

# What people say

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

◆ Posted by Hekandjo  
Thanks I.T. Depratment SWAPO Party of Namibia. keep updating.

◆ Posted by cde Kanamutenya, whk  
Good work for those comrades who are updating and modifying the party website, keep job well done, be creative always we gone be behind you as always comrades

◆ Posted by Willem Nekwiyu  
Congratulation comrades. This a very good work, and I sure with this vibrant looks, the Party website is bound to get more and regular traffic. Lead the way for the rest to follow.

◆ Posted by David David  
This is creativity at work, we appreciate your effort in making the party website what it is today. My thoughts are that you please keep changing that front page regularly to make it more interesting to everyone. I am quite sure even opposition parties will admire the creativity. lol. Backward never, forward ever! Aluta Continua.

◆ Posted by Cde. CHRIS VAN OUTAPI  
Awesome new website look.....!!!! Cdes please lets deal with the land issue in Namibia, i still dont understand how people in Namibia do not have land, considering that we are only about 2 Million. We need residential land before we can get resettlement farms.

◆ Posted by Justina  
Comrades, how is olupale going? lost the updates.

◆ Posted by Justina  
The page has a taste not to

be missed check on the daily basis, it look better than before. good work SWAPO IT department.

◆ Posted by Cde. Mweyokutala  
Wow wow wow!! I really like the new look on the website front page. Keep it up Comrades, you are doing us SWAPO members proud. Also keep updating on latest stories as you have been doing. My hat is off for the designer!

◆ Posted by Cde Kapiye Timotheus  
In SWAPO party we do not discriminate, whether you are black or white. SWAPO party members and supporters all over the country we give a message of condolences to the family of late Moses Katjuongwa. SWAPO party care for all the people in Namibia whether you are a member or not. rest in peace mr Katjuongwa. cde kapiye at Okahandja.

◆ Posted by cde Kanamutenya, whk  
Colleagues we ever worried of unemployment in this country, however one wonder if really as a nation we are serious with unskilled people, there are a lot of opportunity to these people, I passed through Katutura hospital but the outside premises is dirty, tins, plastic bags, grasses tall then my height, now one wonder and ask oneself can someone not be employed to do that kind of job? And also I was in Okahandja hospital and there are not enough lights or is it because you have to order a lot of items for the whole hospital or what is really that make difficult at least to provide the florescent bulbs for the hospital? Of course I don't want to talk about other

things rather is disappointing to say the least. With the high rain falling and mosquitoes can easily affect the patients and then facing malaria, I heard malaria is number one killer in Africa according to UN statistics, please which department is responsible for maintenance of public or government properties they must at least prioritize to solve some of this pertinent issues.

◆ Posted by Cde Kanamutenya, Whk  
Comrade Johan "Euro African" is correct that all Namibian irrespective of their colors should embrace the peace and tranquility we are enjoying as a peaceful nation, we should do away with color issue and let us respect each other and embrace our reconciliation as a tool to guide us forward towards the Vision 2030, and together we can make it! Forward Yes! Back ward never! To those with apartheid hang over the time has gone, and should start to smell the coffee and be proud as Namibian, this country belongs to all of us; we can live in a diversity and peacefully environment.

◆ Posted by Johan  
Viva! SWAPO! Viva!

◆ Posted by Johan  
Dear Comrades and especially Cde. Katusha kaNamibia. As a white, Boer, SWAPO supporter, EuroAfrican and proud Namibian I would like to assure my black brothers that not all of us support the actions of Mr. Vincent Sorenson and Mr. Hugo Derks. They are clearly stuck in the past and should be dealt with accordingly the laws of our proud country Namibia. Let us not be hasty and let us respect the laws that governs our country. Our forefathers did not fight colonialism for nothing! The struggle continues. Viva! Viva!

◆ Posted by jan van wyk  
Viva swapo Viva

◆ Posted by cde Kanamutenya, whk  
I support I think is good idea for those yellow buses to be used by students,



## Zoom In

By Asser Ntinda



Double standard stinks, and plain double standard plainly stinks. History has a nasty way of repeating itself. Last year, *The Namibian* advertised its top post – Editor of *The Namibian*. After more than 25 years at the helm of *The Namibian*, last year Gwen Lister made us believe that she was finally calling it quits. And so we believed her. For, she has always presented herself as a person who keeps her words and honours her promises.

After the deadline had lapsed, applications were sent in and candidates shortlisted. But the process remained shrouded in secrecy from the beginning to the end. None of the reporters at *The Namibian* – always known for their penchant adherence to “*Telling It Like It Is*” – ever picked up the story to tell the nation what was happening during and after the selection process. It was not, it seemed, newsworthy enough for their “fearsome crusade” to reveal what others would conceal.

Every top job at State-Owned-Enterprises, SOEs, receives massive publicity from *The Namibian*, sniffing out and detailing who and who have applied and how senior officials in that particular company may have tried to “shortlist” their friends. It happened to the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC. We have read quite a lot in *The Namibian* about CEO's of various municipalities around the country. But for *The Namibian*'s top job, the process went virtually unreported. So much for “*Telling It Like It.*”

What I have said is just in passing. For, Gwen has the right to appoint who she wants to run that newspaper, although she does not happily accord the same right to others to do what she has just done. Her pick on Tangeni Amupadhi is not by accident. But we do not know, and will probably never know, from how many shortlisted candidates she has handpicked Amupadhi. We would also never know how many people in total had applied for that position, and who the panelists were who interviewed the short-listed candidates from which Amupadhi emerged a victor.

What is interesting, if not worrying, however is that Gwen has created a super-post that was never there before – *Managing Editor*. And she has given it to herself. In short, Gwen has not left at all. She is still in charge, overseeing and overshadowing Amupadhi. In psychology, that is called placating. The choice of Amupadhi – from whatever crowd he was lifted – is meant to appease the public that she has actually appointed a black man to run the paper, whereas in actual fact, she has not moved anywhere at all.

What is it that Amupadhi cannot do that Gwen did without a “watchful eye” of the “Managing Editor” which will now oversee Amupadhi? To what extent will he be his own man, just as Gwen was her own woman? Let us not be fooled. Gwen will, in all good measures, conduct the orchestra in the background, calling the shots while placating Amupadhi.

If Amupadhi had principles, he would have told Gwen that he would only take the offer on condition that she got out of the picture altogether. If Gwen, too, was genuine and honest enough to leave, she could have handed Amupadhi the job without creating a “Managing Editor's” post for herself.

This arrangement, at least in the eyes of some unpolished observers, could have caused some people to believe that Amupadhi was his own man. But the majority could still have smelled a rat. They knew that Gwen would not go. She had just moved somewhere in another editorial dark-room from where she would still tell Amupadhi what to do and what not to do. It is one thing to connect. It is quite another to placate. Who is fooling who now? History has indeed played itself out in a telling way to starkly expose Gwen's double standards, which she so exponentially espoused only a few years ago.

And it seems Gwen has short memories. Or has playing double-standards blurred her senses? *Prime Focus* magazine took her on last year, trying to find out who the real trustees and owners of *The Namibian* were. She was very evasive and conveniently avoided to answer such piercing questions. That is Gwen. She wouldn't rest until she knew who owned what. But when it comes to her own affairs, she is – cat-like – stone silent.

For years, Gwen has viciously kicked many people in her *Political Perspective* whenever she reasoned that they were not doing things the right way. Two of them are Founding President Sam Nujoma and President Hifikepunye Pohamba. When SWAPO Party handed Dr Nujoma a Third Term in 2000, she was at the top of her voice, noisily shouting like a drugged canary. Those who supported the Third Term were called “bootlickers who were ingratiating Nujoma” on whom their “jobs depended.”

On May 14, 1999, Gwen wrote in her *Political Perspective*: “SWAPO always needed a disciplined leader who would hold things together, and Nujoma had (and has) that quality. Sooner or later, he has to let go. Let go of something that has been his personal cause for four decades, namely Namibia. He is the architect of our independence, and much of what has happened since independence – a lot of it good. But it is time for someone else to shoulder that responsibility while he earns a much deserved rest.”

So, fighting for Namibia's independence was “Nujoma's personal cause!” In Gwen's eyes, too, the people shouldn't decide as to when Cde Nujoma should go. She alone should! And that is “democracy par excellence!” Then came 2005. Founding President Nujoma stepped down peacefully and smoothly, and handed over the instruments of power to President Pohamba. But at that time, Cde Nujoma still had two more years to go before he completed his five-year term of office as President of SWAPO Party before he could hand over the leadership of the Party to President Pohamba.

No, argued Gwen. “Nujoma should go” and let Pohamba be ‘his own man.’ “Nujoma's presence” as President of SWAPO would “overshadow” President Pohamba's presidency, and that he would simply ‘remote-control’ President Pohamba, Gwen argued then. Although President Pohamba had, on numerous occasions, strenuously maintained that he was his own man and would strive for continuity and unity in the Party, Gwen remained convinced to the end.

So what goes around comes around. Gwen says she is leaving, yet she is not. Let us quote her own words – words she used against Founding President Nujoma – and wherever she mentions Nujoma, we put Gwen, and where she puts Namibia, we put *The Namibian*: “*The Namibian* always needed a disciplined editor who would hold things together, and Gwen had (and has) that quality. Sooner or later, she has to let go. Let go of something that has been her personal cause for 25 years – *The Namibian*. ... it is time for someone else to shoulder that responsibility, while she earns her much deserved rest.”

Just go Sissy Gwen! Let Amupadhi shoulder that responsibility without being “overshadowed and remote-controlled” by the so-called Managing Editor. There are many social projects out there for you in retirement. Counseling and pumping some senses in the heads of people like Vincent Sorenson, who still calls black people “kaffirs” 21 years after independence, is one of such social projects – changing the mind-sets of the white community. That can be your good social cause, even though you were not so amused when the government condemned Sorenson for his recent racial tantrums.

So the choice is yours Gwen – either you leave completely and earn your ‘deserved rest’ or you stay put without placating Amupadhi. Only magnanimity on your part will halt this elaborate charade and macabre musical chairs. We are too clever to be fooled by such not so sophisticated tree to tree monkey tricks.

## Butget Budget Budget

The N\$38 billion budget is out.  
N\$8,3 billion for Education. N\$3,6 billion for Finance. N\$3,3 billion for Health. N\$14,7 billion to be spent over the next three years