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## HATE SPEECH IN NAMIBIA

LPM Deputy Leader and Chief Strategist, Henny Seibeb vows to report Swapo bullies to international human rights bodies



Hon Henny Seibeb



LPM third in Swakopmund regional council by-elections results



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**LPM SPONSORS VARIETY OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS TO STUDENTS IN REGIONS IT GOVERNS**

*In its efforts and mandate to promote Free Quality and Well-Resourced Education, the Landless People's Movement announced a sponsorship to the tune of N\$400 000 and set aside a further N\$1.2 million for tertiary education sponsored students in the regions that the LPM fully governs. "The money*

# HATE SPEECH RISING IN SWAPO RANKS AGAINST OPPOSITION IN NAMIBIA



**SWAKOPMUND - The Landless People’s Movement is concerned about the disturbing groundswell incidents of hate speech emanating from Swapo politicians against opposition parties and has vowed to report such incidents to international human rights bodies.**

Speaking at Swakopmund last week, LPM Deputy Leader and Chief-Strategist, Henny Seibeb warned that the LPM would raise awareness of all forms of hate speech and collect further evidence and statistics to submit to the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN).

In the meantime, the Deputy Leader said that the party was going to provide some names of Swapo politicians who have crossed the line with their hateful tirades bordering on hate speech to the European Delegation, European and Western countries so targeted sanctions can be imposed against them.

These names include Katrina Hanse-Himarwa (former Minister of Education, former

These names include Katrina Hanse-Himarwa (former Minister of Education, former Governor of the Hardap Region and Swapo member of the Politburo); Hilma Nicanor (Swapo’s information secretary, Politburo member and Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs); Martin Shalli (former Army Commander of the Namibian Defense Force (NDF) and retired military general, and a former High Commissioner to Zambia); Utoni Nujoma, Minister of Labour; Hofnie Ipinge (Swapo Party Youth League secretary for education); Maureen Hinda, Deputy Minister of Finance; Erastus Utoni (Minister of Urban Land and Rural Development); Daniel Nghidinua, executive director of Ministry of Urban Land and Rural Development; Jessy Nombasa and the Ndilimani

Cultural Troupe (Swapo music band).

“We shall not only focus on politicians, but diversify the list to include, for instance, journalists, artists, business people, cyber space bullies and more, he vowed.”





Contrary, the erosion of democracy in Namibia has been exacerbated by Swapo's autocratic leadership where several members of the Swapo Politburo have in recent years raised alarms with increasing and continued exhibition of intolerance towards opposition political parties and, in particular, towards the LPM

Hate speech incites violence and undermines the protection of human rights and the rule of law, poses grave dangers for the cohesion of a democratic society, which leads to systemic discrimination and eventual political marginalisation of a community.



Hate speech is defined as any communication, including in images, videos, songs, and so on, in language, writing or behavior - that is aggressive, degrading or discriminatory against a person or group of people, simply because of who they are. Discrimination can be based on religion or ethnicity, nationality, race, color, origin, sex, health conditions, sexual orientation, gender identity and other identity factors.

Any hate speech is harmful as it undermines social cohesion, fosters discrimination, creates divisions and can lay the foundation for violence, setting back the cause of peace, stability, sustainable development and the



fulfillment of human rights for all. That is why States should take all possible measures to combat hate speech.

If hate speech incites violence, then it is prohibited according to international law. In particular, Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights obligates States to prohibit by law any expression of national, racial or religious hatred that incites discrimination, hostility or violence. In practical terms, it means that States are obliged to develop legislation that sets out criminal and other sanctions for these unlawful forms of expression. Such laws should not be used, however, to silence dissenting voices and shrink the free flow of information and opinions.



In May 2019, in order to address hate speech and to raise awareness of the potential harm of hate speech, the UN Secretary-General approved the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. It aims to enhance UN efforts to address root causes and drivers of hate speech, to enable effective UN responses to the impact of hate speech on societies, and to support Governments in responding to and addressing hate speech.

Some hate speech cases by Swapo elite politicians and prominent people are listed below:

Recently, a video clip shot during a 2019 election rally was trending on social media, showing Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, bragging that no opposition Councillor would be successful in their duties under the Swapo-led government as "Swapo would not make the opposition parties look good" and that "the government would never allow opposition members to successfully implement projects to make them look good." This is tantamount to hate speech.

Similarly, Hilma Nicanor, was also quoted as boasting in 2020 that the ruling party is not moved by opposition parties' promises of change at regional councils and local authorities as the ruling party still has control of the "national cake" (national budget).





This is a clear testimony and direct assault on the lives of families who live in the areas governed by the opposition - a crime against humanity and genocide. The idea that a person or group have no power or opportunities, because they are not being represented by the "right" political party is in contravention of the Namibian Constitution which prohibits the suppression of freedom of association and allows all citizens to participate in peaceful political activity and have the right to form and join political parties of their choice.

The General Martin Shalli, also made reckless and dangerous comments during a Swapo rally in 2020, calling for the murder of former Swapo politicians and opposition leaders by "cutting their throats".

The social media comments by Hofni lipinge also count among hate speech cases, whereby he said that newly elected regional and local authority councilors can do nothing without the Swapo controlled central government. He implied that Swapo would frustrate elected officials of other parties by blocking program funds meant to help the suffering Namibian people.



This year, the LPM tabled a Motion calling for an Investment Conference in //Kharas region to help the government find potential investors for the implementation of the second phase of the Neckartal Dam project, but the Motion was deliberately rejected by Swapo Parliamentarians (Utoni Nujoma and Maureen Hinda), without offering any tangible reason for such an objection, but just because it comes from LPM.

The attitude by the Minister of Urban and Rural Development and the Executive Director Daniel Nghidinua and by implication, all SWAPO Parliamentarians to not approve development budgets presented by the opposition is to deliberately slow down development in areas governed by the opposition in order to frustrate the electorate, potentially weaken political opposition's power and produce economic inequality in those areas.



# WINDHOEK RURAL

A shining example of social development under the leadership of LPM



### “What we have done so far” – Councillor Piet Adams reports

**GROOT AUB** - Since the Landless People’s Movement took over governance of the Windhoek Rural Constituency in November 2020, the area has seen a drastic change and improvement in the social well-being of its residents through education grants, scholarships, provision of boreholes, sanitation, solar energy, green house schemes, gardening, resettlement, rural development funding and more.

In the past 20 months, the Constituency funded the rural services projects with grants of up to N\$76 000, built 168 toilets, over 50 youths benefitted from training programmes including scholarships, national youth service schemes, training in veterinary services,

the arts, business management and savings; building of school hostels and early childhood centres; food security initiatives through backyard gardens, among others.



### Water Intervention

When Adams took office, there were persistent problem of rural water supply in Groot-Aub, Hond-Ingaan, Satanslocht, Kransneus, Bloukrans Primary School and Autabib.

“Today, we can proudly boast that boreholes have been drilled at Bloukrans, Hond-Ingaan, Diepsloot, Satanslocht and Kransneus in the 2021-2022 financial year (FY),” beamed the Constituency Councillor.



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He said that for the 2022/23 FY, Hamis, Opdam, and IIGarutes have been identified for water interventions, but IIGarutes already has a completed borehole. , business management and savings; building of school hostels and early childhood centres; food security initiatives through backyard gardens, among others.

**Sanitation, solar energy, greenhouse schemes, gardening, resettlement, rural development funding, and more.**

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Piet Adams, Regional Councillor of the Windhoek Rural Constituency, which is the biggest in land size among the ten constituencies of Khomas Region, revealed this recently during a community meeting at Groot Aub, where he presented his report since taking over the Constituency office in 2020.

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# 'ZANUFICATION OF THE ECN'

**Elections Amendment Bill - centralization of power, threat to opposition**

**Swakopmund - Namibia is following in the footsteps of Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) with fervent attempts to centralize and expand the national government's power.**



Leader and Chief-Change Campaigner of the Landless People's Movement, Bernadus Swartbooi, made these remarks in reaction to the newly proposed Electoral Amendment Bill, which is still under scrutiny by all political parties.

"Proposals to change laws are never neutral - they come from a particular position and you must question where it comes from. It comes from somewhere on its way to achieve something."

Leader and Chief-Change Campaigner of the Landless People's Movement, Bernadus Swartbooi, made these remarks in reaction to the newly proposed Electoral Amendment Bill, which is still under scrutiny by all political parties.



In particular, he strongly disapproved the proposal that "declaration of assets and liabilities" by political parties must be submitted to the Auditor-General's Office and not the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN).

"It's very interesting that the Auditor-General Act would allow the Head of State to investigate political party instances other than state-owned enterprises (SOEs), authorities or regional councils for any financial scrutiny," he voiced out.

Swartbooi said that if such a proposal is passed, it would give the Namibian President a lot of power and turn the Auditor-General's office into a depository of certain information of political parties, thus, through the Auditor-General's office harass political parties.

The LPM leader also rejected the Commission's proposed amendment for all power to be vested in the President in the removal of a commissioner from office without the approval of the National Assembly.

Currently, members to the Commission are nominated by a selection committee and the names are recommended to the President with the approval of the National Assembly.

Also, the Electoral Bill specifies that the Committee must recommend to the President to remove the member from office, a move which must also be approved by the National Assembly.

However, the amendment to the Bill proposes that the Committee must approve that the President remove without the approval of the National Assembly.

"We see the centralization of power in the Presidency. If a commissioner has to be quietly removed by the Head of State, they can now dictate what a commissioner must do or be removed. This while the appointing authority (National Assembly) that was part of the process becomes irrelevant," Swartbooi argued.

He added that in quasi-democracies such as Namibia, you can expect anything to be done when the Executive arm of government wants to take total control of the ECN.

"This is what other countries have done when they are about to lose power



Adding to the discontent about the proposed electoral amendments, Ivan Skrywer, LPM’s political czar and Windhoek City councilor, said that the LPM would come up with a position paper in this regard as electoral process is central to our democracy.

“We need to engage on this Bill. We want to see their ulterior motives because some of these amendments are very critical,” he said.

Skrywer opposed the amendment proposing that the Commission can extend any term of office for the Chief Electoral Officer at expiry for successive periods of time as it may determine.



In the past, the Chief Electoral Officer held office for a term of five years and while he or she was eligible for reappointment at the end of the term, the position had to be advertised externally for others to also apply.

**“Successive periods of time (for reappointment) become problematic because it can keep the Chief Electoral Officer even for thirty years,” lamented the LPM political czar.**

Skrywer also protested the proposed scraping of the clause which states that the ECN is bound by the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and must inform the Commission of the African Union of scheduled elections or referenda in Namibia and invite the Commission to send an electoral observer mission to the election or referendum concerned.

“They (ECN) want to be independent from external interference of government, but the problem is that this (above) clause is created by the African Charter and we are bound by the African Charter. If we do away with this clause, who will keep the Commission (ECN) accountable?” asked Skrywer, saying that the ECN could invite their friends from undemocratic countries such as Zimbabwe to declare elections free and fair when it is not the case.

Another insertion in the proposed Electoral Amendment Bill (page 61), states that “If any error has occurred (in counting of votes casted) as a result from the wrongful application of the formula ..., the Commission may rectify any error in respect of the result concerned.”

Skrywer queried how the ECN would “rectify” an error and how the process would be monitored to make sure that there is transparency and independent observation, including political parties’ participation in the process.

One example is how the country’s electoral court annulled the results of the Hardap Region’s local authority elections because of irregularities and ordered fresh elections in February 2021.

The rerun took place in place at Koës, Aroab, Stampriet local authorities, as well as the Mariental Rural constituency.

Skrywer argued that had the clause not been in place, there would have been no court order for a rerun or for ECN to pay the cost.

The ECN was also ordered to pay each original participant in the disputed elections N\$50 000 in respect of the election for a member of the Hardap Regional Council and N\$25 000 in respect of elections for local authority councils (New Era, 15 February 2021).



Rejecting the insertion in the proposed Amendment Bill that the “Commission may rectify any error in respect of the result concerned”, Skrywer maintained that “this will be sidelining the courts to make the ruling of an election rerun.”

One good thing that comes out of the Bill is the proposal for ECNs absolute autonomy from government.

The proposed amendment states that the Commission must be “independent in the exercising of its powers and the performance of its functions not subject to the direction or control of any authority or any person”.

Submission for inputs and objections to the proposed Electoral Amendment Bill is 18 August 2022, after which a workshop would be held with the ECN and all stakeholders.



# MAYOR'S MICRO GARDEN GIVES TO THE VULNERABLE AT OUTJO

**OUTJO - The Mayor of Outjo, Johannes Bappelo, is hard at work to turn around the fortunes of the little town and its inhabitants of about 6,000 in the north-western part of Namibia, Kunene Region.**

Earlier this month, the Mayor handed over fresh produce to the vulnerable and needy from the first pick of a micro community garden he started since his inception as the principal head of the town council.

The Mayor initiated the community garden project with the aim of reducing poverty and enhancing food security for the vulnerable residents of the informal settlement in the town.

The garden, which is currently dependent on donations, was completed in April this year and is becoming self-sustainable through sales of produce.



Bappelo encouraged regional and local authority councillors to be innovative in bringing change to their communities.

“Through creativity and innovation, we can achieve a lot. We, at local structures, must not always rely on national leadership to give directives and avail funds to start projects, Bappelostressed, adding that it was important to must start our own initiatives to keep the work going in order to care for our communities.”

The Mayor has sourced funding to install irrigation lines at the garden as the two tanks currently being used will not be able maintain the micro garden when it expands over time.

Apart from that, the LPM Mayor has also embarked on an ongoing cleaning campaign, starting with the cemetery and the streets of Outjo and has also launched a social engagement event currently underway in the town.





# HARDAP COUNCILLORS PAY SECOND COURTESY VISIT TO THE ZAMBEZI

**KONGOLA -** The Kongola Constituency in the Zambezi Region turned orange last Tuesday, when Hardap Regional Councillor, Gershon Dausab, and Mariental Urban Regional Constituency Councillor, Petrus Esterhuizen, paid a courtesy visit to communities in the region.



Kongola is the westernmost constituency of the Zambezi Region and the largest by area.

It is the second trip that Dausab and Esterhuizen undertook to the north-eastern region this year to address members of the community, encouraging them to organise themselves in order to set up of structures in preparation for the 2024 elections.

LPM's Kongola constituency organiser, Linus Nahah hailed the commitment that two leaders have shown, that they are not only limited to their respective duty posts but also reaching out to other areas of the country.

He said that while the visit was unexpected, the turn-up and support from the community was exceptional as more people even arrived after the leaders had left.

"We have a very positive response from LPM members in Kongola," he beamed.

Nahah promised to spearhead a mobilisation and recruitment drive later this month in the constituency followed by a strategic meeting in Katima Mulilo in an effort to spread the same support and enthusiasm to other constituencies in the region.

On their last trip in February, the two councillors were welcomed to the Royal Palace of Chief Joseph Tembwe Mayuni.



# NAMIBIAN MEDIA OBJECTIVITY QUESTIONED **Is the press beyond reproach?**

We see politics of dissent emerging in the media where views of LPM, their activities and positive reinforcement in the communities are purposely omitted or suppressed by journalists in their stories.



The Landless People’s Movement (LPM) is aware of the rising challenges Namibian journalists face in the protection of their human rights to report without fear of intervention from government or through remotely controlled power structures.

The LPM is also conscious of how some State security and government officials have on numerous occasions displayed hostile behaviour towards journalists in their quest to tighten the grip on the media by acting annoyed, arrogant and suspicious towards journalists.

Moreover, the LPM has on record defended the rights of journalists to practice their trade without fear of intimidation, including pressures of losing their jobs as it has been the case at certain media houses where journalists were either fired or landed in trouble for saying or asking the “wrong” questions.

However, the media, as agents of power – sometimes referred to as the Fourth Estate, are not always paragons of virtue and ethics and act recklessly because of these powers they have that can weaken political democracy and pluralism in this country, if unchecked.

While it is expected of media houses and their journalists to be unbiased and objective in their reporting with no favour to external political interests, we have seen time and again examples of news stories being portrayed deceptively and deliberately against LPM leaders, their members and supporters.

There is a seeming increase in bias reporting, framing, distortion of truth with deliberate ignorance or masking of specific aspects of the truth by certain media houses.

A recent case in point, the resignation of one former member of LPM who ran to the media after he embezzled party money that he could not account for was blown out in the media, but when the same person lost the labour case, the story hardly made headlines.



The same journalist who broke the story was willing to listen to versions of gossipmongers, who fell out of favour with the LPM leadership, and resorted to defamation of character and mudslinging, while they clearly had no integrity as they were embarrassed to face the leadership and opted to evade them instead.

This trend was also seen during and after the 2020 Local Authority and Regional Council Elections where the use of “deceptive context” and “lie by omission” was commonplace among those specific media houses who have made it their business to discredit the LPM at any given opportunity

The LPM complained to the Editor of the specific media house about the particular journalist’s conduct, his flagrant ignorance of good media ethics by misrepresenting and extorting facts about the LPM and its leaders – about the use of own imagination and at best, fabrication, speculation and invented “sources” and sensationalism which is nothing else but lazy journalism

The media house never responded to our complaint.

Of late, there also seem to be a consensus among journalists of some media houses about an imagined hostility by the LPM towards the media, while in fact the hostility and animosity towards the LPM comes directly from these journalists.

We see politics of dissent emerging in the media where views of LPM, their activities and positive reinforcement in the communities are purposely omitted or suppressed by journalists in their stories.

Just this week (20 July 2022), our Youth Command Element Leader, Duminga Ndala announced that the LPM sponsored students in the regions it fully governs to the tune of N\$400 000 and a further N\$1.2 million has been set aside for tertiary education.

While other well-to-do media houses covered the story well, we were not surprised that the usual suspects (media houses) who only appear to spread stories of prejudice, misrepresentation and half-truths against the party snubbed the press conference and did not cover this very important social development issue.

Instead those media houses continued on their rampage with negative portrayal of the LPM Mayor at the City of Windhoek. We have hardly seen in the media the condemnation of police brutality and unbecoming conduct by the reservists’ police when the Mayor was unfairly arrested and humiliated by these unprofessional elements a month ago. We have also not seen the media, as is in their nature, roping in women and human rights groups to condemn that act.

However, the same cannot be said about certain political players whose ideas they seem to support and endorse. The salience (apparent importance) of their ideas are raised and ideologically subjective stances by the use of attributed materials to hide own (media house) ideological positioning are used to demonstrate apparent objectivity.

All too often, we wonder whether it is the overarching political agenda of the media houses or the journalist’s own political ambitions.



Media houses and their journalists do not operate in a social vacuum; they operate in close relationship to society, characterized by various mutual influences.

We see it in the way they explicitly or implicitly support one politician or party by setting the agenda through the topics they cover, the questions they ask, the "experts" on topics they quote, the angles they take and the tone of coverage in their stories.

We see the promotion of certain political agendas by exhibiting patterns of one-sided framing while weakening unsupported perceptions of other political leaders and their parties.

This is not our attempt to intervene with the rights and freedom of the media.

We understand the importance and role that the media play in holding government and other institutions accountable for wrongdoing through disclosure of information.

We also are cognizant of how the press empowers people, how it stands up against inequities that exist in our society to probe corruption, nepotism or failed government policies; we also celebrate press emancipation from official control and absence of government restraint.

But despite the main stream media pleading commitment to media ethics, we wonder if they have any iota of obligation to truth, discipline of verification, maintenance of independence from those they cover and their neutrality, balance and avoidance of bias.

We ask, "is the press beyond reproach when ethics are not adhered to, when there is a tendency to sensationalism, personalization (tabloidization), displacement and erosion of serious journalism with gossip to maximise profits?

We ask then, if the media, and rightfully so, can take government, politicians and other entities to task for misconduct, who are they not to be given a rap over the knuckles for misconduct and for nonconformity to media ethics?

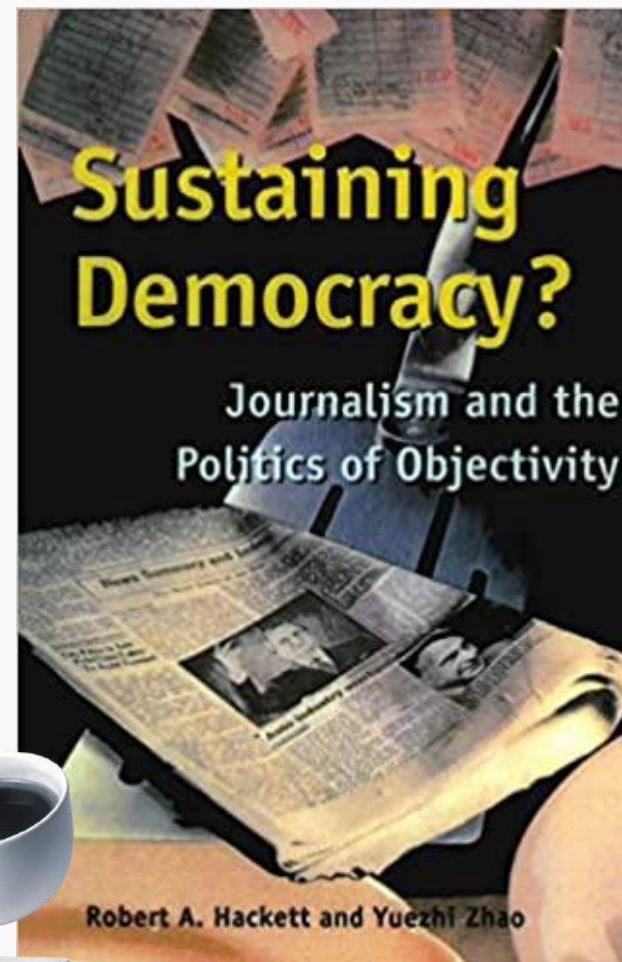
We equally agree with journalists about public officials' lack of transparency, accountability and the Access to Information Bill that has been dragged out to cover up government inefficiency, corruption and privileged hold on material resources and economic power.

But then media are not neutrally reflecting social consensus or change, nor channeling diverse views and interests into a meaningful collective debate. Instead theirs is a manipulative function - their constructions of reality are directed at individuals and political parties they do not favour.

They are mystifying the true nature of power and concealing the real inequalities and conflicts of consent, and ultimately legitimizing, sustaining and transferring the dominant ideology to a passive mass audience.

Based on these factors and others, dear Editors, dear Journalists, dear Media Houses, please take note that irresponsible reporting and self-serving journalists can also not go unchallenged by the LPM, especially when we clearly see their hidden agendas.

We ask that the Media Houses discourage lopsided nature of reporting which fails to focus on the relevant issues and reporting that appears to be target fixated and encourage the adoption of internal codes of conduct/ethics and internal supervision to develop standards in media coverage.



# TRIBUTE TO GOAB PMS KOOPER OF THE KAI //KHAUN BY BERNADUS SWARTBOOI, LEADER AND CHIEF-CHANGE CAMPAIGNER OF LPM



The Goas, Sons, Daughters, Grand-daughters, Family of the Late Goab,  
The entire bereaved family  
Hoachanas community,  
Fellow mourners  
Good evening,

## A LEADER GONE FOR THE AGES

The passing of a leader of the Red Nation is a sad and turbulent moment. It creates so many uncertainties. It brings about many doubts. It unsettles all normalities we know.

**Gaob Petrus Simon Moses Kooper** of the //Kai Khaun, and Chairperson of the Nama Traditional Leaders Association, was a man of purpose and passion. He was a family man. He was a loving character. And we therefore express our condolences to the widow, Mother Kooper, and the children and the entire family, for the loss of your husband, brother father and uncle. To the people and community of the Kai //Khaun, you have lost a great steward.

But, from your history as the Kai//Khaun, there is much evidence about great stewards that you have produced in both ages past, and times present. Manasse !Noreseb, Markus Kooper, from the past. Then PSM Kooper. There are some, like Francis Kooper, Meester Topnaar here, and then off course Gershon Dausab, the Regional Chairperson of the Hardap Regional Council, and so many others I have not mentioned.

Chief PSM was a leader of great consequence and his countless contributions to the struggle for the emancipation of his community, the Nama people, and the Namibian nation cannot be overstated.

The Landless People's Movement rank and file of the movement, are struck with a deep sense of grief and loss on his passing, and yet rejoice in the knowledge, that his teachings and vision will far outlive many generations, who will remember his work, his life and his essence.



He was brave, (and we would always check which colour shoes he would have on before he makes a statement-if they were red, there was fire!). He was firm and vocal on national issues and expressed his views with a sense of honesty, dignity, conscience and strength of character. He stood unshaken on his demands for restoration of past injustices committed by German colonial forces in Namibia during the 1904 to 1908 genocide.

### A WORTHY LEGACY

Alongside other great departed Chiefs of the Nama and Ovaherero, PSM will go down in history as a tenacious leader who stood his ground with exactitude.

### HOACHANAS: A POLITICAL CATALYST

Hoachanas holds a special place for the LPM. This is the birthplace of the Landless People's Movement. They say the heart of Hoachanas is orange! This is the place where hope and courage inspires. This could only be right, as the Kai-//Khaun people have a history of bravery since time immemorial, defending their land, livelihoods and people against the notorious German settlers and later the Afrikaner colonial regime. It is from this Nama group that the rest of the Nama tribes sprung up. It was therefore befitting that Chief Kooper, toward the end of his life, had the responsibility to lead the NTLA.

At Hoachanas, the Herero and the Nama signed a peace treaty, and this renewal of that legacy was initiated and consolidated by Chief Kooper with the Late Adv. Vekuii Rukoro, Ombara Tjitambi of the Ovaherero Nation, shortly before he passed on. Therefore, Hoachanas is a place of peace but of purpose.

### ON LAND AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Chief Kooper was able to reclaim two farms adjacent to Hoachanas in 1994 under government's expropriation programme. Hoachanas was later proclaimed a settlement area and a rural electrification scheme of the government came into being.

He started a brass band in his community and gave youths an opportunity to be part of recreational and educational programmes. He was very passionate about the preservation of customary law - the stability, tranquillity, peace and welfare among his community members.

### THE FIGHT FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Chief Kooper played a pivotal role in the return of human remains of the victims of genocide in 2011, our forbearers. There has since developed a deeper spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood that continues to exist between the affected communities of Nama and Ovaherero, giving hope and security for a united stance on restorative justice.

It is our hope that the Kai-//Khaun people will foster this unity and take up the baton where the late Chief left off and continue the fight for justice and reparations. It is also our prayer that the Kai-//Khaun people will remain united in this difficult hour and abide by their customary norms when handling chieftainship succession issues since it is an issue that has created division among Namibian communities.

This unity is vital, so that we can collectively answer the **second** enduring question of today - how do we as descendants of victims of genocide continue with the fight for reparations, **how do we ensure that the German government come to their senses regarding our demands as descendants of genocide?** It is not an easy path, but we are called upon to reflect and fulfil this fight for justice and reparation with all the might that we have.





We may never see the likes of Goab Kooper again but what is fulfilling is that he laid a strong foundation from which we can draw lessons and emulation. We remember how he strongly spoke at the eighth /Hai-/Khaua Festival at Berseba on the issue of land restitution and I quote:

“We are saying nothing else will enjoy our support because here we are, experiencing the results of the loss of rights over the land and resources forcefully taken away from our predecessors, and we are told that we have no claim for restitution because such claims will promote tribalism”

We shall continue to demand reparation and pass on the baton to future generations as long as the Namibian and German governments continue to decide our fate without direct involvement of the affected communities. As advocates of the reparation the onus is on us to amplify our course and to realise the vision of the likes such as that of the late Ombara Otjitambi Kuaima Riruako, Gaob Eduard Afrikaner, Gaob Dawid Frederick, Ombara Otjitambi Vekuii Rukoro, and Goab Kooper who has left us for the celestial world.

**FROM EGYPT TO EGYPT**

The first question is how to liberate ourselves from Egypt of today, which will facilitate the achievement of the second question on the genocide matter. Indeed and factually, after 32 years, lives and livelihoods of the vast majority of Namibians have not transformed for the better. Unemployment, inequality and poverty remain the most distinctive experience of Namibians from all over this country. A small group of elite have captured the state, the state resources and are kept protected by such institutions as the state intelligence services, the military and the police.

These persons, unashamedly gallivant in the street of this country as our freedom torch bearers. Without doubt therefore, it is correct to suggest that our “freedom is one marked by a trek from white Egypt to black Egypt.” The courage and the unity to move into Canaan must become our common struggle, for the longer we stay in Egypt, the total destruction of this nation will occur faster than we can imagine.

**WHAT TYPE OF REPUBLIC**

I am reminded of a little story, which is meant to express that old habits hardly perish. Once upon a time, the scorpion went to cross a major river in order to seek for new opportunities. As he came to the river he saw this river full, due to good rains it had over the past. He need help. He saw along the river-side was the frog, and he asked her for help. He said, Siros, toxoba hui te re. Please place me on your back and swim with me across the great river.

The frog said that just like your father, you will bite me on my back. And I will die. Scorpion says never, we need each other, our united effort is necessary to get me across. She reluctantly agreed. And as they reached the middle of the vast river, she felt a painful stinging sensation on her back. She screamed and said "you are biting me, and we agreed you would not!" Scorpion replies, "ooh sorry, I got so comfortable on your back that I forgot to let go of my old habits!" But the bite penetrated...the frog felt it...

The story ends there, and it is up to each one of us to interrogate how many times the scorpion of freedom, one Namibia one nation has bitten us on the back, and we kept on accepting the lies of the same scorpion for 32 years.

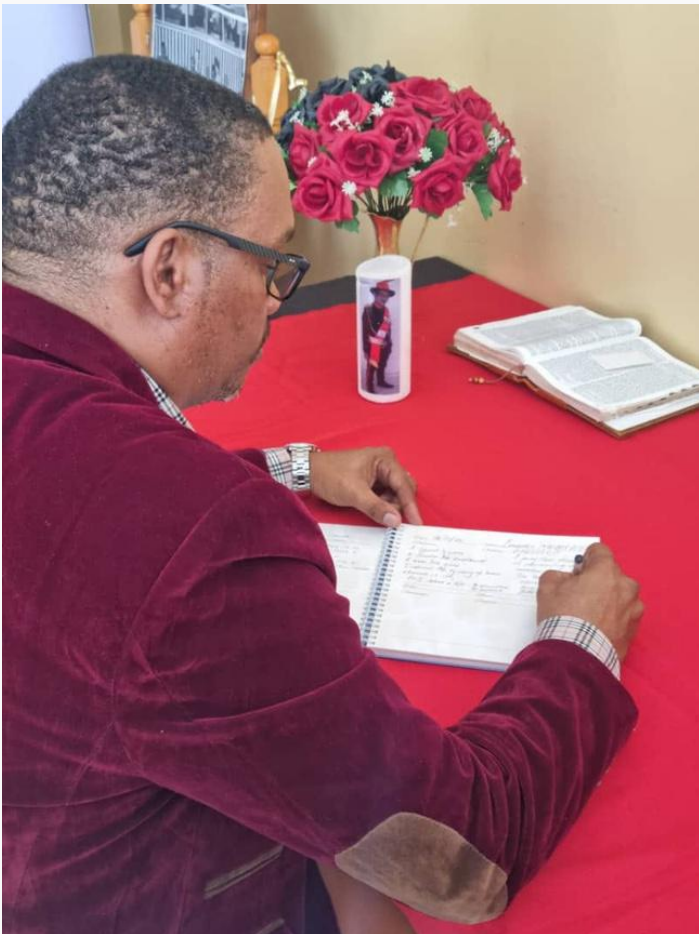
This above story further illustrates the Namibian state since German imperialism, Afrikaner apartheid and the black free government of 21st March 1990: All are the scorpions. Why do we trust the scorpion with our future.

As I conclude, I would like to share a scripture from the book of Psalms 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. May we be comforted that indeed God is our strength, and he will see us through during these times of distress.

May the decent soul of Gaob Kooper rest in eternal peace as he joins the ages and may the bereaved family, his wife, children, and grandchildren be comforted by his legacy.

**May God bless the spirit and memory of Chief Simon Petrus Kooper.**

**And may God bless you all!!**



# LPM SPONSORS VARIETY OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS TO STUDENTS IN REGIONS IT GOVERNS



In its efforts and mandate to promote Free Quality and Well-Resourced Education, the Landless People's Movement announced a sponsorship to the tune of N\$400 000 and set aside a further N\$1.2 million for tertiary education sponsored students in the regions that the LPM fully governs.

"The money was used to pay for registration and tuition fees of students in the regions that we govern through our regional councils," said Duminga Ndala, leader of the LPM Youth Command Element .

So far about N\$ 50 000 was spent on tuition fees for students registered with institutions of higher learning in Kharas region. The Kharas Regional Council also set aside N\$ 1.2 million for students in specialized fields of studies, while the Hardap Regional Council awarded its students an amount of N\$350 000 for further studies.

Ndala disclosed that the LPM Youth Command Element was currently also financing 5 students with their studies.

"This is a commendable step, and we hope that institutions such as NSFAP and other regional councils draw lessons from us and emulate this very kind gestures," she added.

## Unemployment and youth policies

The LPM youth leader moaned the prevailing triple challenges of unemployment, poverty, and inequality especially among young people which she said remains the biggest enemy to the economic emancipation of young people in Namibia.

"The high unemployment rate especially among people is not just numbers but an expression of the real conditions of the life our people are confronted with." Currently, youth unemployment stands at 41% and this could grow to 50% at the end of the year.

"This is a pandemic that we ought to deal with before it becomes a fully-fledged 'Youth Pandemic'."

According to Ndala, youth under-development under the changing conditions of technological and scientific innovations will see the African child lagging behind due to these global challenges.

"Thus, we implore government to prioritize and present pragmatic solutions for addressing Namibia's stunted technological and scientific innovation."

The LPM Youth Command Element is planning to launch 'The Comprehensive Integrated Youth Development Strategy' (IYDS) that will aim to enhance the ability of young people to access opportunities and to meaningfully participate in the broader economy.

Furthermore, the strategy is aimed at expanding the range of opportunities for young people in various sectors such as Sports, Education, Mining, Fishing, Tourism and Procurement.



The Integrated Youth Development Strategy will create a framework within which all youth related work can be coordinated and linked. All Ministries would be required to have budget solely dedicated to the youth.

The IYDS will further also supplement the National Youth Policy which was approved by the National Assembly.

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#### Learners sent back home

Furthermore, the Youth Command Element condemned the actions of the Principal of the Nalo Taapopi Secondary School in Okahao in Omusati region for denying learners access to the hostel because for failing to pay N\$150.

"The Namibian government says Education is a priority, not a privilege. But we say Education is not only a priority it is a Human Right," stressed Ndala, adding that children should not be punished for the destitution of their parents who have limited access to basic means of livelihoods, knowing that thousands of Namibians live in deplorable conditions.

"We are of the opinion that these actions by school headmasters are attempts to destroy and degenerate the academic career of the Namibian child. No child should be turned away from school based on unaffordability," she pointed out.

The LPM Youth Command Element has called on the Ministry of Basic Education and her Executive Director to intervene in this matter and ensure that such a thing does not repeat itself anywhere in our Namibian public schools.

#### Sports

The LPM Youth Command Element notes the inroads that our sports industry has been making and congratulated the national football team, the Brave Warriors, for reaching the finals of the COSAFA Cup.

"This was achieved without the necessary sporting facilities in the country and in the absence of a premier league. But true to their name, the Brave Warriors prevailed and made us proud."

The youth leader said that it was in this light that the LPM youth wing proposed to the Ministry of Youth to implement what we call a 'Athlete-Centered Approach System' for all sports personnel in the country.



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