



**RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS
ELECTION MANIFESTO
2024**

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RDP ELECTION MANIFESTO 2024

1. THE RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS

1.1. PREAMBLE

The Rally for Democracy (RDP) is a mass-based political party, founded on the principles of unity, democracy, freedom, integrity, justice and social progress. The RDP is registered with the Electoral Commission of Namibia. It was founded in November 2007 by a group of forward-looking Namibians in response to a host of socio-economic and political problems that has since independence escalated to a point whereby our next generations have no hope for the future. The party contested the National Elections since 2009. After becoming the official opposition party in 2009, it lost that status in the 2014 National Elections.

2 INTRODUCTION

Founded on the 17th of November 2007 as a political party by Namibia's progressive democrats, the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) was impelled by a great and urgent need to establish and drive a political agenda in an independent Namibia that would give credence to Ubuntu. As per its political program, the founders of RDP envisioned the creation of a mass-based political party capable of leading the Namibian people into a meaningful struggle that further consolidate the gains of independence. This is to be



*"Limitation is
your own
imagination"*



achieved by improving the living conditions of all Namibians, rooting out corruption and creating and availing equal opportunities to all Namibians as we enter another decade of self-determination.

RDP is fully aware of the challenges and problems facing our nation. Education and training and their desire to construct a modern, prosperous and peaceful society founded on the noble ideals of democracy, liberty, justice, solidarity, inclusiveness and social progress are at the core of RDP's political and social agenda. In this respect, the RDP is a party of the masses for the masses. It is democratic,

independent, progressive and national in character. It is ready to congregate in its ranks all Namibian people who accept RDP's aims and objectives as outlined in its constitution and political program. RDP does not discriminate based on tribe, colour, ethnicity, race, social origin, faith and or religion.

RDP believes that many Namibians want to work together to achieve in the development of our nation. They are thus welcome to join the rank and file of the RDP. RDP is determined to conduct its political activities in accordance with the provisions of the Namibian Constitution and other laws of the land of the brave. RDP promotes peaceful co-existence with other political formations to achieve the majority support with a view to contribute to the formation and expression of the political will of the Namibian people. RDP may establish alliances with other progressive political entities who share common interest.


RDP recognizes the vastness of our country and appreciates the differences among individuals, communities and geographic regions. The RDP holds to these factors in the quest for unity and diversity under a sovereign and unitary state. The character of the RDP reflects the permanent struggle to defend the interests of all Namibians at all times. The creation of a democratic, united and peaceful society pre-supposes consolidation of our independence, the defence of sovereignty and territorial integrity, in recognising Namibia's cultural



identity and the establishment of a legal framework which will permit the existence of a state in which the rule of law prevails. These noble ideals constitute the immediate objectives of the RDP.

RDP visualises a fully reconciled society where the aspirations of all Namibians are realized under a peaceful and stable political environment, where the fundamental human rights are fully respected and protected by the state.


RDP maintains that as we celebrated our country's 34th Independence Anniversary, the situation for the majority of our citizens remains unsatisfactory and deplorable to say the least. To make matters worse, there is no better prospect under the current regime.



Many of the democratic principles that we desired to live by, remain a myth under the current government. There is a grave lack in genuine social upliftment of the country's inhabitants, no economic development and growth, no fair distribution of land to the landless Namibians and those whose ancestral land has been stolen from, no quality education and skills development and the fair distribution of national wealth to all Namibians. The elites and their allies remain to be well off instead.

Employment and business opportunities continue to be channeled to people, who are politically well connected, true to the corruptive "jobs for comrades" ideology, as a means of solidifying their grip on the country's resources. This leads to a growing abuse of public funds (AVID, GIPF, SME Bank, FISHROT, failed projects etc) for the benefit of only a few elite, increasingly corrupting the system and institutions at the expense of the majority of this country.

Namibians continue to suffer severely under the current government. Unemployment rate has escalated especially among the youth (43.4% in 2016, 46% in 2018, with no decline in numbers for the ensuing years as per the Labour Force Survey conducted). Lack of housing and stagnant economy continues to burden the struggling nation. Inequalities continue to widen the gap between the ordinary citizens and the political elite. Transfer of land rights and issuance of title



*"Knowledge is the beginning of
wisdom, so vote RDP"*

deeds to the previously disadvantaged citizens are acrimoniously delayed, and education and skills training detrimentally neglected.

By voting for the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) at the next Presidential and National Assembly elections, every Namibian citizen will take part in redressing all wrongs that were perpetrated for the past 34 years by the same regime.



The Rally for Democracy and Progress has adopted the following key approaches in the run up to the 2024 Elections and beyond:

2.1 THE THEME

Time for Change is NOW! – It Starts with US as CHANGE-MAKERS! – Vote RDP for CHANGE!

2.2 VISION

To make the RDP the most responsive and attractive party during the 2024 elections and beyond.

2.3 MISSION

To convince Namibian voters to support and elect the RDP in order for the RDP to win the Presidential, National Assembly Elections in November 2024, and the subsequent regional and local authority elections in 2025 and beyond, so as to mandate the RDP to lead the Namibian people in their struggle for consolidating their hard-won independence by improving their living conditions.



3 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The RDP confines itself to the assertion of fundamental principles that ensure that every citizen, individually or in association is able to develop their own personality and capacity in such a manner that the right for equality of opportunities is fully guaranteed at all times.

The RDP vows to put together a progressive team of men and women with the capacity to form a government which prioritizes among others:

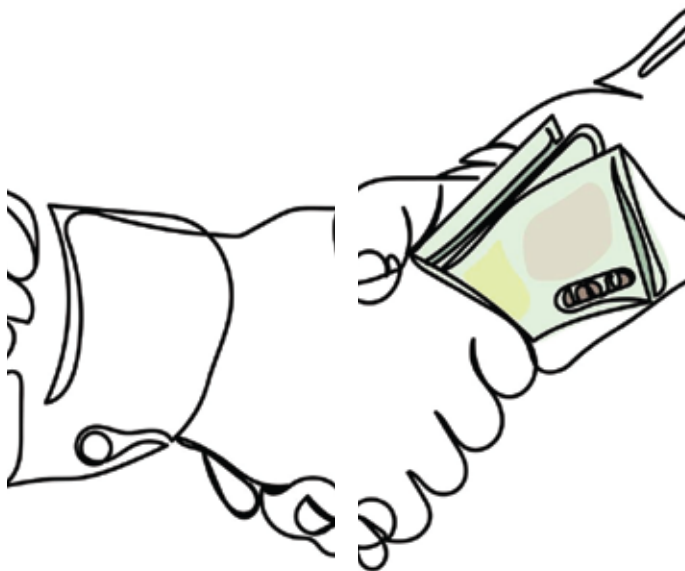
- a. Transparent and democratic principles in all governance systems and institutions;
- b. Broad-based economic development that will benefit the citizenry;
- c. Quality and better healthcare system in the country;
- d. Provision of & creation of employment opportunities, and adequate support to start business ventures; deliberately targeting youth in terms of development and advancement;
- e. Abolish the current inhuman makeshift housing structures (cabashu) and replace it with decent housing structures (based on UN description of housing);
- f. Root out corruption that has reached disproportionate levels in the country with radical actions to be taken against anyone found to be corrupt. Public and private sector officials who make themselves guilty of corruption will be dealt with sufficiently.
- g. Guarantee equitable, fair and just redistribution of land

"Equality is the mother of success"



- as a source of a livelihood to many Namibians and the provider of basic means to the needy inhabitants;
- h. Install leaders that will selflessly administer the affairs of the country and her people and be fully responsive to the needs of the people as opposed to self-enrichment schemes;
 - i. Root out crime against women, children and the vulnerable people in the country that appear to be on the increase. The RDP will take radical actions to curb gender based violence;
 - j. RDP will transform the judiciary to be effective, efficient and truly independent.
 - k. RDP will curb government spending on unnecessary luxuries;
 - l. RDP will reduce the size of cabinet and government Ministers to ensure efficiency;
 - m. RDP will revise the status of State Owned Enterprises that burden the treasury and wind them up;

n. RDP will support and initiate economic empowerment activities among the young citizens of the country.



"Corruption is cancer, RDP is the cure"

4 DEMOCRACY & POLITICAL PLURALISM

RDP regards the participation of all Namibians in the formation and activities of state organs a fundamental human right of every Namibian. In this way, the people's power is thoroughly expressed through a system that is guided and controlled by the rule of law.

This critical element should at all times be respected in order to prevent undue policies that may be used to give unfair advantage to one competitor over the others in Namibia's democratic political system. The system must be truly transparent, credible, equitable, free and fair. RDP strongly opposes the use of electronic voting machines without paper trails (EVM) in elections because such a system compromises the principle of transparency and credibility of elections.

RDP espouses democracy as its beacon in the push for the development of the Namibian society. Democracy is referred to as "government by the people, for the people".

For the RDP, governance is the process and skill to utilize collective power for the realization of common objectives. Good governance for RDP entails discussion, consultation and consensus. It is a strategic precondition for success in the nation's effort towards development.

According to the RDP the management of public affairs must be conducted within the framework of the rule of law and ethical codes. The principles of accountability and transparency should at all times be upheld. Account-



ability and transparency serve as potent deterrents of corruption.

Central to good governance is the principle of transparency, which involves making available information on all matters related to governance, including the duties and responsibilities of public officials and the manner in which they are performed.

For the RDP, openness and predictability, at all levels, constitute the essence of good governance. They are key to rooting out corruption, while increasing public trust and confidence.

The RDP is keen to enhance effective co-operation and partnership between the government, the private sector and civil society.

5 CONSOLIDATION OF INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL UNITY

The achievement of national independence opened up new opportunities for Namibia and her people, particularly in the fields of economic, political, cultural and technological development.

The defence and strengthening of our national independence is an obligation for all Namibian citizens. As such, this important political victory must be translated into the betterment of life for all Namibians.

The RDP therefore solemnly pledges to vigorously defend the fundamental rights, liberties and freedoms of all citizens, thus creating the required conditions for an effective national development programme, by formulating and implementing a Policy on National Reconciliation. The RDP strives for total eradication of all forms of

discrimination while fighting for full affirmation of rights and opportunities for all, with the objective of eliminating injustices, promoting a sound and harmonious development of the people and their regions, respecting the independence and national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Namibia. RDP values peace as it constitutes an indispensable condition for the materialization of these aspirations. With respect to the principles of the universal declaration of human rights which is a fundamental element of RDP's political activity, RDP rejects the demand to re-introduce the death penalty as a means to deter crime. RDP believes that the high rate of heinous criminal activities perpetrated against the

vulnerable members of our society are linked to economic disharmony, despair and destitution.



5.1 Peace

The RDP firmly believes that peace is a fundamental principle for the people of Namibia to develop, grow and thrive.

5.2 Liberty

RDP recognizes the principle of liberty as a fundamental right. RDP will, therefore, eliminate all forms of inequalities that impact negatively on the citizens' liberties.

5.3 Equality and Social Justice

RDP believes that political, economic, social and cultural equality are pre-conditions for social progress.

5.4 Human Rights

RDP recognizes Human Rights as a fundamental value to protect the dignity of every Namibian and will vigorously defend the basic human rights of all citizens, including:

- The right to life;
- The right to food security;
- The right to decent shelter;

- The right to healthcare;
- The right to education;
- The right to freedom of speech, expression and association;
- The right to contribute to the social, cultural, economic and political development of the country;
- The right to create, accumulate and own wealth in a just, fair and legal manner;

5.5 Multi-party Political System

The RDP supports a multi-party system in which free and fair elections is the true expression of the will of the people. The RDP will therefore strengthen and defend the multi-party system which is the cornerstone of our democracy as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

In order to guarantee the right of the people to choose their leaders, the RDP will abolish the party list system

and introduce a system where the people elect their own leaders through a constituency system (Ward System).

“A peaceful conflict resolution is being neighbourly”

6 EDUCATION & TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In any given society, education and training is the key pre-requisite for the fundamental socio-economic and cultural transformation. For the education system to serve such a purpose, it requires investments in educational infrastructures at all academic levels. It also requires well equipped, motivated, dedicated, disciplined and patriotic academic workforce. A developing country in RDP's view, must have a comprehensive national development programme which, most importantly, will serve as a national development compass indicating the type of education and training that is required to propel national development in various fields of socio-economic endeavor.

For the past 34-years the Namibian education system continued to produce functionally illiterate youths who mostly ended up on the streets, unemployed and unable to create employment opportunities, let alone to care for themselves. This, in RDP's view demonstrate that Namibia desperately needs an education system that matches and responds to Namibia's National development goals in

general and the requirements of the labour market in particular.

Today, the education system in Namibia is not meeting the needs of the country's economic development. In the first



place, the physical education facilities are insufficiently provided. Most importantly the government of the day has not made sufficient provision for school hostels from primary to secondary levels. RDP views the establishment of sufficient hostels as key to address the serious challenges of pupils and students who lack accommodation especially when placed in schools far from parental supervision, school guidance under school supervised environment (daily study supervision).

Secondly, the resource centres and educational laboratories are either insufficient or poorly equipped to meet all the academic needs of the Namibian students. Currently, the educational system in Namibia does not provide for pre-primary education as a state responsibility. Moreover, the Namibian education curriculum does not include sport as a subject neither has the government made a provision for sport facilities at all educational institutions. RDP therefore, will introduce policies that recognise the following:

- a) Link the Namibian education system to the national development plan.
- b) Provide sufficient educational and training infrastructures at pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. This will include school hostels.
- c) Require the establishment of pre-primary facilities at all primary schools in order to maximise efficiency.
- d) Ensure and guarantee the availability of properly qualified academic workforce.
- e) Timely supply of sufficient and appropriate educational materials.

- f) Provision of free education at all academic levels, including pre-primary and tertiary levels.
- g) Introduce sport in the school curriculum at all levels, including the infrastructures accessible to each school.

The RDP will replace the failing education system with one that will create the required knowledge and skills to make our country productive and competitive.

The RDP will therefore, develop an education system that is consistent with national development needs by doing the following:

- Training of new teachers, providing continuous in-service training to teachers.
- Offer attractive salaries and incentives to teachers;
- Availing textbooks to every school going child;

*“RDP is
inclusiveness”*



- Championing compulsory free pre-primary, primary and secondary education in government institutions;
- Introduce free quality tertiary education in government aided institutions;
- Restructuring the curricula with deliberate emphasis on science, mathematics, information technology, technical, commercial and management skills, civic and environmental education;
- Adopt a broad based approach to well-balanced scholars who are fit to enter the economic mainstream where all stakeholders play a meaningful role in the formulation of the syllabus;
- Introduce Life Skills and Physical Training in both primary and secondary school syllabi
- Provide sufficient education facilities, accommodation, transport and catering services;
- Reduce the teacher – learner ratio to 1:25 (maximum);
- Establish vocational training centres and technical colleges across the country;
- Provide adequate support to private schools;
- Ensure safe and secure educational environment.

*“A house is just a building
but RDP is your ideal home”*

7 HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE

RDP believes that a healthy nation is a productive nation. The commitment to a radical socio-economic and cultural transformation requires individuals, men and women who are physically and mentally sound. The maintenance of a healthy society requires appropriate medical infrastructure, medical equipment and materials, and proper trained and well-motivated medical personnel at primary, secondary and tertiary health care levels.

More than 34 years of political independence, Namibia's healthcare system remains wanting, inadequate and less prepared to address the medical needs of the population. Public health facilities in Namibia are dilapidated, insufficient, poorly equipped and mismanaged such that it fails to cater for the needs of the population. Thirty Four (34) years down the line Namibia has one of the highest doctor patient ratio of 1:500. Specialists are in short supply while in other important specialized medical fields there is none. A few brave young Namibians who venture to study medicine in some cases do so on their own, without proper national co-ordination. This situation results into the above-mentioned graduates not to be absorbed into the country's health system. While the healthcare system receives the second highest budgetary allocation, after education, it has no capacity to absorb the medical graduates in different hospitals and medical centres.

Apart from the above challenges, Namibia does not have a general medical care insurance that could cover all the citizens. Moreover, the country has not reached a development stage of manufacturing its



own medicine and medical equipment. RDP prioritizes the healthcare of the nation and shall preconize:

a) Extensive education and training and recruitment of well qualified medical personnel in all healthcare areas in the country.

b) Provide healthcare infrastructure throughout the country in tandem with the distribution of the population.

The RDP premises its health and social welfare policy on the conviction that a healthy nation is a productive nation. Health for All is therefore a priority for the RDP.

The RDP will therefore overhaul the entire public health sector to provide quality, efficient and prompt service by doing the following:

- Publicize and implement the Social Security Commission backed National Medical Insurance scheme;
- Broaden the National Basic Income Grant as a safety net for the vulnerable people in Namibia that live below the poverty line;
- Provide health care facilities to the needy communities;

- Review and improve salaries and benefits and working conditions for all medical personnel;
- Provide nutritional support to the needy people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Instil sound work and professional ethics;
- Invest substantially in world-standard training of medical personnel;
- Give priority to primary health care;
- Immediately transform and increase old age pensions to N\$3000 per month.
- Regularly revise Pensions and align them to the inflation and adjust it to cost of living;

8 THE ECONOMY & WEALTH CREATION

RDP considers that economic development is the engine of social progress and wellbeing of any nation. It proclaims to manage the people's resources in a manner that drives maximum direct and indirect benefits for all Namibians. It must be remembered that the war of national resistance and subsequent war of national liberation which was waged by all Namibians as a united front had the ultimate objective of improving the living standards of all Namibians as equal people, enjoying the same rights under a free political environment.

Namibia's Constitution in its uniqueness has laid down, under chapter 11, Article 98, the general principle of

economic order guiding the Namibian state in organizing and managing the economic development processes. Under the principles of economic order, the public, private, corporate, and the small scale family arrangements shall all have important roles to play in this economic development system. Namibians are fortunate to have been endowed with a large expanse of geographic space, which includes the sea, rivers and a diversity of land ecosystems containing immense wealth.

Namibia has land, water, minerals, energy potential, fisheries, wildlife – fauna and flora, and most importantly resilient hard working and peace loving people. RDP envisages a centrally planned industrialization of Namibia with the main objective of creating employment and wealth for all Namibians through value addition to the country's raw materials. It is the objective of the RDP to ensure that Namibia's raw materials are exploited and processed in Namibia so as to create and retain jobs and skills.

RDP considers the central economic development plan as a master plan or programme for radical social economic and cultural transformation of the Namibian society. This plan will achieve its transformational goals if it is formulated comprehensively to address the following:



- a) Types, quantities, and quality of public infrastructure and or installations including maintenance thereof.
- b) Types and quantities of industries.
- c) Quality standards to be developed and maintained.
- d) Quantity and quality of human resources/ skills needed to develop Namibia.
- e) Quantity of material and financial resources needed to develop the country.
- f) Prioritization and benchmarking of national projects.
- g) Strategic sectors in which the state must play key roles in the public interest and progress.

Namibia has for the past 34-years under the current government, seen a skewed economic order. The gap between the well-connected few and the masses continue to grow wide due to the unfair distribution of wealth and access to economic opportunities.

The RDP plans to put a clear balance between the economic and social order and depolitize it, particularly in the tender processes. It is within this context that the RDP plans to adopt a policy of a Social Market Economy.

This new view represents a dynamic concept which can be adapted to political and economic changes. It aims to achieve a synthesis between efficiency and equity by combining the efficiency gains of a free market economy with a publicly induced social balance. In other words, it is aimed at keeping a balance between economics and the social order.

Provisions of the social order are oriented towards the needs of society and to provide equal opportunity for each individual in the society. The main components of this are:

8.1 A TAX SYSTEM based on a progressive income taxation, which has to be reviewed regularly;

8.2 A SYSTEM OF SOCIAL SECURITY - protection and mitigation against the risks of unemployment, diseases, poverty and ageing including the non-taxation of pension savings;

8.3 INDEPENDENT LABOUR UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS - deciding autonomously on the conditions and wages, the development of markets and sustainable profit base respectively.

The RDP will establish a socio-economic order based on the following pillars:

- a. Safeguard the free market rule; i.e. competition, private property of means of production, free pricing, contract freedom, warranty systems and controls against monopolies and power abuses, free international trade and monetary stability; and
- b. Protection of the individual freedoms and independence.
- c. Guarantee of the principles of inclusiveness, solidarity, subsidiarity and equity with regard to social peace. Retention of resources in the country rather than being major exporter of finances.
- d. Demonstrate political will to speed up the implementa-

“Those that can see the invisible can do the impossible”

tion of development plans. Deliberately undertaking empowerment strategies to empower the local citizens. RDP will guarantee that a significant number of Namibian citizens are lifted out of poverty on annual bases, and monitoring mechanisms for this project are established.

e. Base decisions on the longer-term economic benefit and viability for the entire populace rather than basing decisions on political considerations only.

f. Encourage and maintain the local construction industry dominated by the citizens by themselves, to keep skills and wealth in the country.

9 LABOUR

Today, the labour organizations have a cardinal role to play in the economic development process of an independent Namibia. This is in terms of organizing, educating and mobilizing the workers in order to maximize productivity. In RDP's view, labour organizations need not only to defend their rights as workers and the economic security of the society but they also need to defend the independence and sovereignty of the Namibian nation.

RDP is willing and ready to work together with any labour organization in their effort to strike a balance to achieve a living wage for all workers as they toil to make Namibia's development efforts a success. It must be remembered that labour organizations in our country have played a crucial role in organizing and educating the oppressed masses to resist colonial exploitation and political subjugation.

For the past 34-years workers in Namibia have experienced

severe labour related challenges. The majority of workers in Namibia are living on less than the minimum wage. Domestic workers are facing de-humanizing circumstances. The Police Force and nurses are over-worked and under-paid. The RDP led government will address these matters by developing and implementing policies that will instill:

- Good labour relations between the employer and the employees;
- Market related salaries and wages;
- Education and training opportunities for workers, be it operational, technical or professional executive levels;
- Protection of workers' rights;
- Protection of local craftsmanship;
- Development of friendly labour laws,
- Provide workers with decent accommodation facilities;
- Ensure that workers have access to quality healthcare,

10 HOUSING

As earlier stated above, RDP places human development at the centre of its national development programme. Namibians can only have peace of mind and be able to think decently if they live in an environment which is standard and decent. The current state of shanty towns mushrooming in the country are a result of a total disregard of the basic needs of the people of this country by the state. In RDP government, shanty towns systems shall be abolished and no Namibian will be allowed to live under conditions of poor sanitation, lack of running water and lack of electricity. Naturally, people tend to move to urban areas in search of better



opportunities.

The past 34 years have seen large influx of people from rural to urban centres. Most of these migrants end up living in shanty towns on the peripheries of the cities, towns and settlements they move to without access to decent housing, sanitation, water and electricity. To date, no proper planning has been put in place by the government of the day to redress the deplorable housing situation and to provide for the decent services.

Invariably, such inhuman conditions have brought many social hardships such as high crime rates, prostitution, teenage pregnancies, diseases, alcohol and drug abuse, unhygienic environment and a high level of pollution. Moreover, the price of land and houses in all urban areas continue to be unaffordable to the majority of Namibian people. Aided by the municipalities who put land on open auctions to both companies and residents, land prices have reached high proportions.

These conditions motivate the politically well-connected people, including BEE beneficiaries of the current government to acquire land and construct flats which they put for rental purposes at a high premium. The RDP considers the housing situation in Namibia as extremely dehumanizing and unacceptable.

RDP regards the provision of decent housing as a basic human right. In fact, democracy, peace and stability starts with decent shelters for all. Therefore, the RDP led government will:

- Take a deliberate strategy to freely allocate serviced land to the upcoming young families;
- Drastically reduce the price of land by providing serviced plots in all urban centres;
- Subsidize construction materials for both urban and rural dwellers;
- Prohibit the practice of auctioning plots on state land in both urban and rural centres for housing development;
- Establish a national standard for housing both in terms of plot sizes, quality of both housing construction materials and the construction itself;
- Establish a competent housing development agency to plan, implement and / or oversee the execution of the national housing development program.

11 INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT



For Namibia to realize its full potential as a developing country, and given its geographic location, it requires the establishment, modernization and maintenance of its roads, rail, harbours and airport infrastructures and systems. It is important to note that Namibia's railway system is very old, and continue to use obsolete equipment such as diesel locomotives on a narrow gauge system. The road system on its part requires both local and regional connectivity. In addition, roads and railway are insufficient and outdated, in fact falling below acceptable international standards.

Much of the national road and railway infrastructure in Namibia, is in an appealing state. It lacks grossly in maintenance and upkeep. Other roads are poorly constructed.

The RDP will, therefore:

- Prioritize the national infrastructural rehabilitation according to their socio economic importance (airports, rail, harbours, roads and institutional infrastructures – hospitals, schools, clinics etc.);
- Build new feeder roads and upgrade existing ones especially in rural areas;
- Overhaul the entire railway system;
- Construct educational, health, correctional institutions' facilities;
- Ensure that all infrastructure is well maintained;
- Modernize and expand Namibia's harbours to adequately serve the country and the SADC Region.
- Modernize and expand both the rail and road system, mainly the main arteries connecting Namibia to neigh-

bouring countries and the main population centres throughout the country.

- Introduce a system of cost recovery with regard to road users, for expansion and maintenance.
- Introduce a new system of licensing and control to ensure strict adherence to road and traffic rules and regulations.

12 WATER PROVISION

Namibia is a vast and arid country with Namib desert along the West-Coast and Kalahari Desert on the South Eastern part. The country is endowed with bodies of underground water aquifers found particularly around the central and the North-central to the North-East. Seasonal floods from Angola and Zambia bring plenty of water to the North-Central and far North-Eastern areas. Despite the above-mentioned diverse water resources, no comprehensive and effective water management system has been developed to ensure sufficient supply of water to meet the demand for human and livestock consumption or industrial development. When elected, the RDP will introduce a comprehensive water policy that envisages:

a) Harvest run-off and flood waters for continuous availability and use particularly during the dry seasons. Under



the RDP led government, all public buildings, including schools, health facilities, police stations and offices will be required to install run-off water storage facilities.

b) Exploit the underground water aquifers for both human, animal and industrial consumption within the regions where such water sources are located.

c) Draw water from overflowing rivers for industrial development based on international principles, conventions and practices for shared water resource management.

d) Develop and expand sea water desalination capacity in order to augment the national water supply particularly for industrial development and vegetation of selected desert regions.

e) Deliberately provide subsidized water and water supply services to the resource poor communities, for both human and animal consumption.

The current government has for over three (3) decades, failed to establish a system to harvest sufficient rain water to meet the growing demand for human and livestock consumption, crop production, aqua-culture and industrial use in both rural and urban centres. Due to wide-spread water shortages, people in many rural areas and in urban centres in particular are unable to afford water due to high maintenance costs and exorbitant municipal water rates, respectively.

The RDP led government will:

- Subsidize water for both human and livestock consumption;
- Harvest water through the construction of water dams

- and artificial replenishment of underground aquifers;
- Construct bulk water supply systems from the major water sources to urban and rural settlements as well as agricultural production areas;
 - Install water storage facilities for all the water collected from all government buildings;
 - Subsidize water harvesting and storage materials for all households with appropriate building structures in both rural and urban settlements;
 - Encourage people to harvest and store rain water collected on their premises, and
 - Ensure that water for all human and livestock consumption is fit for that purpose;

13 ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM



Namibia is endowed with natural resources which attract local and international investors and tourists. However, most of the country's natural environment is fragile and needs to be protected for its sustainable utilization.

In preserving and conserving Namibia for future generations, the RDP-led government will:

- Work towards the attainment of a clean and safe environment free from pollution, destruction of the ecosystem, deforestation, poaching while preventing the release of hazardous chemicals into the air, the dumping of toxic

waste onto our soil and any environmentally unfriendly activity that might lead to global warming;

- Institute environmental friendly policies and strictly enforce them;
- Create wealth and much needed jobs for our people in the tourism sector.
- Ensure an environment where tourists and foreign investors are welcomed, appreciated and valued;
- Encourage community based tourism ventures;
- Regularly renew tariff structures in all our national parks to make entry more affordable both by local and foreign nationals;
- Acknowledge the fragile nature of our environment by promoting eco-tourism.

14 ENERGY

RDP views energy as one of the key resources that is required for the realization of the radical socio-economic transformation of the Namibian society. Currently, Namibia produces about 40% of its local electricity needs, leaving about 60% of the electricity need to be supplied by other SADC countries.

Local electricity is generated from hydro power plants, coal plants or through electricity generating machines. Energy importation is not a viable option due to increasing energy demand across the SADC



region.

Namibia can be self-sufficient in electricity production if hydro-electricity is further developed in the short to medium term. The other potential and great sources are solar energy and marine current power (wind energy), given Namibia's ideal climate and geographic location

Namibia is blessed with energy resources that can provide us with reliable, renewable, clean and sustainable power without destroying the environment. However, the current government has failed to address the long term energy needs of the country, despite the direct link between energy and development.

The RDP will:

- Review current electricity distribution policies to ensure they benefit the economically marginalized citizens;
- Speed up national and regional projects on energy generation and supply;
- Expedite rural electrification to ensure development in rural areas;
- Investigate means of providing affordable energy to the rural poor, including the possibility of subsidization;
- Facilitate investments in renewable energy, particularly solar energy, in order to accelerate electrification in most off-grid rural settlements;
- Fast track the Kudu Gas project as well as all other viable energy projects in the country, with a view to expedite the implementation of the projects;
- Assist the private sector to invest in wind energy particularly along the country's coastline and solar energy inland.



- Prioritize investment in renewable energy technologies;
- Insist that Municipal sewage treatment allows for power generation from bio-waste;
- All agricultural waste to be processed;
- Only energy and fuel efficient bulbs to be used;
- Street and traffic lights to be solar-powered where possible;
- All government buildings to use solar power;
- Where possible, all government boreholes to be solar powered;
- Introduce feed-in tariffs to enhance private power production.
- Liberalize energy production to allow competition and the people's participation in the production, transmission and distribution of electricity.



15 INDUSTRIALIZATION

Namibia's industrial development is hampered by a lack of social vision and political will. The RDP will provide visionary industrial policy with clear targets. Value addition in minerals, fisheries, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and many more will be the cornerstone of that policy. For the country to achieve its development goals of becoming an industrialized nation, the following will be implemented:

- Tax incentives for manufactur-

ing enterprises.

- Restricted government sureties to financing agencies for the establishment of new factories.
- Industrial clusters to create synergies for secondary processing.
- Guaranteed energy and water supply at competitive rates.
- Policies to ensure value-addition, employment creation and economic growth through the production of finished goods.
- Policies and incentives to attract investment, both local and foreign direct investment, into productive industries.
- Growth points in all regions to ensure rational industrialization that supports existing regional industries in the agriculture-, mining-, fishing-, manufacturing and construction sectors.
- Restricting the export of unprocessed goods such as timber, medicinal plants and ivory. Local and Namibian owned companies that venture in the manufacturing of the above will be subsidized by the state to encourage locally manufactured goods.

16 INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

The Namibian industry does not address the real needs of the economy at large, because the current environment does not encourage broad-based entrepreneurship due to lack of inclusiveness and transparency. Access to financial services is hampered by political interference, lack of collateral and lack of basic entrepreneurial skills.



The RDP industry and commerce policy will support the emergence and growth of the country's manufacturing enterprises which will enhance the production of goods, especially basic consumer goods, locally. Therefore, the RDP led government will:

- Foster an investor-friendly political and legal environment;
- Enact legislation to accelerate growth in the private sector and improve investor confidence by removing business entry restrictions.
- Re-engineer the SME Bank, Agri-Bank and the Development Bank of Namibia to cater for the real needs of the intended segment of the economy, particularly the youth, women and the marginalized groups;
- Establish an independent, non-political Tender Board consisting of experts in various fields.
- Assist with skills development, training and capacity building;
- Promote and improve SME cluster building.
- Improve and build local infrastructure that aids the manufacture, storage, transport and distribution of goods in the country and thereby enhance access of local consumers to such goods;
- Promote awareness and encourage the purchasing of locally produced goods to create and retain employment to grow the economy locally;

- Broaden the economic base beyond the current established sectors;
- Improve Namibia's capacity for scientific research and technology development and adaption.

17 TRADE AND INVESTMENT



Virtually all products consumed in Namibia are manufactured elsewhere. This attests to the fact that the present government has failed and continues to fail to create and support local capacity to manufacture and supply consumer goods and services locally. This trend

my. It is therefore imperative that a visionary RDP government gives special attention and support to local industries and SME's in order to promote local, regional and international trade and investment. Therefore, an RDP led government will:

- Promote local production and value addition services on the raw materials produced locally;
- Actively improve and fine-tune the current tariff regime to protect certain infant industries while at the same time protecting the interest of local consumers.
- Gradually but actively convert Namibia's foreign markets for raw materials to markets for finished goods.
- Actively seek and establish new markets for Namibian

products to diversify trade and invite trading partners to invest locally in the production of goods meant for export.

- Ensure that any foreign direct investment in Namibia is combined with measurable and targeted skills transfer to build local capacity and capability.
- Make the private sector an equal partner in the economy to grow the ability of the private sector to participate in regional and global trade and investment.
- SME's are the growth engine of any economy. The RDP will remove all unnecessary red-tapes.
- Will establish a single institution to render efficient services to the business fraternity.

18 EMPOWERMENT & GENOCIDE CLAIMS

Namibia's current empowerment tools are being used as political instruments by the current government, to channel public funds, through corrupt practices, to the pockets of the few elite and politically well connected.



The issue of Genocide CLAIMS against the German Government due to the atrocities perpetrated against the Ovaherero/Ovam-banderu and Nama people in Namibia during colonialism has become topical and a case of concern. Claims from certain corners are that negotiations are skewed, unfair and not favourable to the victims and direct decedents of the genocide victims.

The RDP led government will therefore:

- Stop the practice of diverting public funds to dubious investors and projects such as in the cases of GIPF, AVID, TIPEEG, MASS HOUSING (mess-housing scheme) among others;
- The GIPF, SSC and financial institutions will be required to invest part of their profits into local economy such as financial institutions, manufacturing, agricultural projects and infrastructural development projects;
- Promote an open and transparent dialogue with the victims and all the affected people to actively take part and find an amicable solution;
- Initiate schemes and projects to benefit genocide victims directly;
- Empower affected people and victims of the genocide to start and run their businesses and economic activities profitably;
- Award mining and fishing concessions transparently to the benefit of all Namibians;
- Encourage businesses to set up social responsibility funds to benefit communities in which they operate, e.g. scholarships, sport sponsorships and community activities. No tokenism practices will be tolerated.
- Award tender concessions to Namibian owned companies to strengthen local ownership.
- Encourage public and private employers to pay their employees decent wages and salaries. Monitoring and assessment mechanisms will be put in place.
- Deliberately encourage employees to own shares in

the businesses they work for, particularly the long serving employees. At times employees are to receive dividends according to their shareholdings.

19 JOB CREATION

The aspect of socio-economic and cultural development of the Namibian people in RDP's view entails the improvement of material and spiritual conditions of their lives. Naturally, people tend to move between rural and urban areas in anticipation of getting better conditions of living, for example, getting a better paying job. Today, many young people in Namibia migrate to urban areas in search of better paying jobs. Some are running away from rural areas to escape widespread poverty, unem-



ployment and idleness. Due to the fact that 70% of Namibia's population live in rural areas RDP finds it prudent to encourage rural economic activities development. Moreover, RDP will facilitate the people in rural communities to initiate development projects for the betterment of their rural communities. Encourage and facilitate rural community members to innovatively establish rural development centres. Deliberately make budget appropriation of sufficient resources to sustain development in rural areas.

Namibia currently faces an extremely high unemployment rate particularly among the youth, currently estimated at 40% which is the economically active sector of the population. That situation is very unhealthy for any economy to function optimally. The RDP will, therefore:

- Undertake a national independent skills audit;
- Create incentives for investors who voluntarily expand their businesses by employing the young people on attachment, internship and apprenticeship and permanent;
- Completely transform and strengthen the capacity of the DBN to give free loans to the youth to self-employ and become entrepreneurs to start and or expand their businesses.
- Create employment and introduce broad economic transformation policies to target labour intensive production sectors, in construction, the agricultural, textile industry, tourism, manufacturing and processing industries;
- Revamp all tendering processes to allow more individuals to benefit from the industry;
- Broaden the economy by phasing in the agricultural sector north of the red line;
- To change the mindset of the young people to become aware that employment creation is not only in the offices, but be prepared to make their hands dirty yet making money.
- Intensify skills development, education and training and teach the young people prudent financial management.
- Encourage the spirit of hard work as opposed to the current get rich quick mentality.



20 STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

For over 3 decades the majority of Namibia's public enterprises have failed to meet expectations and have in fact turned into serious and persistent burden on the treasury through consistent bail-outs. Of particular concern is the fact that the employees (senior) of such companies and their board of directors are in most cases over paid, something that is often not incommensurate with their performance. Such practice shall destroy Namibian integrity, honesty and patriotism. In order for the state owned enterprise to fulfil the noble objective of national economic development, such enterprises require to be managed effectively and efficiently.

RDP will therefore, embrace the following:

- a) A re-definition of the objectives of the state owned enterprises;
- b) Introduction of new regulatory legislation aimed at rendering the public enterprises effective and efficient. This include the conditions for bail-outs;
- c) Review and determine remuneration packages for the employees of the state owned enterprises including members of the board of directors.
- d) Selectively create public enterprises in the sectors of the economy



where they are really needed. Priority should be given to sectors that are crucial for income generation for the state, job creation, poverty eradication and general economic and social empowerment of the Namibian people.

The majority of more than 72 State Owned Enterprises continue to burden the taxpayers due to repetitive bailouts (NBC, New Era, Trans Namib, are some bad examples) mainly due to mismanagement by politically appointed officials (under the "jobs for comrades" scheme).

The RDP will therefore ensure that:

- An independent audit is done on all SOE's to establish their viability;
- Appointment of the politically connected to the positions of SOEs will be eradicated;
- Privatize Air Namibia or find a strategic partner;
- Deregulate our airline industry and open our airspace to competitors;
- Boards of Directors, CEOs and MDs will be appointed on a five-year merit performance based contracts;
- The Central Governance Agency will be empowered to effectively monitor, assess and evaluate, SOEs;
- Board members will be appointed on the basis of verified competencies, expertise and should not serve on more than two public boards;
- Vacancies on boards will be advertised and only candidates with the requisite verified qualifications and experience will be invited to apply;
- SOEs will receive top priority and will be

*"Critical thinking
creates innovation"*

closely scrutinized with a view to taking corrective measures against those SOEs that continue to drain state coffers;

21 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) has been established at an exciting time of human development characterized by accelerating innovation in the field of information and communication technology. The information revolution we are experiencing today has rendered human development activity more intertwined, visible and

appreciable around the world. This confers a prominent role to information and communication technology in the process of fast evolving human development. Information communication technology plays a significant role in an effort to preserve peace, order, security, solidarity and friendship among the communities and nations of the world.

RDP believes that freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the right of access to information constitute the fundamental premise for the realization of modern participatory and ethical communication. Information contribute immensely to the formation of an informed public opinion, patriotic, critical and

responsible consideration. RDP regards the respect of individual privacy as an important aspect of human rights in the process of social, economic and cultural progression. As such, information communication technology in RDP's view should not and must not be used against the private interests of the citizens. RDP advocates the liberalization and privatization of information with restrictions and limitation which the national interest may impose for the purpose of preserving the inalienable rights of independence, sovereignty, national unity, the promotion of democracy and progress.

The Namibian government has not fully implemented the ICT standards in accordance with governance. A large part of the population does not benefit from the ICT evolution. At present only 36% of the entire Namibian population have access to the internet.

The RDP-led government will therefore:

- Develop a strategy for the wide use of ICTs to fast track sustainable development;
- Ensure that sufficient funds are invested in the training and development of young Namibians in the field of ICT;
- Ensure internet connectivity and access to the broadband network across the whole country;
- Improve and adopt a legal and regulatory framework that would guarantee secure, effective and efficient e-access, e-transactions and e-interaction with government.
- Use ICT in every school to enhance the standard of education and technology.

22 LAND REFORM, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT & FOOD SECURITY



Namibia continues to grapple with skewed land distribution challenges as well as inequitable land valuations between the so-called communal areas and commercial sector. Chief amongst the problems in the communal farming sector is the non-recognition of the value of communal plots when it comes to raising capital as those plots cannot serve as collateral even at state owned financial institutions. This is happening despite the fact that, by law, all communal plots have title deeds through communal land boards. In the resettlement farms in commercial areas, the beneficiaries have to do with commercially unviable farm sizes, lack of capital and inadequate farm management skills and experiences.

The RDP led government will:

- Recognize all land in Namibia for qualification as collateral so as to unlock the potential for development throughout Namibia;
- Reject under all circumstances the sale of Namibian land to feigners;
- Establish the general land valuation country-wide;
- Treat all needy and eligible Namibians the same and consider them for resettlement anywhere in Namibia, be

it on urban land for housing and business development, or on farm land to engage in livestock and crop production and or tourism;

- Avail initial capital to all resettled farmers;
- Create a dedicated revolving fund for the resettlement programs, for infrastructure development, mentorship and training;
- Require all state-owned financial institutions to accept communal land as cover for collateral;
- Establish the economic farm size for both livestock and crop production. Limit livestock farming resettlement farms to not less than 2,800 hectares per unit per farmer;
- Provide comprehensive farm management training to all resettlement beneficiaries;
- Promote and expand the green scheme projects and fresh-water fish farming;
- Intensify research on Namibia's traditional food crops in order to improve quality and increase productivity;
- Assist farming households to improve their capacities to store crops and ensure food security at household level.
- Gradually and strategically expand the foot and mouth disease (FMD) free zone northwards;
- Co-operate with neighbouring countries to create FMD free zones countrywide,
- Strengthening the activities and broadening the funding model of the Agricultural Bank of Namibia.
- Develop infrastructure, especially water, to unlock grazing in communal areas.

23 LAND OWNERSHIP

The present level of land ownership is unacceptably slow, ineffective, and corrupt. The real needy people for resettlement are ignored. In most cases the politically well-connected to the ruling party are the beneficiaries. The majority poor are either left out and or are resettled without capital. This situation has resulted into land reform and redistribution to have been a dismal failure. Redistribution of land did not in many instances target and benefit the current landless Namibians. It ended in the hands of the politically well connected, land for comrades, who choose to utilize the commercial land as part-time farms. This scenario, turned Namibia into an unproductive country in terms agricultural food supply. Today, the majority of Namibians survive on imported food supplies from other countries. This situation has to be changed by fairly distribute land to all able bodied Namibians who are willing to work on land and produce sufficient food and sell the surplus.



What failed the current government is lack of consideration of the previously land dispossessed Namibians. Priority must be given to the previously dispossessed and those that are willing to work on

land. With regard to the urban land the majority poor must be allocated state serviced land and enabled to construct their own houses. While affirming the principle of willing seller and willing buyer, the RDP will address this situation by setting up a land commission to carry out a complete land audit and make recommendations to government without compromising the following principles:

- Create a dedicated fund for the resettlement programme, for land acquisition, infrastructure development, mentorship, training and education on farming activities;
- Provide training prior to settlement beneficiaries and provide continuous (not once off) on-farm mentorship; until the beneficiaries are able to farm profitably;
- Speedy and comprehensive land redistribution;
- Urgent and lawful acquisition of land by government for re-distribution to needy Namibians in order to reverse past social injustices;
- Protection of individual inheritance rights;
- Ensure productivity of land utilization remains intact.

24 GENDER

Crime is a sign of a failed state. Many Namibian victims of crime are a testimony to social ills in our society. RDP believes that once the conditions of living of the majority of people is improved then crime rate will automatically be reduced. Once the material wellbeing of our society is positively transformed and civic education among the population is increased then crime will go down.



Crime against women and children in Namibia has reached frightening levels. The RDP therefore commits to the promotion of public awareness regarding the evils of these forms of violence and crime.

The RDP will therefore;

- Embark upon vigorous social, cultural and economic transformation of the society;
- Increase civic education about gender based violence against women and children;
- Introduce awareness programmes at all levels of the educational system;
- Collaborate with community, traditional and religious leaders and NGOs to fight the scourge of violence;
- Impose stiffer sentences on those who rape, kill and rob;
- Increase the role of women in government to participate in key decisions making structures; and
- The promotion of leadership with the focus on the gradual implementation of equal (50-50) gender representation based on merit.

25 YOUTH & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Sport in RDP's view plays an important role in the physical and spiritual development of the youth. Through various sports, youth capacities and talents are often developed. Sports and recreational interactions facilitate friendly relations and encourages national integrity among the young people.

Participation in sports is central to the health and well-being of both our youth and the nation. 60% of the Namibian population is youth and they bear the brunt of unemployment and lack of access to proper education and training facilities.

Unless this trend is addressed, Namibia's youth face a grim future. With the present failure rate in schools, Namibian youth will be condemned not only to joblessness, but also to indulgence in criminal activities.

The RDP-led government therefore seeks to:

- Put education and training of the youth at the top of its priorities;
- Create vocational training and job placement centres in each region;



- Assist the youth to become job creators by giving free loans;
- Establish sport academies in order to promote sports excellence in the country;
- Promote a truly non-partisan National Youth Council (NYC); and
- Expand sports infrastructure, with stadiums and gymnasiums in each region.

“Deconstruction insists not that truth is illusory but that it is institutional”

26 INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The political organization of the Namibian state requires strong, effective, non-corrupt and efficient governance institutions in order to deliver the required services. For a democratic system to function effectively, the three pillars of State, Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary must be separated in order

to ensure proper checks and balances.

Currently, there is no such separation between the Legislature and the Executive. All ministers serve as members of Parliament to which the Executive is accountable. This compromises the principle of checks and balances.

Furthermore, the system of proportional representation in the National Assembly does not render direct account-

ability to the electorate. Instead, it encourages inefficiency, patronage and the don't care (laissez-faire) attitude towards the electorate.

The RDP led government will:

- Effect the separation of power between the three organs of State;
- Abolish proportional representation by introducing direct representation system for the National Assembly and abolish the National Council;
- Reverse the presidential decision of 2010 of appointing regional governors and legislate for the direct election of such governors by the people in their respective regions, and
- Introduce a legislation to provide for the recalling of regional governors.

27 Government Right-sizing



The philosophy of jobs for comrades, has resulted into a bloated parliament, a bloated cabinet and the recruitment of incompetent and ill prepared employees in the government. For Namibia to move forward with great successes we need a lean and competent governance system. The current National Assembly and Cabinet are oversized and

do not serve Namibia's progress that we seek.

It consumes the lion's share of the annual budget leaving a small amount for capital development projects and social services. Currently government tries to project itself as a major world player not only in the diplomatic arena but also other spheres such as political, economic and cultural. In reality, our nation and economy is still developing. We should not turn a blind eye, that our economy got a knock not only by the world recession but also by various factors including exploitation and corruption.

The RDP led government will:

- Cut National Assembly from 104 to 72 and;
- Reduce Ministries to 16; the much needed funds can be directed to national development priorities;
- Streamline Namibia's foreign representation to serve only the strategic interests of the nation;
- Reduce local, regional and international travels by the officials and staff alike;
- Recruit competent and committed technocrats;
- Embark on an intensive in-service training and retraining programs for all civil servants;
- Introduce policies to curb the wasteful government expenditure on travels and workshops.
- Reduce duplications of government institutions such as offices, Ministries and Agencies that are merely aimed at creating employment opportunities that are not matched with efficient public delivery.

28 Administration of Justice

Namibia as a democratic country is governed by a system of state laws, policies and programmes intended to



safeguard the interest and welfare of the citizens. The administration of justice in Namibia is in a sorry state, characterized, amongst others, by long delays in concluding trial cases - justice delayed is justice denied. Every Namibian should be equal before the law. The justice system in Namibia is inaccessible by the majority of the country's citizens due to its higher costs involved. It is not a justice system for the people by the people, because it is unaffordable.

The RDP led government will:

- Transform the justice system to be accessible and affordable to the majority of the citizens;
- Strengthen the independence of the judiciary system by amending the law to allow the Parliament to approve the appointment of judges;
- Review the due process in the handling of cases;
- Ensure the recruitment of competent and adequate law enforcement agents and judicial staff;
- Review the penal system to ensure that the punishments are consistent with the crimes committed;
- Introduce alternative methods for rehabilitation of petty crime offenders; and introduce juvenile courts to give due consideration to these offenders.

- Eradicate corrupt practices that may occur in the administration of justice;

29 National Planning

The Constitution, under Article 98, directs as to how the economic development of Namibia should be organized. The mothers and fathers of our Constitution, cognizant of the imbalances created by the brutal and divisive Apartheid regime and perpetrated by the current government, further established, under Article 129, the National Planning Commission in order to plan the economic development of our country. To date, the role and function of the National Planning Commission is either misunderstood or wrong people have been serving that important national institution or both.

The RDP led government will ensure that the National Planning Commission will formulate a comprehensive national development master plan comprising:

- Types, quantities and quality of public infrastructures and installations, including maintenance thereof;
- Types and quantities of industries;
- Quality standards to be developed and maintained;
- Quantity and quality of human resources / skills needed to develop our country;
- Quantity of material and financial resources needed to accomplish the above. In addition, the master plan should prioritize and benchmark national projects.
- Progress monitoring and evaluation of agreed action plans on a quarterly basis.
- Create conducive environment for the private sector to strive and contribute to national development goals;

- Consider the central economic development plan as the master plan of the country;
- Involve Offices, Ministries, Agencies, Authorities to operate as development activities;

30 DEFENSE & SECURITY

The national defence and security is the activity carried out by the state and by the citizens with a view to guarantee respect to democratic institutions, national independence, territorial integrity, the security and liberty of the population against any aggression and or external threat by any hostile forces that may endanger the constitutional normalcy of the country.

The RDP puts high premium on the role of Namibia's defence and security apparatus in protecting the Namibian citizens, defending the country's territorial integrity and participation in international peacekeeping efforts on the African continent and beyond. While expecting our army and police officers to maintain high levels of professionalism and operational readiness at all times, the RDP led government will:

- Ensure that service men and women are decently

*"We can all
make noise
but only
RDP makes
sense"*



remunerated;

- Prioritize the provision of decent housing and other working conditions for Namibian soldiers and police officers;
- Guard against politicization of defence and security forces;
- Ensure that the army and the police are highly trained and adequately equipped also to actively participate in civil disaster relief operations, and
- Facilitate defense and police members to advance professionally and academically;

31 CORRUPTION & CRIME

Corruption and crime negatively affect societal behavior and hinders progress, development and wealth-creation in Namibia. Corruption



at all levels of public and private sectors collapses government's ability to render the much needed services to its people. It (corruption) also, erodes the society's culture of hard work, honesty and self-respect. The current government has completely failed to hold the culprits of corruption accountable. Where it (government) did light sentences (Social Security saga) were metered out. In some cases, culprits, GIPF, SME Bank, ODC are not even brought to book to account for their deeds. The current government continues to pay lip service to corrupt practices in the public sector. The principles of zero-tolerance for corruption and violence against women and children is nothing but a window dressing. Government has failed to put in place any meaningful measures to combat the scourge. The country continues to experience a backlog in resolving trials, due to lack of magistrates

and judges to hear cases as well as the unwarranted long drawn trials.

The RDP is resolutely committed to fight corruption and crime and will therefore:

- Improve the material wellbeing of all citizens and increase government capacity to create jobs;
- Create mechanisms to dissuade members of the public to involve themselves in crime and corruption;
- Raise public awareness of the negative effects of crime and corruption on development and wealth creation;
- Introduce stiffer and punitive measures for serious offenders;
- Promote private/public partnership initiatives to combat crime and corruption;
- Improve the capacity and resources of the Namibian police to effectively prevent and fight crime;
- Ensure the efficient functioning of all anti-corruption structures and systems, whistle-blowing, and blacklisting of corrupt companies and individuals;
- Ensure that the director of the ACC is appointed by the judicial commission to be headed by a retired Judge of the High Court;
- Ensure quicker processes to deal with alleged corrupt public officials, civil servants and private sector companies and individuals;
- Enact a law that imposes a minimum of 25 years' imprisonment to convicted rapists and murderers and that such convict must be subjected to hard labour;
- Introduce special courts whereby state witnesses on serious cases testify in camera;
- Speedily publicize findings of Presidential Commissions; and
- Provide efficient defence and support to the police force and ACC officials, when challenged because of initiatives they have taken in the interest of the State and the public.



32 TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES

Traditional Authorities are the centerpiece and custodians of our culture and traditions. They thus need to be upheld and strengthened.

The RDP-led government will therefore:

- Work closely with the traditional authorities to promote and maintain cultural heritage;
- Empower Traditional Leaders to perform their work with integrity and dedication & unequivocally support them in their roles and decisions they take in fulfilling their tasks;
- Instil a spirit of accountability, honesty and integrity;
- An RDP-government will introduce policies that will delink Traditional Authorities matters from party political activities.
- Guarantee traditional authorities to maintain their traditional powers entrusted to them by their communities;
- Empower, by providing subsidies, traditional authorities so as to manage the affairs of their communities properly;

33 FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

As earlier stated, RDP believes in freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the right of access to information. Information contribute immensely to the formation of public opinion, critical thinking, analysis and scientific research. Therefore, RDP encourages the principle of freedom of the media. The current government continues to exert pressure on media houses to limit and stifle its independence and autonomy. Recognizing the critical role, a free and independent media industry plays in a democratic society, the RDP led government shall:

- Protect and promote a vibrant free and independent media;
- Promote free flow of information and freedom of speech as a basic human right;
- Promote access to information;
- Review the Communication Act of 2008 and ensure individuals freedom from espionage;
- Change the all state-owned media institutions to public owned;
- Implement the SADC Protocol on allocation of airtime to political parties on the national media platform/broadcaster;
- Review the appointment of officers heading public institutions charged with national communication.

34 POLICE

The Police Force in Namibia has for over 3 decades been exposed to harsh working conditions. The current government has shown little care about the police force's welfare and their conditions of employment. While expectations to fulfil their duties and tasks continue to increase, the police force remains short changed in terms of the provision of adequate, reliable and sufficient mobility (vehicles) to increase officers' mobility and to react speedily to emergency situations.



The RDP-led government will ensure that the Police Force is transformed into an effective, impartial service delivery force that is efficient and effective in protecting the Namibian people, by:

- Allocating sufficient resources, both human and financial;
- Allocating roadworthy and reliable fleet services to all charge offices throughout the country;
- Staffing the Police Force adequately to ensure that there are enough officers to attend to emergency situations at all times;
- Continuously providing training to officers in the employment of the police force;
- Introducing a reward system to outstanding performance by officers;
- Introducing and promoting community policing;
- Revising salary and payment structure of the officers and increase salary and wages of the officers to reduce bribery and corrupt practices among the members of the police force;
- Improve the officers' health and medical care systems;
- Provide decent houses, particularly in the rural areas;
- Introduce better retirement benefits;

35 VETERANS ASSISTANCE



Namibia is called the Land of the Brave solely for the fact that the indigenous people resisted heroically against foreign domination and occupation. Eventually this process led to the war of national liberation that brought independence of Namibia on the 21st March 1990. The war of independence has divided the Namibian people in a manner that some sided with the colonial regime while others resisted colonial occupation. There is a great necessity to define, identify and categorize those Namibians who fought for independence and those who continue to demonstrate readiness to defend the country. There is also a great need to truly reconcile the Namibian people without discrimination.

RDP will embrace policies that advocate the following:

- True reconciliation of all the Namibian people who fought on both sides so as to integrate the nation fully;
- Exonerate and clear the names and make compensation of Namibian compatriots who were caught in crossfire and whose names were wrongly labeled as people who betrayed the liberation struggle;
- Clear definition, identification and categorization of Namibians who fought for independence and those who continue to demonstrate willingness to defend the country;
- Review conditions of veterans with a view to improving their needs, such as, basic welfare grant, housing and medical care;

36 PRINCIPLE OF FOREIGN POLICY

RDP believes that peace is the fundamental principle upon which we base all our constructive practices. At international level RDP will continue to fight for and support



policies that are geared to peaceful co-existence among countries and states. RDP will always advocate peaceful solutions to problems affecting nations. RDP therefore, pledges the values of a liberal democracy as reflected in Namibia's Constitution. The foreign policy mirrors the values and principles of a liberal approach to international relations. The RDP government will embrace the following approach:

1. RDP recognizes the principle that liberty is an inalienable right for each country's citizens;
2. RDP respects our national independence and sovereignty as the most victory achieved by the Namibian people;

3. Respect for international law and treaty obligations, the right of self-determination and intervention in line with Chapter VII of the UN Charter;

4. The promotion of international cooperation with the express purpose of fostering an environment conducive to regional and international peace and enhance human security;

5. The peaceful resolution of conflicts, (diplomatic solution) and

6. Maintaining just and mutual beneficial relations among states – through the instrument of economic diplomacy and by building sustainable and balanced relations with growing economies in a mutually beneficial way.

RDP will introduce cost-benefit analyses of foreign missions taking into consideration national economic and political interests in line with our right-sizing policy and will streamline operations to a minimum and cost-effective entities.



RDP will work with SADC States to reactivate the SADC Tribunal in order to provide SADC citizens an avenue for an unbiased legal recourse. RDP is of the opinion that visa requirements for Namibia should be on par with visa requirements for Namibians traveling abroad

In our view an African permanent representation with a Veto Power on the UN Security Council is crucial not only for Namibia but for the African continent. RDP cannot tolerate a situation whereby a continent of over 1 billion people is not permanently represented at UN Security Council.

37 REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The current government is following a top-bottom approach in governing Namibia. This is failing to address the needs of the people. The RDP believes in a bottom-up approach whereby the people will decide on their needs and whereby prioritization will take place at the lowest level of governance possible. Local authorities, together with constituency councilors, should identify the needs and prioritize the projects and actions that can address such needs.



An RDP-led government will therefore:

- Urgently speed up the implementation of the Decentralization Act;
- Entrust regions with their own development budgets;
- Pay subsidies for basic services like housing, water and electricity directly to local authorities and not to NHE, Nampower and Namwater;
- Do away with the party list system for local elections and replace it with a ward system

whereby local councilors will be elected directly on merit and to represent a specific ward. This will ensure efficiency, productivity and accountability on local level and oversight over service delivery.

- Repeal the Act on Governors appointed by the President and replace it with an Act whereby Governors are directly elected, according to their competencies, in every region.

38 THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS

RDP considers its support for civic and professional organizations that organize sectors of the Namibian population and guarantee the effective participation of civic society, in the social, economic and cultural activities in Namibia. This includes but not limited to the inculcation of positive morality of the people of Namibia.

Historically the church and other faith based institutions have played and continue to play a major role in the Namibian society, particularly in terms of education and training and political conscience that led to a large section of Namibian population into action against colonial occupation and oppression.



The RDP led government will therefore:

- Foster strong relationships with faith based institutions and civil societies to promote social and welfare development
- Collaborate with the church and other Civil Societies in combating social evils, such as rape, murder, alcoholism, drug abuse and gender based violence and other forms of moral degeneration; and
- Assist in their efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and in the provision of care and counselling.

39 HOW WILL THE RDP FINANCE ITS PROGRAMMES?

- Our policies will grow the economy faster, which means more income to the State through taxes;
- Rightsizing government will cut unnecessary expenditure that will save cost;

Better management of resources at all levels of government and SOE's will save billions which will then be available for education, health, housing, service delivery and job creation.

- By rooting out corruption, more billions will be available to address the needs of the population.
- No bailouts for mismanaged SOE's that will translate into saving billions of tax payer's money.
- Corruption-free, expert-driven and transparent tender





procedures will ensure that government gets what government pays for, and that government does not pay for unnecessary luxuries for a few elites!

- By setting sound priorities that will cater for the provision of affordable houses, schools and hospitals before construction new parliaments and airports and the purchasing of new Mercedes Benzes for fat Ministers and senior government officials.
- By cutting government expenditure at all levels especially on S&T

SOURCES TO THE PRODUCTION OF RDP'S ELECTION MANIFESTO – 2024:

1. RDP CONSTITUTION
2. RDP ELECTION MANIFESTO - 2009
3. RDP ELECTION MANIFESTO - 2014
4. RDP ELECTION MANIFESTO - 2019
5. RDP REVAMPED POLITICAL PROGRAMME
6. RDP ALTERNATIVE POLICIES
7. OTHER RESEARCH MATERIALS

