

# What people say

From SWAPO website: [www.swapoparty.org](http://www.swapoparty.org)

◆ Posted by  
**I.H.Hekandjo-Okalongo**  
Cdes let us demand Epupa hydro power plant from UDF, to save the country power need. while they cry foul of no development.

◆ Posted by  
**Munyanya Kulobone**  
Comrades and Friends, you are all cordially invited to a SWAPO Party Khomasdal North District Mini Rally on Saturday the 20th November 2010 at 14h00. Venue is Khomasdal Playground in Gladiola street. KEYNOTE SPEAKER is Cde Uutoni Nujoma. See you there. Aluta Continua, Victory is certain.

◆ Posted by **SONIA HEITA**  
Im an exile kid of SWAPO PARTY to the fullest. I just want to express my feelings that what swapo is doing is great, WE HAVE PEACE IN THE COUNTRY etc, and its benefiting all namibian people, let us VOTE SWAPO PARTY FOR MORE DEVELOPMENT. SALUTE!!!!!!

◆ Posted by  
**I.H.Hekandjo-Okalongo**  
Thanks cde Imanu Kleo Okalongo with this wise word vigilant, one can say if you cannot win them from outside just join them and destroy from within. SO once more let us be awake then ever cdes, beside let me thanks the Namibian Dairy Management for what they did to their employee in term of housing in the town of

Mariental, its one of the good example to other company indeed to respond on the government call. Shortly let me once more thank you cdes those who join or re-join the mighty SWAPO PARTY of Namibia. only in unity we can be able to take our Namibia high. LONG LIVE SAWPO PARTY OF NAMIBIA, LETS GO AND VOTE OUR SWAPO PARTY FOR DEVELOPMENT and Let us be first at the polling station to vote as usual, to show tribal party projects that we know what is good for us and for the country in general. Now hard work cdes!!!!!!

◆ Posted by Cde  
**Kapiye Timotheus**  
SWAPO party members and supporters please if you see your CDES marching Join them. Take your SWAPO colours and follow them to show that we are still on power. Don,t let SWAPO party,s meetings to be attended by less than 100 people like Radopa, RP, Nudo, Dta,s meetings. But i know it will not happen in this country never never at all.  
Tatekulu Nujoma and tatekulu Pohamba they are there for the Namibian nation but let,s not disappoint them by letting those recently opposition parties to win with more than 5% from each place. Viva cde Pohamba, cde Nujoma, cde Geigob ,cde Pendukeni livula-Ithana, cde Nangolo, cde Elijah Ngurare, cde Sofia Shaningwa, all

SWAPO CDES! few days to go cdes. let,s go and vote, your vote count. vote SWAPO! I thank you.

◆ Posted by Cde  
**kapiye Timotheus**  
Cde,s I want to use this opportunity to wish the Republic of Angola a happy independence anniversary. MPLA and SWAPO party are brothers. viva Republic of Angola. we SWAPO party members we salute you MPLA members. i thank you.

◆ Posted by Imanu  
**Kleo Okalongo**  
Cdes, if we reflect the past we can understand that the history of SWAPO is the only history that is bright to all citizens of this soil and abroad. Let us all be vigilant and watch out, not to allow the trator to take over ranks in the leadership of SWAPO party. These trators pretend to be as loyal members of SWAPO, but in reality they want to destroy SWAPO party within. They advising our people negatively and preach tribalism speeches aims to divide people according to their tribal, regional and to their ethnic line. We are totally rejected such ideas and prepare ourselves to hammer off the heads of such dishonest elements this coming 26/27 Nov 2010 elections. Mised people, come back home to join SWAPO party. Outside SWAPO party there is no political safety.



## Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda



News that Marx Hamata, Editor of *Informante*, has resigned did not come as a surprise. Many people have seen it coming for years. Hamata has not been controversial. He has been plain careless in so many clumsy ways and has, more than once too, been always reluctant to apologize when told that facts in a particular story were false or twisted.

Two weeks ago, *Informante* ran a fabricated story about Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, having been flown out to Cape Town "after his long battle with prostate cancer has worsened." *Informante* claimed that it quoted "reliable sources close to the Founding President's Office."

A few hours after the story was splashed, it turned out that the story was just a fabrication, and Hamata had earlier been warned that the story should not be published as there was absolutely not truth in it. Despite such forewarnings, however, Hamata went ahead and had the story published.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the Founding President's Office wrote a strongly worded letter to *Informante*, politely but firmly asking him to apologize and retract the allegations prominently in the next edition of *Informante*, which was last week Thursday.

He did not. Instead, he followed it up with an editorial in which he hopelessly tried to justify the story, which was more insulting and vividly showed that Hamata had no regard for the truth. He did not understand the magnitude of the story and the unnecessary scary alarms it has caused nationally and internationally.

In that editorial, Hamata – with an unrepentant degree of arrogance – claimed that "public officials who reacted with alarm are those that feel that their political careers are at the mercy of Nujoma and without him their fate will be doomed." He went on to say that "those that should be afraid (of a post-Nujoma era) are those that organize Exploration and Petroleum Licences EPLs and loot the public coffers using Nujoma's name ....)

That degree of arrogance was the last drop that broke the camel's back. The implications were not just going to be Hamata's burden alone. The owners of *Informante* were going to be dragged down the mud as well, if they did not take action. In fact, Hamata did not resign. He was forced to resign, or be fired. His is not an honourable exit. It is a disgraced exit.

Whether Founding President Nujoma's health status is a matter of public interest or not is besides the point here. What has annoyed many people is that the story was simply fabricated from nowhere to cause unnecessary alarms as Namibians prepare to go and vote next week. Had the story been correct and factual, people would not have reacted the way they did.

The story was a blue lie, concocted by Hamata himself. Could it be part of the implementation of the Nyamu's notes? That question could not be farfetched. In fact, many people have already started seeing it with Nyamu's notes in the background. Despite the fact that Hamata was told where Dr Nujoma was, the date and the hour, Hamata blatantly refused to apologize and retract the allegations, which could have been an honourable way out of the quagmire.

Journalism is an honourable profession, so honourable that the entire profession depends and feeds on honesty, integrity and accuracy, which add up to balanced and objective reporting. Those who earn a living from writing, usually about others and events, are held to certain standards. The worst offence in journalism is to fabricate a story, splash it with a screaming headline, and when told the truth, take cover under journalists' presumed right to pontificate.

Fabricating stories is taking freedom of expression to the absurd. *Informante* owes Founding President Nujoma not just an apology, but a complete retraction of the allegations, as Namandje has demanded. It owes it to the profession to do so. For the sake of honesty and fair play, that apology must come. True, to err is humane. Accept that you have erred. There is honour and magnanimity in accepting that you have messed up. The integrity of any newspaper depends entirely on the accuracy and reliability of its stories. Stories must be accurate and reliable as humanely as possible. Stories must be accurate and factual to be referred to later in years, long after we have possibly gone above the stars.

A story that survives for a day, only to be rubbished the next day leaves a dent on the credibility and integrity of the newspaper concerned. Refusing to withdraw or retract the allegations makes it worse, especially when confronted with facts that indeed the story was incorrect.

*Informante's* reporting has become dirty and comic. Hamata has irretrievably severed the trust and thrown away the moral suasion that makes newspapering honourable. He has sliced right through the middle of honesty, trust and accuracy. That is the trust he has betrayed. In any other profession like nursing or law, where codes of conduct are strict and oaths are sacred, he could have been struck off the roll, never to practice such a profession for the rest of his life. In any other walk of life, such flagrant lies could have him out of his ears.

That moral bankruptcy is why *Informante's* reporting has become comic and dirty – comic and dirty because its reporting seeks to teach people to regard lies as realities and the peddling of sensations on the news as freedom of the press.

The fact that *Informante* has refused to apologize, withdraw the story and retract the allegations is evidence enough that the paper has no respect for the truth. Its journalists have chosen to wallow in a morass of almost-self-righteous negativism. This leaves us with only one conclusion – that *Informante* holds its office cheap and its lies dear.

For years, Hamata has been carelessly dabbling and dangling with facts in the most craziest way in the name of freedom of expression of the press, as if such rights were cast in stones. As he lives his final days at *Informante*, he only has himself to blame. He has learned that fabricating a story in the name of press freedom is an exercise in self-amputation. Few journalists worth their salt will tread that route.

## SWAPO Party

### Khomasdal North District



You are cordially invited to a SWAPO Party Mini Rally for Khomasdal North District Scheduled for Saturday, 20 November 2010. The Rally is organized by the following branches: Moses Garoeb, SWAPO Ankama, Niko Bessinger, Nathanael Maxwili, Kahumba Kandola and Patrick Lunganda.

**Venue:** Khomasdal Plyground, Gladiola Street (opposite Augustium Senior Secondary School)

**Time:** 14h00

**Keynote Speaker:** Hon Uutoni Nujoma (Minister of Foreign Affairs)

