

NAMIBIA TODAY



Solidarity • Freedom • Justice

Netumbo sails through ECN

By Asser Ntinda

SWAPO Party Vice President, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, has been successfully registered with the Electoral Commission of Namibia, ECN, as SWAPO's sole and legal Presidential candidate in the November elections, shredding into pieces legal challenges about her legitimacy.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah was registered last Friday. SWAPO's hard-working Secretary General, Cde Sophia Shaningwa, spent last Friday at ECN submitting all necessary documents and requirements as contemplated in the Electoral Act, legally completing the due process and clearing the way for Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah to

contest as a presidential candidate on November 27.

In August this year, five SWAPO members wrote to ECN urging the Commission not to register Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah as a presidential candidate. They filed the notice through their Ondangwa-based lawyer, Nicky Ngula. The legal notice was abruptly withdrawn a day later by Ngula himself. He did not give the reasons for withdrawing the notice.

In their notice, the five, Joshua Vaino Martins, Reinhold Nghihpavali Shipwikineni, Petrus Ndeshipanda Shituula, Erich Chrismann Shivute and Aina Kalimba, "advised" the ECN "not to register" Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, citing "violations" of the SWAPO Constitution.

"We are celebrating. We meet on November 27. Our candidate, Mee Netumbo, has been legally nominated, submitted, and accepted by the ECN. Our voices will be heard through the ballots. In the contest for popular mandate to govern, she will defeat them all. We are ready for a landslide victory," said one elated SWAPO member at SWAPO Headquarters.

SWAPO lawyers have persistently emphasized that Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's presidential candidature is not

legally impaired in any way, and her nomination and submission to the ECN would sail through without any legal challenge.

In August, SWAPO Politburo and Central Committee member Sisa Namandje said the case brought against the SWAPO Party and its presidential candidate would collapse.

Namandje, one of the feared legal minds in the country, said the ongoing court case had got nothing to do with Nandi-Ndaitwah as a presidential candidate in the November elections.

Namandje said that when SWAPO held its elective congress in November 2022, it only needed to determine certain things, amongst others the election of its leadership, including the Vice President who, once elected there, was automatically going to be the Party's presidential candidate in the November elections.

"Delegates attended that congress fully aware that whoever emerged as Vice President from that congress automatically became SWAPO's presidential candidate because President Hage Geingob was serving his last second term and was thus barred by the Namibian Constitution to stand," said Namandje.

Netumbo... page 2

**'We meet in November,'
Shaningwa**



UNITY IN DIVERSITY: Natural Resources Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development

Netumbo... from page 1

"This did not require a decision. It just required certain facts. Was President Geingob entitled to run for a third term? The answer was 'no.' Because he couldn't, the next person there and then automatically qualifies.

"That's Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. This is a fact. It is irreversible whether a few people like it or not. It will never be reversed by anybody. The rules are very clear. Everybody, all and sundry, were informed that this was our candidate. We, as SWAPO members, know this. We care less about those who are not SWAPO members."

Calls for an extraordinary congress did not only come after the death of President Geingob. Namandje said such threats were made by a few people shortly after the congress, but nothing happened. When the Central Committee met in March this year, it only noted that there was already a presidential candidate identified and nominated.

What the Central Committee decided on at that meeting was only to authorize SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Shaningwa, or her Deputy, Cde Uahekua Herunga, to submit the name of Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah when the date of submission came, as required by the Electoral Act.

Requirements for nomination as candidate for presidential elections are that the person must be 35 years old and above as required by the Constitution of Namibia, must be a registered voter, and must either be a representative of a registered political party or an independent candidate whose nomination is supported by at least 500 registered voters per region.

In case of a nomination by a political party, the nomination is accompanied by a certified copy of the registration certificate of the political party concerned and a receipt showing that N\$20 000 has been deposited with the State Revenue Fund by or on behalf of the political party concerned.

"We have done all that and met all the requirements," said an elated Cde Shaningwa. "Our candidate has been duly registered. We are just waiting for the elections."

In August, Namandje cleared some confusion over how presidential candidates were nominated and submitted. He said the names had to be submitted to the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission in terms of Sections 72, 73 and 74 of the Electoral Act, not to the Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer.

The Chairperson was the only one who would receive and consider the names if they met all the requirements as contemplated in the Electoral Act, not in terms of their parties' respective constitutions.

We are ready. We meet all the requirements. There are no legal impediments. Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah will be submitted and accepted. Her name will be gazetted as the SWAPO Party Presidential candidate."

The five SWAPO members have taken SWAPO to court for not holding an extraordinary congress within 90 days as stipulated in the Party's Constitution, following the death of President Hage



Outapi also vowed not to be outsmarted.

Geingob in February this year, through their lawyer Richard Metcalfe.

In March this year, the SWAPO Party Central Committee called, as required by the Party's Constitution, an extraordinary congress to take place on 19 April next year to elect a person to complete the term left unexpired by the death of President Geingob.

This decision was taken against the background that the SWAPO had already identified and nominated its presidential candidate for the November presidential election at its 7th Congress in 2022, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Dr Geingob's death came eight months before the November elections. This placed a heavy burden on SWAPO in terms of finances and logistics to hold a congress in such a short time while preparing for an important election at the same time.

That decision is now being attacked by the five in the High Court, saying that the extraordinary congress should have taken place within 90 days.

SWAPO and its Vice President, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, who are cited as first and second respondents, filed answering affidavits and counter application on 30 August 2024.

In the affidavit, Cde Shaningwa poked damaging and fatal holes in the case, saying that the application stood to be dismissed with costs because it contained grave and fatal omissions and undue delays.

Preambling her affidavit on how SWAPO has evolved and conducted its affairs since its formation in 1960, Shaningwa said that the application was mainly informed by Shipwikeneni's subversive and malicious acts, which had been going on for a long time.

She said Shipwikeneni's subversive acts were designed to cause damage to SWAPO and its presidential candidate, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah, while sowing division and confusion among SWAPO members.

"Shipwikeneni is a destructive, divisive and mischievous character. He politically thrives on propagating lies and misinformation on or about the Party's leadership," said Cde Shaningwa in the affidavit.

"He naively and cynically believes that an insult-based public discourse is part of the constitutionally protected fundamental freedom of expression. In fact, he is a mackraking politician with a misguided obsession with searching out dirt against prominent leaders of the Party."

In his founding affidavit, Shipwikeneni only gave particulars of the second to fifth applicants. He did not make any essential averments that he had brought the application for, and on behalf of the second to fifth applicants.

He also did not indicate that he had been duly authorized by them to seek the relief he was seeking on their behalf. Cde Shaningwa mercilessly attacked this fatal omission.

"The material defects in Shipwikeneni's case on the question whether or not he is bringing this application also on behalf of the second to fifth applicants are compounded by the fact that the second to fifth applicants only filed simple (and almost empty) Confirmatory Affidavits. A simple Confirmatory Affidavit is inappropriate in these circumstances," Cde Shaningwa pointed out.

The four applicants also simply stated in their confirmatory affidavits that each of them had "read" Shipwikeneni's founding affidavit and confirmed its content. They gravely did not say that they confirmed the "truthfulness and correctness" of the content of Shipwikeneni's founding affidavit.

Cde Shaningwa said this omission, too, was fatal because they did not and could not have confirmed the assertion that he was bringing the application also on their behalf and that he was duly authorized to do so because such material facts were absent from Shipwikeneni's founding affidavit.

Because of this, Cde Shaningwa further said, SWAPO would argue that the second to fifth applicants did not file an affidavit setting out the facts on which they relied for the relief they were seeking as mandatorily required under Rule 65 (1) of the High Court.

Since the second to fifth applicants had no founding affidavit, Cde Shaningwa



Opuwo came out in their thousands.

argued, they consequently had no application. Their purported "application" must be dismissed with costs on this basis alone, Cde Shaningwa stressed, saying they were simply "decoy applicants."

In his application, Shipwikeneni sought two substantive relief. In the first relief, Shipwikeneni attacked as "invalid" SWAPO's decision "to adopt and implement the decision of the Central Committee" to hold the extraordinary congress in April next year.

In the second relief, he seeks an order to direct SWAPO through its Central Committee to call for the extraordinary congress as demanded in its Constitution and for the court to direct that such extraordinary congress should take place within 30 days of the court order.

Cde Shaningwa pointed out that it was not clear why the applicants chose not to attack the decision itself, but rather the "adoption" and "implementation" thereof.

"This is a bad choice of remedy, as (SWAPO's) counsel will demonstrate at the hearing," Cde Shaningwa said. "There are no other orders sought by the applicants. In particular, there is no order sought for purposes of attacking the validity of SWAPO's presidential candidate at the country's upcoming presidential elections."

Cde Shaningwa said it was thus clear that the whole purpose of Shipwikeneni's litigation was an attempt to continue causing doubt in the minds of the Party's members over the legality of Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah's presidential candidature, even when the relief being sought had nothing to do with the validity of her candidature.

The Secretary General wants the case to be dismissed with costs, saying it was not urgent because it was instituted after an undue and unreasonable delay on the part of the applicants.

"The fact of the matter is that given the issue the applicants are questioning in Court and attached period of time, it was incumbent upon them to approach Court right after the decision was taken on 9 March 2024," Cde Shaningwa argued.

"It is reckless and frivolous on the part of the applicants to institute their application more than a month after the period contemplated under Article 15(9) had expired.

"There is no reason why the applicants should not have brought an urgent application in a period of a week or two after the decision. On that basis, there is an extraordinary delay in the institution of application."

The court case is still ongoing.

'N\$500 million to empower youth,' Mbumba

By Staff Reporter

The SWAPO Party government will inject N\$500 million every year into the National Youth Fund that will be channeled to thousands of young Namibians to unleash their entrepreneurship and pursue various exciting business opportunities that will emerge as Namibia grows its economy.

This is apart from the N\$85,7 billion that the government will spend over the next five years on projects that will create mass employment opportunities for unemployed young graduates and other Namibians looking for jobs.

These were some of the key announcements made by President Nangolo Mbumba over the weekend when he addressed thousands of people at Helao Nafidi in Ohangwena Region. He said these were among the many projects that SWAPO and its Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, would implement, once they were reelected in November.

"I appeal to you not to make the mistake to vote for those parties and leaders who are promising manna from heaven," he said. "They will never bring you heaven nor any paradise. How can they give you what they don't have? Rather, vote for the SWAPO Party whom you know, whom you trust, whom your forefathers and foremothers established many years ago to free us from the scourge of apartheid colonialism."

He said the SWAPO Party government would continue to review and address current government policies and practices that hamper the successful development of youth enterprises and the development of youth into productive citizens.

"If a government policy or practice is hampering our youth enterprises from succeeding, we must change or discard such policies or practices and not continue with them. If something is not working, it is not working. The youth are the future and the future belongs to the youth. So, we will work hand in hand with our youth so that they can become successful," said President Mbumba.

He highlighted some of the major achievements the SWAPO Party government had recorded over the past 34 years, shaming those who said SWAPO had not achieved anything.

"Those who said that SWAPO did nothing are not telling the truth," said an agitated Mbumba. "The facts are there for everyone to see and judge for themselves. We are the only party with a track record of successes. Where others talk, we deliver and we plan to continue to deliver, deliver and deliver."

"We have a track record and we have delivered. So, give us the mandate. Buy into this manifesto and we shall continue delivering. We do not make empty promises like the many political

groupings. Talking is easy and cheap but doing is another thing all together.

"While others can promise you heaven on earth, only SWAPO can guarantee the reality of economic development and shared prosperity. SWAPO has achieved remarkable successes and yes, we do realize that there are problems. Problems are to be solved by people and parties that are properly organized."

The President cited unity as one of the achievements, saying that where there was no peace, there could not be development. He said despite different dialects and multiple cultures, Namibians were one and should maintain that unity.

"Today, we can proudly hold our heads high and say no more to apartheid which divided our people and treated them as sub-human in their own land. No more to bantustans. No more to second rate education. No more to the plundering of the Namibian resources by the colonial and apartheid regimes while our people starve of hunger and live in poverty," said President Mbumba.



President Nangolo Mbumba at Endola, Ohangwena Region.

"Today, we are indeed One Namibia and One Nation, living in peace, unity and harmony with each other. We don't have conflicts in Namibia, we have peace. We have freedom of movement. That is what the SWAPO Party has achieved for the Namibian people and nobody can deny that."

President Mbumba also highlighted the importance of value addition, which could create many jobs once fully implemented. Namibia is endowed with abundant natural resources such as fish, diamonds, uranium, gold, marble and granite as well as other natural resources, which should not be exported in raw forms.

He said these resources belonged to Namibians. Through value addition, Namibians could create more jobs and more businesses inside the country and export finished products and earn more money.



Zoom In

By: Asser Ntinda



SWAPO is the main force driving the process of change in this country. Its Manifesto is a comprehensive document of thought and action, well balanced. It is tightly compressed to address poverty, unemployment and other social ills. In it, the nation sees hope and a better future.

It is carefully cross-sectored to address national challenges, whether it is in respect of the urban centers or villages. There is something in there for everybody. It is bold interventions and expenditures over the past years that have inspired Namibians to have faith in SWAPO.

It is not by accident that SWAPO has won all the elections since 1989. SWAPO has got going various development plans and a schedule of implementation in place.

What you saw in Opuwo, Outapi and Endola over the weekend was a massive display of political muscles, borne out of a concerted multi-pronged development strategy crafted at independence 34 years ago. Therein lies SWAPO's tried and tested commitment to serve the interest of all Namibians. Our people have trust and confidence in our leadership and in our devotion to improving the living standards of our people.

SWAPO will never let Namibians down. We will find lasting solutions to the problems and challenges we face as a nation. We have tried our best as the governing party. There might have been miscarriages along the way. But that was not due to neglect. We remain focused on what binds us together.

Addressing pressing national challenges competing for scarce resources is a tough balancing act. Money is never enough. When navigating through such sharp turns and intense twists, however, what matters most is our leaders' commitment and concern about public interest and the well-being of the people.

The thousands of people you see and meet at those huge rallies display warm smiles of confidence, seeing that Namibia is on the road to a better future. Our vision, mission and mobilization of resources, both human and capital, will take Namibia to greater heights.

In some situations, the weight of poverty that comes with widespread disillusionment may make the future look bleak and hopeless. But our commitment to addressing those challenges remains unshakeable. Our resilience to overcome such challenges is anchored on our ability to turn things around. Our urban and rural communities are prime targets of our government service delivery initiatives. The SWAPO Party cares.

Since independence, we have been guided by the goals, values and principles enshrined in Namibia's Constitution. All our preceding manifestos have drawn inspiration from it.

Our record speaks for itself. We have carried out specific people-centered development programmes. These initiatives have made Namibians the owners of the process of self-determination and self-development.

Opposition parties have made futile attempts since independence to win the mandate to govern. But, on all occasions, we have sent them back packing because the SWAPO Party champions a clear and documented vision, mission and commitment to growing our economy, transforming our society and equipping our people with capacity towards social upliftment.

Over the next two months, we will vigorously popularize our Manifesto to the voters, pointing out our achievements and concrete plans that have already been worked out for the prosperity of our people.

As always, SWAPO will be at the head of the pack in the battle to contest for the popular mandate to govern. We will smash to smithereens those splintering groups and opposition parties, old and new, at the polls. For, as those crowds show, SWAPO is the undisputed political home of many Namibians. About that, there is no doubt.

"That is why Cabinet has taken a decision that our lithium will not be exported without local value addition. Investors are building factories in Namibia to add value to our lithium. And when you vote SWAPO back into power, there is no doubt that many more factories will be built in the future."

The President said that as honest leaders with a tried and tested leadership pedigree and a solid track record in governance, they knew there were areas within the social and economic sectors that remained challenging. Unemployment, especially among the youth, remained challenging.

"But we remain resolute and steadfast that we will address the issue of unemployment. We will leave no stone unturned in tackling this issue with all the seriousness it deserves as a priority. Thus,

creating opportunities for employment is our priority," said President Mbumba.

On housing, the President acknowledged that while government had done a lot on this issue, more still needed to be done to provide decent housing for Namibians.

"No other party can compare to SWAPO's track record in governance. "We have maintained peace, stability and security for 34 years. We have ensured smooth leadership transitions in both the party and government. No civil wars or political assassinations in Namibia," said President Mbumba.

"Vote Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. She is the best leader and choice to continue the SWAPO leadership legacy and improve our lives. She is trusted. She is tried and tested. She is ready and prepared to work hard."

Swapo Youth Engage NNN on Economic Growth

By Uauenza Kanguatjivi

On September 27, regional leaders and Swapo Party members convened at Vanjoo Guest House and Campsite in Opuwo for a Youth in Conversation event featuring Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (NNN), the Swapo Party's presidential candidate and vice president of Namibia.

The event, which was centered around the theme of "Unity in Diversity: Natural Resources Beneficiation, Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development," attracted significant attendance from youth and political leaders eager to discuss the region's future.

As the SPYL proceeded to dissect the 2025-2030 SWAPO party manifesto, talks about raising standards and generating employment through mining, agriculture, tourism, and culture were held.

Amongst the people in attendance were notable figures such as Secretary General Sophia Shaningwa, Dr. Elijah Ngurare, panelist Dino Ballito, Tjavarekua Tjijahura, Stanley Kambonde, SPYL secretary Ephraim Nekongo and members of the Central Committee of the Youth League.

The youth in attendance were encouraged to consider the opportunities available in sectors such as mining, agriculture, and tourism.

Panelist and regional youth leader Kambonde spoke about the untapped potential of Opuwo's mineral resources.

Kambonde implored the youth to start looking into those resources by mobilizing themselves to form groups and be a unified group.

He noted that the Kunene Region was rich in resources and there were a lot of minerals between Epupa and Okozondje.

Kambonde said, "It's time for young people to mobilize, organize themselves, and take advantage of mining opportunities. So, you know, first, you need to get the license, and the two most common licenses would be an EPL and a mining team."

On the other hand, Kambonde added, "One would need to do this with other mining teams because they are much easier to work with."

"Even if you have the licence, you need support, you need support in having a conducive environment in which you can apply for and be granted those claims, and you need support to utilize the tools to

extract the minerals," he said.

Referencing the Swapo Party Election Manifesto 2025-2030 Kambonde said, it was evident major resource management and beneficiation were a focus area.

These two, Kambonde says, need to be separated.

"Natural resources management is what the government is trying to do now in terms of creating a conducive environment, a conducive policy environment for people to be able to get their licences properly," he said.

He outlined government efforts to provide support to small-scale miners through initiatives like Epangelo Mining, which aims to create a sustainable value chain for minerals such as copper.

Kambonde also emphasized the importance of corporate social responsibility, urging mining companies to actively invest in the communities they operate in.

Eco-Tourism: a Path to Job Creation

Panelist Tjavarekua Tjijahura, highlighted how eco-tourism could provide sustainable job opportunities while preserving the environment and traditional customs from the women's perspective.

"Kunene region is rich in biodiversity and over several conservation opportunities that can help protect its unique ecosystem and wildlife here. Let me have a look at some key areas that need to be considered.

"Like for instance, community-based conservation. Engaging local communities in conservation can help protect the ecosystem. These programs that incentivize wildlife protection and sustainable tourism can enhance local livelihoods and biodiversity."

"Promoting ecotourism can provide financial resources for conservation while raising awareness about the region's natural beauty and wildlife.

"For the new president to effectively align policies with conservation opportunities in the community region, several key areas of focus should be considered, like strengthening community rights, integrated land-use planning, incentives for community-based conservation, funding for conservation programs, and so on," Tjijahura said.

Furthermore, Tjijahura added that

crafting policies that support the growth of ecotourism could generate revenue for conservation while providing economic opportunities for local communities.

Tjijahura also said that by prioritizing these areas in policy development, the Swapo Party presidential candidate could foster a more sustainable approach to development that aligns with the conservation goals in the community region.

She added that cultural homesteads could be powerful tools for improvement, and improving livelihoods in presenting culture, especially in the region. "He outlined some ways that Netumbo need to achieve these goals by improving livelihoods. Ecotourism opportunities can attract people's interest in authentic cultural experiences.

"These can generate income for guided tours and workshop events. And there's another one, which is craft and art sales. By showcasing and selling traditional artwork, cultural homesteads can create additional income streams for artisans while promoting local culture," Tjijahura said.

"Engaging in cooperative enterprises such as gardens or livestock can enhance economic resilience and strengthen community bonds," she added.

Also speaking at the event, Ballito touched on entrepreneurship and business opportunities. Meanwhile, Ngurare said water and food were a common denominators in everybody's household. He encouraged young Namibians to seize the opportunities presented by sectors like agriculture and water management.

Food Security and Agricultural Initiatives

Food security remains a key priority for the Swapo-led government, with green schemes highlighted as a vital initiative.

Ngurare reiterated the government's commitment to agricultural development, citing the manifesto's promise to allocate N\$500 million to support agricultural growth. The NAMSEP project, which procures agricultural inputs, was also referenced as a critical step towards ensuring sustainable farming practices.

Ngurare emphasized that water and food were fundamental to every household. "Water and food are common denominators—no one can live without

them," he remarked, further underscoring the significance of food sovereignty and security in the national conversation.

He applauded the government's initiatives to revive green projects in the Kunene area. Ngurare also mentioned Vekaama Kauesa, an agriculture student at Unam Ogongo Campus, who expressed the aspirations of young people in the field of agriculture. Kauesa, who is about to graduate, said he would rather produce food and generate jobs than look for one. "Life is important so that we can produce food," he said, and Ngurare agreed, saying that young Namibians who are enthusiastic about agriculture needed encouragement to be successful.

Water Resources and Sustainability

Namibia continues to face severe problems related to water scarcity, particularly in the Kunene region. Ngurare discussed the emergence of naturally occurring springs in the region and named twelve of them that might be utilized to grow food.

The topic of the government's plans for a desalination plant in the north was also discussed. The proposal has previously gone through Cabinet.

Ngurare pointed out that these kinds of projects, which provided clean water for future generations, were essential to the future of sustainable development. "With climate change and abundant seawater, future generations will have a smile that lasts forever," he stated, highlighting the desalination project's long-term advantages for Kunene and the surrounding area.

Swapo's presidential candidate Nandi-Ndaitwah closed the session with a call to unity and self-sacrifice. She emphasized that economic emancipation would only be achieved if the youth were willing to take ownership of their future and work together to address the region's challenges. Nandi-Ndaitwah promised to advocate for policies that would enhance job creation, education, and infrastructure development in Opuwo and other underserved areas.

The event concluded with a lively question-and-answer session, where young participants were given the floor to ask the Vice President and other panellists pressing questions about their future and the Swapo Party's policies.

NUST spreads wings to Kharas

By Staff Reporter

The University of Science and Technology, NUST, has opened a new research campus in //Kharas Region, spreading its wings to cater for aspiring students in both Hardap and //Kharas regions.

The move aligns with Namibia's strategic focus on harnessing the potential of emerging sectors such as green hydrogen and the oil and gas industry. Government has invested more than N\$100 million

over the past 15 years in this initiative, which demonstrates government's commitment to bridging educational gaps and promoting equitable opportunities throughout the country.

NUST's Chancellor and Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi, hailed the move as a significant stride in Namibia's pursuit of excellence in science and technology education and a commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.

"Education is not just a path to personal success," said Professor Katjavivi. "It is the engine that propels national progress and innovation. It empowers individuals, nurtures critical thinking and equips our society with the skills necessary to navigate and shape the future.

"The establishment of this campus here today reaffirms our dedication to these values and our belief that every Namibian should have access to quality education, irrespective of where they live."

The campus will not only serve Luderitz but all surrounding areas, thus creating a ripple effect of educational empowerment. Professor Katjavivi says he is confident that the research campus will deliver meaningful results across the country.

The Luderitz campus is envisioned as a hub of innovation and collaboration. It offers a dynamic environment where students can engage with cutting-edge technology and conduct research in critical areas of science and technology.

Professor Katjavivi says such fields are pivotal for sustainable development and economic resilience as they provide the students with the tools they need to contribute significantly to Namibia's progress.

The Campus was launched under the theme "Lens of the Future," which symbolizes NUST's forward-looking approach and its commitment to fostering a sustainable and innovative future. The theme highlights the Campus's role in driving Namibia's green energy ambitions, especially in areas like green hydrogen, sustainable energy systems and advanced industrial development.

It will serve as a center for research and community engagement, fostering partnerships between academia, industry and local communities and advancing projects that address both local and national needs.

NUST is already building partnerships

with several universities in Germany, such as the Hydrogen Lab at RheinMain University of Applied Science, the Leibniz Institute for New Materials, and the Material Testing Institute at Hochschule of Applied Science.

"This holistic approach ensures that the research conducted here is not only groundbreaking but also practical and scalable," says Professor Katjavivi. "Together, we can transform knowledge and innovation from right here in the // Kharas Region."

Professor Katjavivi has urged current and future students to seize this opportunity with passion and determination, saying that they are the heart soul of the Luderitz Research Campus. Their journey from here, he says, will shape not only their future but also that of Namibia.

"Education is a powerful tool, use it to innovate, inspire and uplift your communities and our country. As we open



Peter Katjavivi, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly

the doors of this new campus, let us also open the doors to a future brimming with possibilities," says Professor Katjavivi.

"Let us commit to nurturing a culture of learning, exploration and growth that

transcends boundaries and transforms lives. Together, let us build a brighter, more prosperous Namibia for generations to come."

Netumbo in Kunene, Omusati

By Staff Reporter Asser Ntinda

SWAPO Party Presidential candidate, Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, took Kunene and Omusati regions by storm over the weekend where people in their thousands turned up at Opuwo and Outapi to zero in on the SWAPO Party 2024 Election Manifesto.

Thousands of people lined up the streets in both Opuwo and Outapi in the morning, displaying SWAPO flags, while chanting slogans and singing liberation songs as hooting cars passed by, preparing for the rallies that started around 12hrs00.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah shared her vision with the people, committing herself to delivering on an inclusive and shared economic prosperity to Namibians in which all Namibians enjoyed the fruits of independence and lived dignified lives.

She highlighted unique opportunities each region possessed and how residents could tap in on what the manifesto entailed. The manifesto outlines the development programmes that SWAPO Party will implement over the next five years.

In Kunene, the Vice President pointed out some projects on education, health, urban and rural electricity, housing, road infrastructure and potable water supply. Water supply have been improved in the Epupa Constituency, she said. The Okomaremba-Ohamaremba-Okanguati Water Supply Scheme has been completed.

The Ruacana South pipeline that will bring water from Ruacana to Opuwo through Omakange will be completed soon. On road infrastructure, the Opuwo-Kamanjab-Omakange and Omakange-Ruacana roads were built. The Kamanjab-

Khorihis-Uis Road is currently under construction, while Opuwo-Sesfontein and Opuwo-Okanguati-Byness will start soon.

On education, Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said that out of the 2,047 schools in the country, 75 were in Kunene Region. Kunene also boasts the Khorihis Vocational Training Center, which was inaugurated last August by President Nangolo Mbumba.

Kunene Region also prides itself as being the most demographically diversified region in the country, home to indigenous communities and a leading region on cultural and eco-tourism. There are 38 communal conservancies where communities earn economic benefits through sustainable cultural tourism and natural attractions of Ruacana. There are over 55 900 registered voters in Kunene, which represents 97 percent voter registration turnout there.

"It is clear the people of Kunene want to ensure that their voices have been heard," said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah. "I, therefore, call on all registered voters to go out in their numbers, come 27 November and vote for SWAPO Party. Under SWAPO Party and Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, whose loyalty, commitment and dedication is to the people of Namibia, you are assured of a better future.

"When you go out and mobilize for the people of Kunene Region to renew our mandate to lead the nation, tell the young people that the SWAPO Party has heard them. Tell them! That we have heard their call for support in the creative industry. Tell them that we have heard their call for the development of sports infrastructures in the region."



SWAPO Deputy Secretary General, Cde Uahekua Herunga, in Kunene Region, driving through the streets of Opuwo as they prepare for the rally.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah said the SWAPO Party government had implemented many targeted national development programmes aimed at eradicating poverty, hunger, diseases and underdevelopment in all the 14 regions.

Touching on road infrastructure in Omusati Region, she mentioned the Outapi-Omafo Road and Onandjaba-Omuvelo wa Kashamane Road, which had made the movement of people and goods easier. The Tsandi to Omugulugwoombashe and Tsandi-Onesi-Epalela roads were upgraded to low-volume seal standard at a cost of N\$25 million and N\$26,5 million respectively.

Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah also touched on food security, emphasizing that a nation that could not feed itself would never be respected anywhere. She said Namibia should invest heavily in agriculture and agribusiness. Government had already introduced new crops such as rice, cash products such as grapes and blueberry fruits.

In the 2024/2025 financial year, government has allocated N\$133 million to the Etunda Irrigation Green

Scheme Project to cover infrastructure maintenance, electricity, tractors and implement agricultural inputs and solar plant.

Government, through NamWater, has also set aside N\$111,70 million for the rehabilitation of the Omahenene-Olushandja Canal, Ogongo-Oshakati Canal and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Ogongo-Oshakati pipeline.

"I want to ensure the nation here today, that we are not going to assume what is required. We know what is to be done, and all is planned," she said.

Projects such as Olushandja Water Treatment Plant, which is under design, Outapi Water Treatment Plant, Ogongo new pump station and Ogongo-Oshakati pipeline replacement will be implemented as planned. These projects will cost about N\$350 million.

"Trust the SWAPO Party and the capable leadership under Netumbo as the head to continue to deliver. We commit ourselves to the construction of a desalination plant to meet the national water needs," said Cde Nandi-Ndaitwah.

VOTE SWAPO PARTY AND ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CDE DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH 27 NOVEMBER 2024 SWAPO PARTY

UNITY IN DIVERSITY: Natural Resources Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development



OSHANA BECKONS: HOU BENE HOU!

By Bob Kandetu

The start was good. After the groundbreaking launch of the SWAPO Election Manifesto we took our first STAR RALLY to Erongo Region. This gave the message to detractors that SWAPO is coming.

We went to Kunene Region and the message was clear that, THE FUTURE OF KUNENE WILL NOT BE WHAT IT USED TO BE!

The very weekend we were in Kunene we were in Ohangwena and Omusati, at Endola and Outapi respectively.

Comrade President Nangolo Mbumba gave an emotional stance at Endola in Ohangwena the same day (Saturday 28.09.24) that Comrade Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah hosted the historic STAR RALLY at Opuwo in Kunene. President Mbumba touched a sensitive cord by referring to Endola as the mecca for the liberation struggle. For this is the place where our liberation icon Kahumba Tuhadeleli lived and worked and from whence he departed to mobilize the nation for the war of liberation before he was captured and committed to Robben Island for the ensuing better part of twenty years. Kahumba was a renowned singing sensation. Hence his affectionate name: "Kahumba ka Ndola".

On Sunday 29 September all cameras shifted to Outapi in Omusati where the nation was treated to yet a killer SWAPO

event. At this one, the turnout was in its own class and seemed to surpass all others.

This coming weekend the cameras will be stationed in Oshakati, Oshana Region, where Comrades have not been sleeping as they gear up to organize and pull together a STAR RALLY second to none in the history of Namibia, perhaps second only to the 1989 Comrade Sam Nujoma inaugural STAR RALLY.

We all sit on the edges of our chairs for those who can manage to sit down, while we hold our breath. As for Comrade Werner Iita our SWAPO Regional Coordinator, the last he slept was last Sunday night. Good luck Comrades.

This weekend we all descent on Oshakati Sha Nangombe. Yesterday I spoke to my friend and Comrade, Hilka Udjombala and she told me that residents of the Trio Cities (Ondangwa, Ongwediva; Oshakati), have started clearing their yards for tents to host the crowds, as they know that lodges hotels and guest houses will this time around, not take in everybody. For it is just too large an assignment. And my Comrade Ndaambe reassures me that the spot for the tents of my crowd is guaranteed in the backyard of her lodge. Comrade Liina Udjombala has been there to clean the spot.

STAR RALLIES have been celebration time in the SWAPO Family and that is one time when there is Cameraderie par excellence within the fold. You see it, you witness it and you feel it. For that is one

time when it seems that no one Comrade will say No! to another Comrade on just about anything (lol).

If only this spirit can prevail endlessly.

Of the four RALLIES we held I missed out on the first: ERONGO.

When we arrived in Opuwo on Friday afternoon for the Kunene celebrations the mood was ecstatic.

The SWAPO Operational Centre was on fire with a multitude of traditional activities: ondjongo, ombimbi, o Mbuleta ja Kaoko.

I missed the the Netumbo white horse that I had seen welcoming Mukwanangombe in Otjinene during the Vice Presidential Campaigns of 2022.

Comrade Benhard Haufiku and I attended the Conversation of Mukwanangome with the youth at the Youth Centre in Opuwo's Katutura.

After the event we went back to the SWAPO Operational Centre. The crowds were out of this world. Upon reflection we concluded that, this one was a success story. Already in the afternoon when we returned to the SWAPO Centre after the arrival of Comrade Vice President and her briefing by Governor Marius Sheya and Comrade KK Kaujova, already then Comrade Benhard Haufiku exclaimed somewhat content: "No Bob Comrade, this Rally will be a resounding success."

At the time I was guardedly optimistic and nodded reluctantly. His contention

was vindicated.

Comrade Haufiku and I decided to slip through rear guard to join Comrade President Nangolo Mbumba at Endola in Ohangwena from where we joined in on the Sunday Outapi Omusati celebrations.

Boy, What a Thing!

All this excitement notwithstanding, these events were just the beginning: After Oshana this coming weekend, WE HAVE TEN MORE STAR RALLIES TO WITNESS.

This calls for steadfastness and brain power to remain focused.

But the total mood looks reassuring because the NETUMBO MOB has expanded exponentially and seemingly, people are streaming from across the spectrum into the SWAPO Party, as my daughter Vitjitua Nambata Kandetu would say: "SWAPO, The only Party that Matters."

I with all the Comrades the very best in their travels to Oshana Region for our repeat act and I can only say: HOU BENE HOU!

Me I leave tomorrow Thursday 3rd October for Oshakati Sha Nangombe as I want to beat the possibility that Inspector General Shikongo might issue a directive by Friday evening that, Oshakati is too full and all vehicles South of Oshivelo must be ordered to turn back.

HOU BENE HOU!

Food Security: A Top Priority for Swapo Party

By Uaueza Kanguatjivi

On Wednesday, September 25, leaders of the Swapo Party participated in an engaging debate on national food security, water resources, and youth empowerment during a live broadcast of Swapo Talks.

"Unity in Diversity: Natural Resources Beneficiation, Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development" was the central issue of the discussion, which examined the Swapo Party's agenda for the years 2025-2030.

Panellists included former SPYL Secretary Dr. Elijah Ngurare, SPYL Secretary Ephraim Nekongo, and a government official, who participated in the discussion, which was moderated by

Wilhem Amutenya.

The program attempted to analyze and clarify important topics included in the Swapo Party election manifesto for 2025-2030 with an emphasis on the water and agricultural sectors.

The show was moderated by Wilhem Amutenya, with former SPYL secretary, and Deputy Executive Director (DED) for the Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform Dr. Elijah Ngurare, SPYL secretary Ephraim Nekongo, Vekaama Kauesa, an agriculture student at Unam Ogongo Campus, and as a panellist.

Food security remains a key priority for

the Swapo-led government, with green schemes highlighted as a vital initiative.

As Namibia steadily advances her agricultural landscape through initiatives designed to empower local farmers and create sustainable food systems.

The Deputy Executive Director (DED) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform says a key project in this movement is the Green Skin Initiative, a community-driven agricultural program with substantial government backing.

With focus on small stock development and water security, the initiative has seen the increased involvement from youth across Namibia.

The government has been instrumental

in supporting this project," the DED said, "with improvements in household food production and cash flow directly attributed to small stock farming."

He added that rural communities had especially benefited from efforts to provide resources like goats and improved fodder, ensuring that even in drought-prone regions, farmers could sustain their livelihoods.

To this Amutenya said "Knowing very well that we have green schemes all over this country, talking about the grapes as well, not only the other side of the sun. It's also a project where we're talking about production of grapes that's currently under way.

“Comrade Nekongo being a farmer of note, honestly the small stock development has improved many households in terms of household food production and also family cash flow. So what is our plan for this program as government,” Amutenya queried.

To this Nekongo said the small stock program was a very important one.

“The government’s commitment to ensuring water access and resources has been essential, with measures in place to continue aiding livestock farmers well into the future.

“Employment and agriculture are interconnected, and through focused training, we are ensuring that young Namibians have the skills they need to succeed.”

He added that with increasing opportunities in small stock farming, grape production, and crop cultivation, the government was fostering youth participation in agriculture, transforming it into a viable career path for graduates.

“As you can see in our manifesto, we are talking about at least N\$500 Million to be put aside for agriculture, be it now on cow production, be it on animal husbandry.

“We need to listen to the farmers, to talk about maybe to stop even exporting wieners from the other countries, so that we keep them for our people. It is agriculture, you can’t talk about agriculture without talking about employment.

“When we speak about employment, you know we have been focusing on training people, and the ability to graduate,” the SPYL secretary said.

Nekongo added that these were the people that the Swapo led government needed to train.

“We are training teachers, nurses, nurses have nothing to eat. So we want really to focus on. The other time I was talking to somebody, he said, you know that we sell macaroni soup, and people started laughing,” he said.

According to him the Swapo government’s push toward value addition in agriculture—transforming raw materials into finished products—has opened up new employment avenues.

Nekongo also, discussed the potential of Namibia producing a range of goods, from processed wheat to macaroni, and from raw eggs to mayonnaise. This move is not only improving local production but also creating jobs and boosting the country’s economy.

“We know that macaroni is just wheat, we grow wheat, and immediately when we have wheat, we can go to produce macaroni, spaghetti, and so on. So these are the things that we need to talk, create value.

“We want to see not only eggs, but we want to see... Go and get his eggs, and turn them into mayonnaise. So that in that manner we are buying, we are selling,

I mean we are creating jobs elsewhere.

Speaking on the launch of the manifesto Ngurare said, “Many of these young agriculturists are able to work on that land and be able to produce food.

“We can’t have a conversation about agriculture without addressing the issue of water,” he noted.

Ngurare pointed out that “water and food are common denominators—no one can live without them,” highlighting the urgency of addressing these needs in the national conversation. He expressed concerns over the country’s preparedness, particularly in rural constituencies, where access to clean water remains a challenge.

Addressing the issue of water access, Ngurare noted the government’s plans to drill 648 boreholes across the country, a significant step towards alleviating water scarcity. “The manifesto is clear—each constituency should have its own drilling rig,” Ngurare said, advocating for more decentralized solutions to ensure water security. He emphasized the importance of not relying on a single borehole per village, proposing at least three connected boreholes to ensure consistent supply, even if one fails.

Ngurare also called for water to be declared a national emergency, urging that swift action be taken whenever access to water is threatened. He praised ongoing

efforts, including recent discussions under the Office of the Prime Minister regarding drought mitigation, but emphasized the need for immediate implementation. “Water is not something we can postpone. Life depends on it,” he remarked.

He applauded the government’s initiatives to revive green projects in the Kunene area.

Kauesa, expressed the aspirations of young people in the field of agriculture. Kauesa, who is about to graduate, said he would rather produce food and generate jobs than look for one. “Life is important so that we can produce food,” he said

“The main challenge is that we do not have land. There is a lack of financial assistance in terms of start-up capital that one should be able to use, grants or subsidies. The government should work on community development.”

Kauesa lamented that as a young graduate he came from a developed community or village which could enable him to produce a little as there is room for advertisement.

He added that the government could give resettlement farms out for people to produce and then pay the government back stating that the agricultural policy needs to be reviewed.

To this Nekongo said the green scheme allows for farmers and graduates to join. “Graduates are doing well on their own in their green schemes.”



BioLab factory fire spews chlorine gas cloud near Atlanta, Georgia

World Socialist Web Site Kevin Reed

A massive fire broke out on Sunday morning at a chemical factory 30 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia, causing large-scale evacuations and the shutdown of Interstate 20 after chlorine gas was detected in the air.

More than 17,000 people in Conyers, Georgia, were told by county officials to evacuate the area after the BioLab facility caught fire and was essentially destroyed. The company specializes in making chemicals for pool and spa water care.

A massive plume of dark smoke rose above the factory, visible from miles away. Residents across three counties—Fulton, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties—reported a haze covering the area as well as a strong

smell of chlorine. Chlorine is a toxic gas that can have damaging short- and long-term health impacts.

By Sunday evening, another 90,000 people were told to shelter in place in Rockdale County as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Georgia’s environmental department ran tests for the presence of harmful levels of chlorine, hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide in the air.

On Monday, Associated Press interviewed Arynne Johnson from Suwanee, Georgia, approximately 30 miles northwest of Atlanta, who said the foggy air, “slapped you in the face,” and “it felt like walking into a pool house.” Johnson said she got a headache, she has been

coughing and, “my upper chest and throat have been tight all day.”

The health risks from the fire and gas plume are impacting millions of people in the Atlanta area. Meanwhile, communication from government agencies has been lacking and, whatever statements have been released, are contradictory and confusing.

Rockdale County, for example, initially lifted the shelter-in-place order on Monday and then issued a press release on Tuesday that said, “The plume has been moving across the county, influenced by the weather,” and then reissued the shelter-in-place through 7:00 a.m. Friday, October 4. The county also closed all courts and offices for the rest of the week.

Rockdale County Fire Chief Marian McDaniel told news media the fire started when a sprinkler head malfunctioned around 5:00 a.m. on Sunday, which caused water to mix with water-reactive chemicals. McDaniel also said that BioLab employees were in the building when the fire began. The company issued a statement on Sunday saying, “Our employees are all accounted for with no injuries reported.”

BioLab is a division of KIK Consumer Products, based in Lawrenceville, Georgia, a \$3.5 billion global manufacturer of cleaners, bleach, laundry and dish care products with 16 production facilities in North America and South Africa and 2,500 employees.



“We want fair wages, not automation to put us out of work,” says striking dockworker

World Socialist Web Site Our reporters

Dockworkers: Tell us what you're fighting for by filling out the form below. All submissions will be kept anonymous.

Tuesday was the first day of the walkout by 45,000 workers at 36 ports from Maine to Texas. The leaders of the International Longshore Association were forced to call a strike, the first on the East and Gulf coast ports since 1977, when it became clear rank-and-file workers would not back off from their demands for inflation-busting pay increases and protections against the use of automation by the shipping and port owners to eliminate their jobs.

Although the ILA bureaucracy sought to enforce a gag order on striking workers, several spoke to reporters from the World Socialist Web Site who visited picket lines in New Jersey, Virginia and Maryland Tuesday.

“We are on strike for the union to negotiate a better contract,” a dockworker in Port Newark, New Jersey, said. “The main thing is automation. I have worked on the docks for nineteen years and I operate a straddle carrier. Working one hundred hours a week is typical, but I work seventy-five hours a week. When they brought in automation in the West Coast, the straddle carrier lost 800 to 1000 jobs. I think automation is going to happen, but we want to protect our jobs.”

A co-worker added, “There are fully automated ports in Europe.”

Another worker, holding up his sign and drawing honks of support from passing vehicles, said, “Fair wages and no automation is what we want. It puts men out of work. We have to work around the clock, and it is a dangerous job because there is nothing but heavy equipment driving around you. People have been hospitalized and killed.

“Five or six were killed in in the thirty years since I started work here. We sacrifice our lives. Our life is coming to the job. We just want a fair contract. There would be no strike if the companies agreed to this. The companies are raking

in billions and the CEOs are making tens of millions. They can say what they want, that they will not automate, but we know they will automate if not stopped.”

A Port Newark crane operator with 23 years explained workers were not paid enough for the non-stop work they do. “When COVID hit, we worked seven months straight before we had off. This went on for three years. I get off a little and then have to go back. We need benefits for when we retire. If I drop dead, they won't even give my wife my pension unless I have signed a form.”

Another Port Newark docker who worked as a checker said the companies were using “the carrot and the stick.” He continued, “They will pay us the money but eventually force us out over time. Our industry here in New York and New Jersey used to have 50,000 workers but with containerization thousands have lost their jobs.

“The international shipping companies dictate the conditions. At every chance, they raise the price of containers, but they are not passing their profits on to us. We end up paying the inflated prices. We are a benchmark for industry, for what Boeing will do to its striking workers. Our last contract focused on benefits. Now we can focus on our jobs. It took me six years to get to forty dollars per hour. We start at \$20.

“We don't want seventy-five cents more and then find they moved in automation to cut jobs. The media says our demand for a 77 percent across-the-board raise is a lot, but over six years, starting at \$20 per hour, that is really not much.”

He continued, “This is not just about pay. They try to control our hours. To protect jobs, we should have a guaranteed number of manpower hours annually. What happens to our hours with automation? I average one hundred hours a week, seven days each week. It is a way of life.

“When COVID first hit, Biden spoke to ILA President Daggett who said we would do what was necessary for the nation. Not a single worker stayed home. People took COVID home to our families and loved

ones died. It is a dangerous job. This last year we lost co-workers on a straddle. It is a demanding job, and it takes a toll on our home life.”

The worker continued, “It is a good union job. Some here are third and fourth generation dockworkers. But the companies tried to put in automation at Sealand (Florida) and Atlanta, while they were supposed to be negotiating. To stand in solidarity, workers should not be allowing ships to the West Coast. They have fully automated Port Rotterdam and most of South America.

“Five billion dollars a day is being lost during the strike and the mid-size companies are calling Biden up to get this settled. The politicians are all in the pockets of big business,” he said.

The worker concluded, “I have fifteen years left. But what about the generations after me? My job as a checker would be the first one to go. I sit on the bottom of a crane and keep a record of the truck containers. There is already semi-automation. Half the time the automatic tickets for trucks coming in our gates are inaccurate, yet they want to automate. The truckers have to wait three hours.”

At a large picket at nearby Port Elizabeth, a newer heavy equipment mechanic, explained the long hours exist because there is a shortage of workers, as there is in many industries. “The companies dictate the hours and how many employees they hire.”

Asked how he feels about workers who must work 75 hours or more, he laughed and responded, “Only 75 hours would be good. Automation will take jobs, but automation can have problems. The port computers were hacked a couple of years ago and the port was messed up for a week. AI is also spreading, and they had the actors strike. You know, they could use AI to replace CEO's, too.”

Asked how he felt about the US elections and the wars, the mechanic stated, “A lot of guys here are for Trump but there is no choice in the election. All the politicians suck. The union has a clause to let military equipment be loaded. In Bayonne, they are

still working those military ships. Russia invaded Ukraine but NATO had moved up on Russia. It does look like world war, and I don't like it.

“This fight is worldwide. Canadian ports voted to go on strike. The government stepped in on the West Coast. But if government steps in with a Taft-Hartley (back-to-work order) we will do what we have to do.”

At the Norfolk International Terminal in Virginia, workers expressed support for the striking Boeing workers, and one said that his brother worked for Stellantis in Detroit, which is slashing thousands of jobs. Another worker, expressing her opposition to job cuts, said, “Who is going to be left? Who will actually have a job with all of this automation?”

At the Dundalk Marine Terminal in Baltimore, Maryland workers also said dockworkers and Boeing workers should unite. A striker, who works for a company that ships military equipment, thought that it “made no sense” to allow shipments to continue during the strike, but the ILA leadership had okayed it. Whenever a weapons shipment arrives, he is obligated to wind up his picket duty and report to work. He told reporters that he believed this was primarily due to the war in Ukraine.

WSWS reporters also spoke with two postal workers who joined the dockworkers' picket lines. The US Postal Service is also using automation to slash jobs.

“I'm in the American Postal Workers Union and we're trying to educate the public about the layoffs going on right now and the short-staffing of windows,” one worker said. “We want to go back to the 2012 standards where we had overnight deliveries for almost every city in the US.”

His co-worker added, “The dockworkers strike is a serious business and people got to understand that. Corporate America, all they're doing is padding their pockets daily, and every second it's coming off the backs of the laborers.”