

# **RDP ELECTION MANIFESTO 2014**

## **1. The Rally for Democracy and Progress**

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 has no hope for the future. The party contested the 2009 National elections and became the official opposition.

## **2 Introduction**

Namibians go to the polls this year to vote in the elections for the country's President and National Assembly members. This is a very crucial event for every citizen of this country.

We have come this far – leaving behind a past clouded by the inhumane policies of the oppressive apartheid system and the battle for the liberation of this country, which has seen many lives lost, many people disappear and much blood shed – to the current state where an elected government has been installed with the majority of citizens determining the country's destiny.

The country has made some limited progress towards social justice and delivery of basic services. Basic safety and security has been provided. Life in Namibia is better than it was under the apartheid regime. However, as we approach the country's 25<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary, the situation for the majority of our citizens remains unsatisfactory and deplorable in many instances.

Many of the democratic principles that we desired to live by, remain a myth under the current government. The same applies to genuine social upliftment, economic development and growth, as well as education and skills development and the fair distribution of national wealth and land to the Namibian nation.

The best employment and business opportunities are channelled to people, who are better connected to the new political elite, true to the corruptive "jobs for comrades" ideology, as a means of solidifying their grip on the country's resources. This leads to growing abuse of public funds for the benefit of only a few elite, increasingly corrupting the system at the expense of the general citizenry of this country.

Namibians continue to suffer severely under the current government, with unemployment escalating, lack of housing remaining at intolerable levels, economic growth stagnating, further burdening the struggling small businesses and individuals by imposing heavy unaffordable fines for minor offences and business levies, inequalities in living standards growing between the political and economic elite and the ordinary citizen, transfer of land rights and issuance of title deeds to previously disadvantaged citizens being 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 those wrongs that were perpetrated during the past 24 years by the current government.

The Rally for Democracy and Progress has adopted the following key approaches in the run up to the 2014 Elections and beyond:

## 2.1 THE THEME

Time for Change is NOW! – It Starts with YOU! – Vote RDP for a Better Life for ALL!

## 2.2 VISION

To make the RDP the most responsive and attractive party during the 2014 elections and beyond.

## 2.3 MISSION

To convince the Namibian voters to support and elect the RDP in order for the RDP to win the Presidential, National Assembly elections in November 2014, subsequently the regional and local authority elections in 2015 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 fights for the assertion of fundamental principles to 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 government which prioritises among others:

- a. *Democratic principles in the country and all systems;*
- b. *Economic Development that will benefit the citizenry;*
- c. *Better Healthcare system in the country;*
- d. *Employment creation and provision of adequate support to start businesses ventures;*
- e. *Better housing for the citizenry;*
- f. *Curbing corruption and;*
- g. *Fair and equitable redistribution of land to the needy Namibians;*
- h. *A leadership that will selflessly administer the affairs of the country and her people and be fully responsive to the needs of the people;*
- i. *Fighting crime in the country and curbing gender based violence;*
- j. *An effective and efficient independent judiciary.*

## 4 DEMOCRACY & POLITICAL PLURALISM

The 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.

This does not only require that the management of public affairs must be conducted within the framework of the rule of law and ethical codes, but also that such management is carried out on the basis of the principles of **accountability and transparency.** *Accountability and transparency* serve as potent deterrents against corruption, which is a manifestation of bad governance.

Central to the definition of 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 keys to rooting out corruption and increase public trust and confidence in those charged with the achievement of common goals.

The RDP will therefore introduce a Law on Conflict of Interest and Declaration of Assets for all elected politicians in the country.

*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 the life of 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 will root out practices of tribalism, racism, regionalism and nepotism.

### **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 recognises 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**

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

### **5.4 Human Rights**

RDP is fundamentally committed to protecting the dignity of all Namibians and will vigorously defend the basic human rights of all citizens, including:

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

- The right to shelter;
- The right to health;
- The right to education;
- The right to freedom of speech 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 stands for 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 a 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.**

## **6 Education & Skills Development**

The country's current education system is not meeting the needs of the country's economy. For the past 24-years in an independent Namibia, despite its massive budget allocation, Namibia's education sector continues to produce functionally illiterate youth who end up on the streets, and exposes them to all sorts of social evils.

RDP regards Education and skills development as the heartbeat for our Namibian economic transformation and development strategy. Therefore, visionary action must be taken to turn the situation around.

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 and provide attractive incentives to teachers;
- Availing textbooks to every school going child;
- Championing compulsory free pre-primary and primary education in government institutions;
- Introducing free secondary and tertiary education in government aided institutions;
- Restructuring the curricula with deliberate emphasis on science, social 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 role in the formulation of the syllabus;
- Introduce Life Skills and Physical Training in both primary and secondary school syllabi and Fertility Education in secondary schools syllabus.
- Providing sufficient education facilities, accommodation, transport and catering services;
- Reducing the teacher – learner ratio to 1:25 (maximum);
- Establishing vocational training centres and technical colleges;
- Providing adequate support to private schools;

- Ensuring safe and secure educational environment.

## 7 Health & Social Welfare

The current Health and Social Welfare system is inadequate in addressing the real needs of the people. Health facilities in the country are dilapidated, under equipped and mismanaged and cannot cater for the needs 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:

- Publicising and implementing the Social Security Commission backed **National Medical Insurance**;
- Introducing a National Basic Income Grant as a safety net for especially the 29% vulnerable people in Namibia that lives below the poverty line;
- Providing accessible health facilities to rural communities;
- Reviewing and improving benefits and working conditions for all medical personnel;
- Providing nutritional support to the needy people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Instilling sound work and professional ethics;
- Investing substantially in world-standard training of medical personnel;
- Giving priority to primary health care;
- Immediately increase old age pensions to N\$1000.00 per month.
- Regularly revising Pensions and aligning them to the cost of living;

## 8 THE ECONOMY & WEALTH CREATION

Namibia has over the past 24-years under the current government, seen a skewed economic order. The gap between the well-connected few and the masses continue to grow 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 depoliticise 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 social order.

The provisions of the social order are oriented towards the needs of society and also 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.
- d. Demonstrate political will to speed up the implementation of development plans.
- e. Base decisions on the longer-term economic benefit and viability for the entire populace rather than basing decisions on political considerations only.

## **9 LABOUR**

For the past 24-years workers in Namibia continue to experience severe challenges. Workers living on less than minimum wages and domestic workers facing similar de-humanizing circumstances. Not to mentioned police and nurses who are equally over-worked and under-paid. These are issues the RDP led government will address by developing and implementing policies that will instil:

- Good labour relations between the employer and the employees;
- Market related wages;
- Education and training opportunities for workers, be it operational, technical or professional executive levels;
- Protection of workers' rights;
- Protection of local craftsmanship;
- Development friendly labour laws.

## **10 Housing**

Over the past 24 years, Namibia has 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. Still no planning has been put in place to accommodate them decently.

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 has become unaffordable to the majority of Namibian people. Aided by the municipalities who put land on open auctions to both companies and residents, prices reached high proportions.

These conditions motivate the politically well-connected people, including the BEE beneficiaries of the current government to acquire land and construct flats. These provide dwelling to the needy, a

situation which enslaves the few residents who can afford the high rent and their families. ***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 start with decent shelters for all. Therefore, the RDP led government will:

- Drastically reduce the price of land by providing serviced plots in all urban centres;
- Subsidize the 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**

Much of the national infrastructure in Namibia, is in a sad state of disrepair and is inadequate due to poor workmanship, large scale lack of maintenance, poor planning and management by the current government.

The RDP will, therefore:

- Prioritise the national infrastructural rehabilitation according to their socio economic importance (hospitals before new parliament);
- 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;

## **12 WATER PROVISION**

The current government has over the last two and a half decades, failed to establish a system of harvesting 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 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 utilisation.

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;
- Introduce a new tariff structure in all our national parks to make entry more affordable for Namibian nationals;
- Acknowledge the fragile nature of our environment by promoting eco-tourism.

### **14 ENERGY**

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 marginalised 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 expediting the implementation of the projects;
- Assist the private sector to invest in wind energy particularly along the country's coastline and solar energy inland.
- Prioritise 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.

## **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 manufacturing 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 other sectors.

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

## 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 has so far increased unemployment in the local economy. It is therefore imperative that a visionary government gives special attention and support to local industries and SME's in order to promote 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-tape.
- Will establish a single institution to render efficient services to the business fraternity.

## 18 EMPOWERMENT

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

The RDP led government will therefore:

- Stop the practice of diverting public funds to dubious investors and projects such as in the cases of (AVID, TEK0, TIPEEG, MASS HOUSING (mess-housing scheme) among others;
- The GIPF, SSC and financial institutions will be required to invest part of their profits into infrastructural development projects;
- Transparent awarding of mining and fishing concessions to the benefit of all

Namibians;

- Encourage businesses to set up social responsibility funds to benefit the communities in which they operate;
- Award concessions to Namibian companies.

## **19 JOB CREATION**

Namibia currently faces an extremely high unemployment rate, currently estimated at 30% generally and 68% among the youth, 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 on attachment, internship and apprenticeship;
  - Strengthen the capacity of the DBN to enable entrepreneurs to start and or expand their businesses.
  - Create employment and introduce broad economic transformation policies to target labour intensive production sectors, in 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;

## **20 STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES**

The majority of the 72 State Owned Enterprises continue to burden the taxpayers due to repetitive bailouts (Air Namibia, NBC, New Era, Trans Namib, are some bad examples) mainly due to mismanagement by politically appointed officers (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;
- Privatise 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 performance-based contracts;
- The Central Governance Agency will be empowered to effectively monitor 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 closely scrutinized with a view to taking corrective measures against those SOEs that continue to drain state coffers;

## **21 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The Namibian government has not fully implemented the ICT standards in accordance with e-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 fastrack 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.

## **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:

- Establish the general land valuation country-wide;
- Require all state-owned financial institutions to accept communal land as cover for collateral;
- 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 unacceptable and current attempts at land reform and redistribution 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).

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:

- 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 against women and children in Namibia has reached frightening levels. The RDP is committed to promote public awareness regarding the evils of these forms of violence and crime.

The RDP will therefore;

- 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;
- 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

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.

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;
- 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.

## **26 INSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

The political organization of the Namibian state requires strong, effective 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 accountability 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 Namibian Cabinet is bloated and inefficient. 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. The RDP led government will:

- Streamline Namibia's foreign representation to serve only the strategic interests of the nation;
- Reduce the Cabinet so that much needed funds can be directed to national development priorities;
- 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.

## **28 Administration of Justice**

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 RDP led government will:

- 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.

## **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, 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 of agreed action plans on a quarterly basis.

## **30 DEFENSE & SECURITY**

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:

- 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 defence and police members to advance professionally and academically.

## **30 CORRUPTION & CRIME**

Corruption and crime negatively affect societal behaviours and hinder progress, development and wealth-creation in Namibia. Corruption at all levels, crime and violence, particularly violence against women and children, have seen a dramatic increase in the country. Government failed to uphold its principles of zero-tolerance for corruption and violence against women and children. It has failed to put in place any measures to combat this scourge.

The country also 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:

- Raise public awareness of the negative effects of crime and corruption on development and wealth creation;
- Introduce stiffer 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 60 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 publicise 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.

### **31 TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES**

Traditional Authorities are the centrepiece 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;
- Instil a spirit of accountability;
- An RDP-government will introduce policies that will delink Traditional Authorities matters from party political activities.

### **32 FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

The current government continues to exert pressure on media houses to limit and stifle its independence and autonomy. Recognising 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.

### **33 POLICE**

The Police Force in Namibia has for the past 24-years been exposed to harsh working conditions. The current government has shown little care about the police force's welfare and the 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 vehicles to increase officers' mobility and to react speedily to emergency situations.

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

- 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 officer's health and medical care systems;
- Provide decent houses, particularly in the rural areas;
- Introduce better retirement benefits.

### **34 VETERANS ASSISTANCE**

Recognition shall be accorded to those Namibians who participated in the country's liberation struggle to free Namibia from colonial rule. The RDP-led government will make a commitment to review the conditions of veterans with a view to improving their needs, such as, basic welfare grant, housing and medical care.

### **35 PRINCIPLE OF FOREIGN POLICY**

RDP 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. Respect for international law and treaty obligations, the right of self-determination and intervention in line with Chapter VII of the UN Charter;
2. The promotion of international cooperation with the express purpose of fostering an environment conducive to regional and international peace and enhance human security
3. The peaceful (diplomatic) resolution of conflicts, and
4. 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 minimum and cost-effective entities.

RDP will work with other 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 on the UN Security Council is crucial not only for Namibia but for the African continent.

### **36 REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The present 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-top approach whereby the people will decide on their needs and whereby prioritization will take place at the lowest level of government possible. Local authorities, together with constituency councillors, should identify needs and prioritize projects and actions to address these needs.

An RDP-led government will therefore:

- Urgently speed up the implementation of the Decentralisation 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 councillors will be elected directly to represent a specific ward. This will ensure accountability on local level and oversight over service delivery.
- Repeal the Act on Governors and replace it with an act whereby Governors are directly elected in every region.

### **38 THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND FAITH BASED ORGANIASATIONS**

Historically the church and other faith based institutions have played and continue to play a major role in Namibian society. 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, 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.

## **HOW WILL THE RDP FINANCE ITS PROGRAMMES?**

- Our policies will grow the economy faster, which means more tax income.
- Rightsizing government we cut unnecessary expenditure;
- 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 will save more billions.
- 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 sound prioritizing – houses, schools and hospitals before new parliaments and airports and new Benzes.
- By cutting the governments expenditure (at all levels) on S&T