian and saviour of "democracy" in Africa, arguably threatened by former liberation movements. Remember the "regime change" doctrine being pursued by the very countries that colonized Africa! As one politician has put, saving "democracy" has become Europe's latest undertaking to "civilize" Africa.

None of the RDP's political gambles has worked. SWAPO Party's two-thirds majority remains intact. Its boycott of and absence from Parliament have not deprived the National Assembly of the quorum it needs to pass laws. Therefore, when RDP's Information Secretary, Nghiningilwandubo Kashume, announced this week that RDP's central committee decided three weeks ago that the "formation of a coalition at this moment is not practical," he was just confirming before the nation that all is not well in RDP. In simple terms, he is saying that the project has failed. Like a whirlwind, RDP has come to pass.

Caught between its abysmal failure to create a political territory for itself and bewildered by the uncertain future, RDP has run out of gas. It has failed to offer better alternatives to Namibia's economic and social challenges than SWAPO Party has done. It has no new ideas, just more ranting.

When a political party comes to that pathetic end, all is lost. For nearly 40 years, Hidipo Hamutenya had built a huge political fortune in SWAPO Party. In less than two years, however, he has managed to squander all that, clumsily. Now he is a political pauper, stripped of his political fortune by sheer opportunism, insatiable hunger for power and a terrible sense of timing.

Nurse your wounds. "Shituna iha hadhwa." (Do not wake up sleeping lions.) Those who wished and prayed that RDP would bring about a debilitating split in SWAPO Party have now realized the futility of their own wishful thinking. SWAPO Party's tried and tested commitment to Namibia's social and economic development has stood the test of time and weathered many storms.

We are soldiering on. For, this is just the beginning of our long march to social and economic prosperity, with SWAPO Party in the driving seat. Some may fall by the wayside, as Hidipo has fallen. History is littered with such miscarriages and political carcasses. Coalition or no coalition, our guiding torch, the flame of freedom, will shine our way.



Kaiyamo

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or ten years. You must be a paid-up member, popular among the community, a registered voter and above all, you must be prepared to accept the fair outcome of the results," he said.

"During the coming campaign, all the issues must be discussed openly and not in dark corners. Be vigilant against 'sellouts' who pull out 'half SWAPO and half RDP' as soon as possible, before the elections. Leaders assigned by SWAPO to the regions must be in charge of the regions to ensure stability within the Party."

RDP stands for the Rally for Democracy and Progress, which was formed in 2007 by some disgruntled former SWAPO leaders who had defected from the Party. At its formation, RDP thought it would reduce SWAPO Party's two-thirds majority in Parliament. It has failed to achieve that objective.