



2009 ELECTION THEME:

SWANU CARES FOR THE PEOPLE



STATEMENT BY SWANU PRESIDENT USUTUAJE MAAMBERUA

Dear Country men and women

The political challenges as opposed to social and economic challenges that need to be tackled are many but political tolerance, national unity, promotion of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all *inter alia* need to be at the top list of our priorities. These challenges are recipe for peace, stability and tranquillity in Namibia.

SWANU would like to see the election to be free and fair and conducted in an atmosphere that is conducive and consistent with the principles on which

the democratic constitutional state of Namibia is established. Therefore, the following immediate issues must be addressed:

- a. Use of hate speech by party leaders must amount to sanctions of a party including disqualification from participating in the election, either for the individual making the hate speech, or the party as such.
- b. Currently, the critical issue is the allocation of air time to political parties by the NBC that is skewed and unequal. This is unconstitutional, therefore all participating parties must be given equal air allocation.
- c. The playing field must be levelled, by for instance party funding according to the number of votes and not according to the number of seats in parliament.
- d. There should not be no voting by use of Pencils.
- e. Ballot papers must be printed by another neutral company that is not linked to any political party. Therefore the contract (if any) with the Swapo linked company must be terminated forthwith.

In this respect SWANU is promoting political tolerance and is part of the ECN Political Liaison Committee (PLC) established for a purpose of harmonising or reconciling difference on electoral related matters. We are also educating our members in the best principles of democracy and political ethics.

Comradely yours

Usutuaije Maamberua, President of SWANU

ELECTION POLICIES AND POINTS:

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Democracy And Human Rights

On a scale it is relatively protected, but SWANU would like more to be done in this arena. In SWANU's view Democracy and Human Rights are intrinsically linked to Development. It is therefore important for Namibian society to be educationally developed in order to appreciate, value, internalise, inculcate and make democracy and human rights to become part and parcel of our political culture. SWANU is perturbed by the fact that contrary to the constitutional provision, the office of the Ombudsman which is supposed to protect our peoples right has shown a bit of

restraint as opposed to activism. Aggrieved members of the society can approach the competent courts to enforce their rights.

- a. SWANU proposes a bigger budget to the Legal Aid Directorate or rather elevate Directorate of Legal Aid to a Commission of Legal Aid parallel to Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN). This is precisely because justice like democracy and rule of law as per Article 1 of the Namibian Constitution are the principles on which the Namibian state is established.*
- b. SWANU proposes an office of Legal Parliamentary Commissioner to assist in the protection of rights since the Attorney General is partisan and more inclined towards the government of the day.*
- c. It is SWANU view that consolidation of democracy should start with intra- and inter party relations. Political consultative forums on issues of national sensitivity or extreme importance must be encouraged. These could include issues such as secessionism, natural calamities (droughts, floods, etc), deployment of troops in foreign countries for combat purposes, constitutional amendments, and so forth.*

Decentralisation And The Land Transformation

It is SWANU submission that decentralised services and functions must be taken to all rural and regional areas (where more than 70% of our population lives). Decentralisation must be matched by financial investment in the form of Marshall Plan in order to address the skewed, unequal distribution of resources to regions and rural-based people.

The desired outcomes that should emanate from decentralisation include:

- (i) Enhanced standards of living.*
- (ii) Visible changes in quality of education and health.*
- (iii) Retention of skilled personnel that hailed from those regions and/ or attraction of adequately qualified personnel to regions to curb the rural-urban migration.*
- (iv) Measurable improvements in agro-industrial and other economic activities in the regions.*
- (v) Total elimination in crimes and corruption in those areas (regions) as it is expected that security and police services must be part of decentralisation scheme.*
- (vi) Sustainable development as proxied by several indicators including, enhanced regional incomes from own resources and activities,*

number and quality of development projects, reduction in rural-urban migration.

It is SWANU view that the land was the central pillar of the struggle for liberation. In the Namibian context, some people were disposed, displaced and disadvantaged.

- a. The programme of land acquisition must be based on the number of people who need land and also when this is translated into number of families.*
- b. The acquisition must be assisted by benchmark tariffs that are set by farm regulatory bodies that should be established for that purpose. The benchmark tariffs must be based on Namibia agro-ecological zoning.*
- c. The land acquisition must be done in the public interest. Once acquisition has been achieved there should be resettlement criteria that are not ambiguous and do not favour those who have opportunities of buying farms through other schemes.*

Governance And Public Service Delivery

The public service since its inception in 1990 has not changed to proceed with new demands such as recruiting people who have attained highest qualifications. Even in few cases where highest qualifications are entertained, notches where are given do not commensurate and are not comparable with the investment made to secure those qualifications.

When calls were made to provide “jobs for comrades only” there was no single statement from Public Service Commission or the Office of the Prime Minister under which the Commission falls. Such moves whether implemented or not is against the Namibian Constitution that on the basis of the 1982 Constitutional Principles endeavoured to promote restructured and balanced society in the public service, police and defence force.

SWANU endeavours to maintain and improve the quality of public administration and public services in Namibia by:

- a. Recruiting in the public service on the basis relevant and adequate trained personnel.*
- b. Institute professionalism in the public service and observe high ethical morals and commitments.*
- c. Transform the public service into a structure that it is non-partisan, neutral, impartial and independent entity that is supposed to serve any government that is elected to power without fear or favour.*

- d. SWANU shall endeavour to reward civil servants salaries that are commensurate with the Namibian standard of living in order for them to be efficient, reliable, competent.
- e. SWANU is totally opposed to the imposition of SWAPO Election Manifesto on the civil servants as it is currently the practice. This document in its current form has no legal basis in the public service.
- f. SWANU is of the view that the continued application of Affirmative Action in the public service is not morally wrong but it is also subject to litigation if it continues unabated for many years without a time limit. The section of our born-free generation will be punished forever and it will not be fair in a country that is anchored on a principle of justice.

Our preliminary observation at the moment is that our people are indoctrinated with values of individualism that are contrary to the doctrine of African communalism. The economic system of mixed economy in which the pendulum is tilting more to capitalist economy is partly encouraging corrupt practices. . Corruption is enhanced by private greed at the expense of public pain. The current skew-ness in access to the national socio-economic opportunities and resources is encouraging corruption and shall be stopped.. SWANU shall:

- a. Introduce morals of caring, sharing, solidarity, comradeship in the society as antidote to greediness.
- b. Party we will do everything in our power to unearth the underlying causes of corruption.
- c. The legal system including the prisons and correctional services need to be strengthened and be made more responsive to anticipate corrupt practices.
- d. Governance and accountability institutions and instruments, such as Public Accounts Committee State Finance Act, Office of the Auditor General, Ombudsman shall be strengthened and or restricted.

Foreign Relations and Globalization

Namibia needs to respect the positions and views of sovereign governments and their people, and therefore maintain cordial bilateral and multilateral relations, it must also realise that it cannot be neutral in international affairs. Namibia should pursue agenda with other countries that will contribute to its economic, social and political developments while cognizant of the fact that its on existence is anchored on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. SWANU as matter of principle, would not have any problem if Namibia tries to influence other countries in SADC, AU and globally to act in line with provisions which are similar and/or closer to our own constitutional provisions and to enforce international conventions which are after all legally binding on us as a state once we have ratified them.

We need to redefine our relations in certain areas, such being clearer about our official position vis-à-vis Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people; our position regarding the reparations for the genocide because we cannot continue to receive the so-called technical aid (assistance) at the expense of compensation for our lost blood, assets and dignity at the hands colonial Germany. Our position regarding the African dictators that continue to enslave, impoverish, exploit, and violate the dignities of our fellow Africans will be made clearer as we can not tolerate that nor keep silent on such transgressions.

SWANU believes that Namibia should pursue:

- (i) Interest that will protect humanity.*
- (ii) Interest that will help bring about socio-economic and a dignified development and peace to Africa.*
- (iii) Interests that are of regional relevance for harmonization and mutual benefits.*
- (iv) Interests that will place the welfare of Namibia as nation above interest of individuals, clans, ethnic groups or regions.*
- (v) Interests that will aid Namibia and its people to prosper in socio-economic terms, have equal access to opportunities and take the fastest route to development in general.*

It should be clear that without government intervention” inequality due to private greed and inspection of the market the poor will remain poor. Therefore government must come quickly and urgently to the aid of the poor and indeed as country we must redefine the economic system we are pursuing because with this market economy system we have been pursuing since independence plight of the majority has worsened.

Government must realise that it has inherited a state that was colonised, and in which Apartheid was legalised It is therefore of paramount importance to recognise that the majority of our people have no shelter, food or clothing and therefore their well-being cannot and should not be left to the market forces to dictate. In the interest of the majority of our people, government must intervene to arrest the situation.

New interventions that we shall put in place immediately next year when we are in power include:

- (i) Increase in pension payouts.*
- (ii) Invest in rural projects.*

- (iii) Establish a Youth Unemployment and Job-Seeking Fund.*
- (iv) Write-off those exorbitant rural water bills.*
- (v) Assist the flood victims financially, materially including part assistance with housing construction materials.*
- (vi) Abolish Tertiary education fees for all students who cannot afford.*
- (vii) Restructure the foreign owned mining and marine industries to partner with general low-income and rural-based cooperatives(communities) in shareholdings.*

Economic And Social Development

It should facilitate enabling environment for the economy to create wealth and also be instrumental in the process of wealth distribution. Since the current economic policy is based on the principle of mixed economy the State can continue to own entities to be managed on the business principle and then to distribute the wealth back to the people.

When SWANU forms the Government next year, it will:

- a. Create opportunities at lower levels for those who did not pass their Grade 12 to gain hands-on skills experience at vocational and technical level. Efforts will also made to engage in value addition ventures for a purpose of increasing job opportunities.*
- b. Manufacturing industries will be on the agenda to boost employment opportunities. Since Namibia is a vast country, efforts will be made to engage in agricultural, mining, marine and industrial and technological projects.*
- c. The criteria for the BEE must first be the poorest of the poor, the most vulnerable, and most needy of our society. Then, rural communities and urban poor communities. Thereafter social development institutions such as public health and educational establishments, farming cooperatives, bursary schemes, social medical schemes, and so on. Individuals will come last when our GINI Co-efficient has reached a level nearer to zero.*
- d. SWANU government would give more money to the Development institutions like Development, Agri-Bank and NHE for the creation of manufacturing industries, housing and so on.*
- e. The budget for welfare services (education and health) would be restructured to allocate more for primary health care, pre-primary education and also increase to institutions of high learning, particularly towards research and technical areas.*

The current government has failed over the last twenty years to reduce poverty. Therefore SWANU once voted into power in order to eliminate NOT reduce poverty shall:

- (a) Introduce a universal health insurance for all Namibian people which is funded both by the private sector and public sector.*
- (b) There would be a 'Marshall Plan' in the form of Affirmative Action to invest more in the rural schools and those from formerly disadvantaged communities.*
- (c) Investment in manufacturing industries through partnerships and/or through government owned development institutions will be established to boost employment opportunities. Since Namibia is a vast country, substantive public investments will be made in agricultural projects and by so doing to increase their incomes and to retain people in the rural areas so as to reduce unemployment.*

Education

The playing field should be levelled at the entry level, which is pre-primary schooling. SWANU government shall fund this component. There shall be a 'Marshall Plan' in the form of Affirmative Action to invest more in the rural schools and those from formerly disadvantaged communities. Establishment of more vocational schools, polytechnics to cater for vocational and/or professional qualification will be top priorities:

- a. SWANU government shall introduce and/or put more emphasis on vocational/professional opportunities for purpose of encouraging people for the industries.*
- b. The mandate of the Polytechnic to produce more technical graduates as opposed to degree graduates will be strengthened.*
- c. The current situation of only producing less than 25% from close to 16 000 learners who write school leaving examination, dictates that we have less people who can go to Polytechnic and UNAM, hence the question arises as to whether it is not better to cater for lower levels who would then be production factory for higher levels (Poly and UNAM).*

Health

SWANU as a party that subscribes to socialism as an antidote to the prevailing situation that condemn our people to the street would like to see a universal health insurance for all Namibian people which is funded both by the private sector and public sector. Instead of having a system that breed inequality in the welfare sector

(health) where 84% of the population is uninsured (but only rely on the state subsidy) and 16% insured through government medical aid scheme and closed and open medical aid scheme:

- a. SWANU shall consider introducing Socialized Medicine.*
- b. SWANU government shall endeavour to increase salaries of health workers and make everything possible to retain them.*
- c. SWANU government shall invest more in the research of HIV/AIDS as a way of combating the disease. Since, the major transmission is through heterosexual activities, sex education will be promoted in schools. More educational programmes will be undertaken to promote the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and the importance of anti-retro viral medicine (ART).*

WHY VOTE FOR SWANU?

The Namibian voter should vote for SWANU because:

- A. SWANU being socialist, is the only party that instil caring, sharing, solidarity and comradeship as opposed to private greediness. Therefore under SWANU administration, education shall be free and compulsory, healthcare will be socialized and, youth unemployment Fund will be established.*
- B. It is the oldest Party in Namibia and has a track record of impeccable democratic credentials, therefore, it is the most democratic party that has clear policies and strategies that are aimed at directly addressing: Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality, by increasing pension schemes, writing-off rural water exorbitant debts, assist rural and poor communities to acquire shares in the mining and marine companies, assist flood victims financially, materials for housing construction, and so on.*
- C. It is the only political party in Namibia that undertakes to return the Land, Wealth and Dignity to the Namibian people immediately once voted into power. This by giving priority in land and wealth distribution to the poor and the needy.*

Give the LAND and WEALTH Back to the PEOPLE!!