



Thousands of people flocked to various clinics and New Start centers around the country to get tested against HIV/AIDS. Long queues were seen at various clinics throughout the country. The queues were so long that they resembled those seen during elections. These pictures were taken at Hakahana and Okuryangava clinics in Windhoek. Photos by Levi Upula.



How Namibia can benefit from its natural resources?

On the onset, I believe that we as a Nation must thank our Almighty God because He blessed us with abundant natural resources. Above all, our beloved continent of Africa possesses a large quantity of the greatest quality resources. Namibia as a proud country in Africa is characterized with beautiful faunas and floras. Additional to those resources we also possess variety numbers of mineral resources such as: diamond, uranium, gold, copper, zinc and so on. We are also in possession of a rich sea that is equipped with Cold Benguela Current which is one of the richest upwelling zones in the world. In our sea one finds countless number of fish species, some of which are commercial important and some of ecological impor-

tant. Some fish just like some of our mineral resources are not exploited as of yet and they might increase the supply of protein. I am pompous to mention here the deserts of Namib and Skeleton, the savannah and the Khomas Hochland Mountains in the centre of our country where our Capital City, Windhoek is located. It is of smugness to talk about the moving and fixed dunes just before the sea, the Kunene and Orange River mouths and so on.

In attempting to answer the question at hand, I would want to put the emphasis on three components of sustainable development namely **environment, social and economic sustainability**. The concepts are relevant to current and future generation since it ensures

that our resources are utilized in a sustainable manner that does not compromise the ability of current and future generations to reach their demands. Since I am young conservationist just entered in the field of conservation, I think with our collective effort we will be able to make a positive difference that everyone will be fond of. It is our responsibility to meet our government half way as per Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia that states: "The state shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting...policies aimed at...maintenance of ecosystem, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia

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Zoom In



By Asser Ntinda

The fracas caused by the Rally for Democracy and Progress Youth League, RDPYL, is a non-starter. At the center of the so-called controversy is the decision by the National Youth Council, NYC, to defer RDPYL application to become a member of the NYC. Spoilers will always be spoilers, no matter how strong and conclusive the reasons one might give.

The reasons why the RDPYL application was deferred, not rejected, were clearly and elaborately outlined in a letter written by NYC Secretary General, Cde Mandela Kapere. NYC's affiliation sub-committee weighed the application and looked at it in the context of current developments that will ultimately affect NYC's structures and operations.

The NYC, as we know it, will no longer be there in its present format. It will be dissolved and a new body will come into being in the next few months. To entertain and accept new applications at this stage when the whole body is being dissolved would not have made sense.

The 2009 Act, from which a new restructured NYC will emerge, is very clear about the new entity and its format. Cde Kapere was simply referring to the 2009 Act when he said: "All members and structures of the NYC will subsequently be reassessed as regards their membership. In principle, both the NEC (National Executive Committee) and the affiliation sub-committee, felt it imprudent to consider admitting new members."

It would have been an awkward move, had the NYC entertained and considered the four applications in view of the transformation process currently sweeping through the colliders of power at the NYC Headquarters. What reasons were going to be given by the NYC, if they accepted such applications?

There is a deliberate line of confusion being deliberately pushed through by RDPYL spoilers. They want to create an impression that their application was rejected, and that is why they want to go to court. If the NYC had deferred RDPYL's application and considered the other three, RDPYL could have had a point. As things stand now, all applications have been deferred to the new body that will come into being once the transformation process is over.

No sane person would have picked up an argument with such a fair and balanced decision. Why does RDPYL not want to wait? We all know how the Rally for Democracy and Progress, RDP, and its off-springs came into being and how they have been provocative from day one in many respects. RDP officials have pushed themselves into private houses during their so-called "house to house" campaign strategy, which had the disastrous potential of igniting unnecessary fights as they were uninvited guests in private houses.

Just look at how many times RDP had to change venues for their rallies when they realized that nobody had turned up at the appointed venues. It happened at Omuthiya in Oshikoto Region and at Outapi in Omusati Region. How many times have RDP leaders and supporters been chased away for holding meetings next to private properties and houses?

Therefore, the recent utterances by RDPYL should be seen in the context of the history of RDP and how its mother body has reacted to various political events in the country, before and after last year's Presidential and National Assembly elections, whose results it has boycotted out of shame, rather than out of genuine convictions that the elections were "rigged." This is a story of the proverbial "like father, like son." RDPYL is simply mimicking and regurgitating RDP's Hidipo Hamutenya's electioneering antics with a view to creating a political territory for themselves.

It is one way of seeking publicity and being noticed in a country where few people want to listen to their unpalatable political outbursts, which invite more disgust than sympathy from the public. It is silly arguments like the ones advanced by RDPYL's Nicanor Ndjoze that disgust people and simply drive them away from RDP. There is a time to listen soberly and argue intelligently. This is the lesson RDP should learn. Being stubborn and reckless does not invite sympathy. The opposite is actually true.

But RDP being what it really is – a ceaseless crying political baby day in and day out — what else can one say? They will end up taking everybody to court. Maybe they have got enough money to make some lawyers rich. Lawyers will never refuse to defend a case, even when they know that the chances of winning are slim. When such a case is thrown out, they will simply carry their bulging briefcases and go, saying only that "at least we have tried. When will we get our cheque or first installment?" One reaps what one sows.