From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

Last weekend, we were treated to some mendacious, if not mediocrec, statements by Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, President Hidipo Hamutenya, telling a small group of his faithful that RDP would consider boycotting the upcoming elections if the High Court did not issue its judgment on the outcome of the National Assembly and Presidential elections court challenge by RDP and eight other political parties.

Whether this was a real threat or just a mere bluff by a frustrated politician whose chances of winning any elections are very slim, only Hidipo himself can tell. But whether the threat is real or just a mere bluff, he has really taken more chances than he can chew.

By now, Hidipo has realized that RDP stands no chance in the coming regional and local authority elections, hence such threats. With so many mass defections from RDP throughout the country, these should be worrying, not defining, moments for HH. His public utterances are informed and guided by that piercing reality. And it hurts and blinds his sights.

Courts have strict procedures to follow. Every piece of evidence must be thoroughly examined without undue pressure. It is worse when such mounting pressure comes from a politician. It amounts to interference in the independence of our judiciary, which has been meticulous in its work over the past years, thus earning itself an unfeigned status of being impartial and impartial in what it says and does.

That reputation has not been easy to earn. It must, therefore, be vigorously protected by every person who is seriously concerned about the future of this country.

Why has Hidipo, all of a sudden, started punching on the Judiciary, Rambo style? Hidipo said last weekend that unless the High Court delivered its judgment before November 27, RDP would boycott the upcoming regional and local authority elections. What has that boycott got to do with the High Court judgment?

The High Court rightly said that the issues raised in the election application were many and complex with far-reaching implications. The Court therefore has every intention of giving each issue raised proper and careful consideration, and hand it down when it is ready, not at a time dictated to the Court by Hidipo.

Whether RDP boycotts the elections or not, for us, that is immaterial. It is the future of his party that is at stake anyway. He alone knows how to nurse its septic wounds. Whatever decision he takes will, in any way or another, only affect his party. He is running it down at a supersonic speed. And his followers are watching in disbelief, wondering whether what he see happening is real or is just a dream from which they would wake up soon.

The scandalous boycott of the National Assembly only succeeded to send RDP supporters confused. The short-lived marriage with the Republican Party, RP, simply worsened the situation. Recently, we saw annoyed members of the public striking off their names from RDP’s lists, claiming that they were not consulted when their names were put on such lists as RDP candidates for the November regional and local authority elections.

This was a clear indication that RDP never held elections to elect their candidates. People were just handpicked, without even their consent, and had their names submitted to the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN, to meet the requirements. But the most interesting question is, in doing so, did RDP think it was cheating?

The anger with which people struck off their names from such lists embarrassingly and humiliated RDP itself in public, weeks before people go to vote. This was, indeed, a classic exercise in self-amputation par-excellence.

Do not boycott these elections as you did during the Tobias Hainyeko Con- straints elections two years ago. People need you in the boxing ring to watch the show.Have balls and walk the race like all other political contend- ers. After all, you chose to run, willingly at that. You can’t proclaim your political ability to run and suddenly hide behind such gagges. You made your choice, you must live with its consequences.

By Asser Ntinda

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