

THE MANIFESTO OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA



VOTE RP!



MANIFESTO of The Republican Party of Namibia

The Republican Party of Namibia acknowledges God, the Trinity, as the Sovereign creator of the universe, who has entrusted to humanity the right and responsibility to rule over the affairs of the world.

Source: Founding Statement (Art. 2)

The Republican Party of Namibia believes that Namibia must be a nation in submission to the Almighty God. The Republic Party believes in a constitutional state that promotes Christian moral values and as such rejects the concept of Namibia as a secular state.

The Republican Party will strive to mobilize all Namibian citizens, regardless of race and ethnic origin, bound by common democratic values, to exercise their fundamental right of participation in all governmental institutions and processes in order to:

- Uphold the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia
- Strive tirelessly towards the achievement of freedom and equality and the eradication of all forms of corruption, suppression, unfair preference and nepotism.
- Promote improved human relations and national reconciliation
- Secure peace, security and stability by means of social, economic and human development.

Source: Program of Principles (Art 3)

Amendments to the Constitution

The RP will oppose any irresponsible and politically motivated amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia as well as any effort to infringe upon the fundamental rights enshrined in Chapter 3 of the Constitution.

Unemployment and Poverty

The Republican Party will strive to eradicate poverty and address the failure of the Swapo government to manage the unacceptable and ever increasing rate of unemployment among all sections of the population. The Republican Party shall apply all its efforts:

- To have a Ministry for Employment Creation & Poverty Reduction established, with employment creation units in all major centres across Namibia.
- To have a credible database developed country wide in order to determine the true level of poverty in rural as well as urban areas.
- To initiate, support and subsidize sustainable, labour intensive development projects throughout the country. This will be done in every town and village to stimulate economic growth by creating desperately needed jobs.
- To ensure preference to be given to the least developed and poorest regions i.e. Kavango, Caprivi and Karas regarding development projects, infrastructure development and provision of basic services like running water, electricity and sewerage reticulation to urban households and rural villages.
- To identify markets locally, regionally and internationally where the goods produced and manufactured at these projects can be sold;
- To ensure that preference be given to local companies in the awarding of government tenders and contracts.
- To encourage foreigners in any field of expertise, who want to transfer their skills to our people, to come to Namibia and assist us in empowering our people and by doing so strengthening our economy,
- To place an immediate embargo on the seemingly uncontrolled influx of Chinese and other internationals who do not make any contribution towards skills transfer and capacity building.
- To introduce tax- and other incentives for private companies and farmers, to encourage them to employ more workers.
- To ensure that Local and Regional authorities provide work for the informal sector through the execution of small, labour intensive projects.
- To have land and processing facilities provided in the areas where informal enterprises could contribute to urban agriculture.
- To establishment small and medium enterprises by revising and updating current outdated by-laws and regulations rather than suppressing initiatives.
- To have the Local authorities subsidize basic services like water and electricity of pensioners and those who prove that they cannot pay.

Housing

The Republican Party shall apply all its efforts:

- To ensure that Local and Regional Authorities speedily supply the demand for fully serviced (water, electricity and sewerage) erven and to make these erven available at the lowest possible prices for the low and medium income housing market.
- To ensure that Local and Regional Authorities introduce policies and regulations that will remove unnecessary red-tape and simplify the process of approving building plans.
- To ensure that financial and technical assistance be made available to local and regional authorities for the construction of affordable housing for the low income groups
- To develop a National Housing Development Program in conjunction with stakeholders in the public and private sector and to create a National Housing Fund allowing the poor and unemployed to be assisted.
- To develop an Employers' Assistance Scheme (EAS) that will partner with the Development Bank of Namibia to encourage private companies and employers to assist with the provision of affordable houses for their employees by giving either tax incentives or by providing loans at subsidized rates, as is currently the case with commercial farmers through the Agribank.
- To encourage property developers to provide houses at affordable prices, not only by subsidizing their labour cost, but also to introduce tax incentives for the developers.

Education and Training

80% of Namibians are said to be Christians, therefore the Republican Party will strive to have the entire Education System adapted to ensure that our education system is based on Christian principles with Christian Science as a subject and daily devotion to be instituted at all schools.

The Republican Party shall apply all its efforts:

- To involve all stakeholders in creating a more adequate Namibian education system. The consequence of the current system is resulting in inferior degrees, diplomas and certificates that is unacceptable and utterly frustrating.
- To ensure that learners are taught moral values and that they understand that they have to accept the responsibilities that are expected from citizens and future leaders of our country, such as self-reliance, self-confidence, curiosity, creativity and empowerment.
- To convince the authorities that more emphasis must be put on the teaching of mathematics, science, languages and history.
- To have more technical schools established for those learners who would prefer a more practically orientated education rather than a pure academic one.
- To make pre-primary free of charge and in case where the parents cannot afford it, to have primary education subsidized by government.
- To encourage the appointment of competent, well-trained, qualified and responsible school principals and teachers, able to manage their respective schools responsibly,
- To convince government to employ Namibia's own qualified and experienced teachers and other experts in education to draw up syllabi and avoid using costly foreign consultants.
- To have the current BETD-program reviewed and upgraded to be in line with the requirements of the SADC tertiary education institutions as this will facilitate a smooth transition for those who pursue further studies in the SADC region.
- To propose incentives that will encourage teachers to further their studies and obtain higher qualifications.
- To provide decent and affordable housing to the teachers in rural areas.
- To ensure that none of the Namibian education institutions will discriminate against any Namibian child wanting to attend pre-primary, primary, secondary, vocational, polytechnic and university education for whatever reason.

Land Reform & Resettlement

Land is a scarce, valuable and non-renewable natural resource. Land should not be seen as wealth in itself but rather as an instrument for wealth creation. National resources with special reference to mineral-, fishing resources and agricultural land must be utilized productively wisely and responsibly. Once the resource is destroyed it will result in the decrease of production, job opportunities and economic activity. Leaving all Namibians disadvantaged.

The Republican Party shall use all its efforts to:

- To assist in the compilation of a feasible and sustainable Land Reform Policy through public consultation with stakeholders including farm workers who are now being evicted from farms acquired by the government.
- To ensure that the land reform strategy is coherent, consistent and is done strictly in terms of the provisions/stipulations of the Namibian Constitution. At all instances it must be in the public interest, which according to our understanding means that it must benefit Namibia economically.
- To ensure that the policy will contribute to alleviating poverty and not aggravating it, for example resettled farmers should not be allowed to retrench any of the farm workers who used to work on the farm.
- To encourage the development of a sustainable program through which the government will provide the necessary technical assistance and training for beginner farmers, in cooperation with the Agricultural Unions and with their respective Farmers' Unions.
- To encourage the government to provide financial support to those beginner farmers who are not in possession of enough livestock, for them to utilize their farms optimally and to contribute to the economy of the country.
- To convince the Government that farms acquired for resettlement should be used for beginner farmers as the first step towards ownership of a farm and not as a dumping ground where beginner farmers are condemned to endless poverty.
- To encourage Government to have the damage done by resettled farmers restored as a first priority and to treat that land as a non-renewable natural resource.
- To ensure that the policy of willing buyer / willing seller is respected.
- To ensure that market related prices are paid for the land.
- To have the condition waived whereby commercial farmers who want to sell their farms, first have to offer their farms to the government. Those commercial farmers should be allowed to withdraw their offer to sell their farms, should the price offered by government not meet with the farmers expectations. It should be obvious by now that these conditions only resulted in the increase of farm prices, putting it beyond the ability of new beginner farmers to acquire land, even through the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme.
- To encourage commercial farmers in possession of excessive land to sell it to the government.
- To ensure that formerly disadvantaged persons who would like to become farmers, be selected very carefully on the basis of their potential and capacity to ensure that they could become productive farmers who will properly utilize the land allocated to them.
- To ensure that all allocated farming units which are not productively utilized or leased out illegally, be seized by the state, re-advertised and allocated to those who are serious and committed to use the land productively.
- To introduce policies through which the agricultural wealth of communal areas can be brought closer into the formal economy by rewarding protection of occupancy, security of investment and equitable infrastructural development.

Minority Groups

Although the Republican Party has accepted ethnicity as a fact that cannot be ignored, we will at no stage support the institutionalisation of ethnicity, or a government based on ethnicity.

We are seriously concerned about obvious discrimination against minority groups resulting in some groups finding themselves at a disadvantage when it comes to employment in the civil service, resettlement and development of communal areas. The Republican Party will not tolerate any discrimination especially when it comes to employment opportunities in Government Ministries and State Owned Enterprises, resettlement and land distribution.

Affirmative Action

The Republican Party fully supports the provision in our Constitution enabling Government to enact legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged. Unfortunately it was/is not done in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

The Swapo Government has based its Affirmative Action program on groups and ethnic differences, which without any doubt, has led to blatant discrimination on the basis of race, colour or ethnicity. It is no secret that the ruling party is hiding behind government's Affirmative Action policies to employ their own comrades and friends in positions for which they are not qualified.

The result is a Government littered with employees who are totally incompetent with the result that in many if not all ministries and State Owned Enterprises there is very little evidence of quality service delivery, but has only opened the door for large scale corruption.

- A Republican Party government will not allow any form of discrimination and will treat every Namibian purely on merit. We will do whatever is necessary to have the policy of Affirmative Action abolished as soon as possible.

Natural Resources

Natural resources form the basis of wealth-creation, wealth which could be shared by the entire population and more in particular by the poor and the needy. If natural resources are not utilized wisely and productively it could result in only a small percentage of the population benefiting, as is currently the situation.

Hundreds of thousands of Namibians depend on wealth created through the productive utilization of natural resources, but the majority of them are being negatively affected resulting in an increased level of unemployment.

Non-renewable natural resources such as minerals, fish, water and land are limited and irreplaceable and should be exploited responsibly and in the interests of the entire population. Handing out concessions to individuals on other grounds than merit will be robbing the Nation of these sources of wealth. The receiver of a fishing or mineral concession and/or mining licenses should not be the only beneficiary but the population at large should benefit from the responsible and economical exploitation of these resources.

- The Republican Party will therefore strive to promote sustainable, equitable and efficient use of Namibia's natural resources to improve its profitability.
- The Republican Party will also strive to convince the government not to allow local individuals and companies, who clearly do not have the resources, to be partnered with international companies in order for the international companies to obtain mining and fishing licenses. In cases like this we would encourage the government to take up a large percentage of shares and to utilize the profits generated to uplift the living conditions of the poor.

Corruption

Corruption is an evil and a sickness that has been allowed to root itself in Namibia and as long as it is evident, will continue to have a devastating impact on the social, economic and political development of the country. It is well-known that corruption thrives when decision-making is unclear and arbitrary, when there is a lack of accountability and where the Government fails to introduce effective and adequate control measures. Unfortunately Namibia's bad governance is putting the country in this dismal situation.

It is a pity that those who have expected to be liberated from oppression and poverty, the poor and unemployed, are particularly the ones who suffer most due to the high level of corruption.

The high level of corruption in Namibia has caused a lack of resources and thus caused the Swapo government to fail in ensuring that Namibia's resources are spent on activities and productive programs that would promote growth, such as primary education and basic health care, which promote economic growth. Such spending would benefit the poor and unemployed tremendously. Swapo is would rather be distracted by large procurement projects like the State House, Government office blocks, aircraft purchasing as well as arms and defence contracts

It has long been evident that elections in Namibia are not free and fair because the Swapo Government continuously tries to consolidate its political power and will do everything possible to reduce political competition. The result therefore is that political development has been distorted and delayed and transparency of political decision-making is being neglected.

The Republican Party has the political will to fight corruption and we will do whatever necessary to ensure:

- That the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACC) be allowed to, effectively and without interference, audit and monitor institutions and persons.
- That the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACC) be able to appoint non-corrupt policing and detective personnel
- That the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACC) has access to a non-corrupt judicial system, including the Minister and officials.

Persons with Disabilities, Vulnerable Children and Orphans

The Republican Party shall apply all its efforts:

- To create a Ministry that will exclusively deal with the plight of the person with disability, vulnerable children and orphans. To ensure that the persons with disabilities enjoy equal status and respect when it comes to the employment, sporting events, allocation of tenders, promotions, resettlement and housing acquisition.
- To ensure that the vulnerable children and the orphans receive free medical care, and education to be subsidized by the state.
- To ensure that government infrastructures are accessible to the persons with disabilities and to facilitate the organizations and associations of the people with disabilities.

Health

The Swapo government inherited an excellent health infrastructure at Independence, but allowed it to deteriorate to the point where our hospitals and theatres have become so dilapidated. It will cost millions to repair because it is obvious that very little, if any maintenance has been performed on state hospitals and hospital pharmacies are no longer stocked with the required medicines with the result that many patients, rather opt to go to private hospitals at great cost.

The Republican Party shall apply all its efforts:

- To ensure that all state hospitals and clinics be well maintained and properly equipped
- To ensure hospital- and clinic pharmacies are consistently equipped with the required medicine
- To ensure that priority is given to Namibian nurses and sisters to be employed and trained and for them to meet with international standards and be remunerated accordingly
- To ensure that those Namibians who cannot afford medical services (the poor, unemployed and pensioners) be subsidized by the government
- To ensure that only medical doctors, nurses and sisters be appointed who can properly speak the National language in order to be able to communicate with the patients and therefore make the correct diagnosis

Black Economic Empowerment

The Republican Party of Namibia wholeheartedly welcomes the economic empowerment of the previously disadvantaged fellow Namibians. The concept of Black Economic Empowerment was supposed to be a vehicle to economically empower the previously disadvantaged Namibians, but it has been proven to be deficient and elitist.

The current Black Economic Empowerment scheme did not actually seek to reduce poverty or to distribute resources equally among the economically disenfranchised sector of the Namibian society, but was an economic strategy aimed at creating a black capitalist class and not an anticipated black egalitarian society.

Despite its laudable intentions, BEE initiative failed to address the basic requirement of wealth redistribution amongst the nation as a whole.

The Republican Party has the political will to fight corruption and we will do whatever necessary to ensure:

- That the BEE includes the empowerment of all black citizens of Namibia, including the workers, women, the youth, people living with disabilities and those living in the rural areas and not only the middle class.
- That BEE addresses the expansion of enterprises so as to create more employment opportunities for the ordinary citizens, the workers and the rural communities.
- That BEE increases the number of competent and technically skilled black people who own and manage enterprises and productive assets, while enabling the ownership, control and management of enterprises and productive assets by black communities, workers, cooperatives and other collectives.
- That BEE charters and codes of good practice should be developed on consultative basis by stakeholders with the broader civil society formations and comply with the national policy.
- That communities and the civil society formations actively participate in the appointment of trustees and other aspects of administering and managing such empowerment scheme in the same capacity as shareholders of private companies.
- The BEE deals invest in the productive sectors of the Namibian economy and should be built around the development and reconstruction programmes of the country.
- The private sector should recognized their collective obligations and play a vital role to invest in the country and assist the national government in achieving development goals and should increase affords for real and effective empowerment.



DIE REPUBLIKEINSE PARTY VAN NAMIBIË

Die Republikeinse Party het sedert sy ontstaan sonder twyfel 'n verskil gemaak.

Die Republikeinse party staan steeds na dertig jaar onwrikbaar by die volgende beginsels:

Rassisme en kleurvoordeel moet met wortel en tak uitgeroei word, want solank as wat politieke leiers in hul besluite deur rassisme beïnvloed word sal hulle nie in staat wees om rasonale besluite te neem nie.

Goeie menseverhoudinge en respek vir menswaardigheid moet vir elke burger van ons mooi land 'n lewensideaal bly. Daarom staan die Republikeinse Party by die Groot Gebod: "Dat jy die Here jou God moet liefhê ... en jou naaste soos jouself." Dit beteken, volgens ons beskeie vertolking dat jy niks aan jou naaste moet doen wat jy nie wil hê dat jou naaste aan jou moet doen nie.

Etniese verskille is 'n gegewe faktor in ons samelewing en hoewel dit nie in ons grondwet geïnstusionaliseer is nie, sal die Republikeinse Party onverpoosd aandring op etniese verdraagsaamheid en regverdigheid.

Iemand wat arm, honger en siek is kan nooit werklik vry wees nie. Daarom moet ons land se natuurlike bates so aangewend word dat die ganse bevolking en nie net 'n bevoorregte minderheid daarby baat nie. In die verband herhaal ons die vergelyking wat ons party van die begin af gebruik het: "Moet nie die koei (natuurlike hulpbronne) slag nie, want die voordele sal kortstondig wees, maar voer eerder die koei (verantwoordelike benutting) want dan sal daar melk (langtermynvoordele) vir jou kinders wees. Almal kan nie ryk wees nie, maar almal is geregtig op 'n menswaardige bestaan.

Moenie steel nie en moenie doodslaan nie. Ons kinders moet dit van kleins af geleer word. Wette en wetstoepassers sal nie hierdie siekte kan uitwis as daar nie 'n verandering in morele waardes kom nie. Ons moet nie net die simptome dokter nie, maar ook die kiem uitroei.

Ons sal nie toelaat dat daar aan ons grondwet gepeuter word nie. Daar is reeds radikales wat selfs aan ons fundamentele regte wil toring.

Ons wil lojale burgers van ons land bly en nie ons eie nes bevuil nie. In 'n demokratiese bedeling gaan dit oor beginsels en beleid en nie oor persoonlikhede en karakterskending nie.

Stem vir die Republikeinse Party

en help ons so om hierdie beginsels en ideale te verwesenlik.
Daarvoor sê ons byvoorbaat dankie.

Henk Mudge

