

Swapo's Review of 2004 Manifesto Achievements

The Swapo party on April 19 2009 celebrated its 49th anniversary that was marked by a mass rally that drew thousands of its members and supporters. A day before the rally, the party organised a gala dinner and during that event President of the Party Hifikepunye Pohamba launched a report of the Review of the 2004 Swapo Party Election Manifesto. The manifesto is based on six pillars that include building a vibrant economy, education, infrastructure, building a socially just society, prudent fiscal management and strong productive sectors, and peace democracy and good governance.

The following outlines the achievements the party has made in the past five years.

1. Peace, Democracy and Good Governance

The SWAPO Party ushered in peace and democracy in Namibia and remains committed to strengthening these principles.

Below is an overview of the achievements during the period of the mandate in the areas of peace, democracy and good governance:

1.1 Peace

In the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, the Party committed itself to strengthening peace in the Caprivi region, and preserve, protect and promote diverse cultures to build a strong and vibrant nation. In addition, the Party made a commitment to actively participate in efforts aimed at bringing and maintaining peace and stability in SADC and beyond.

The Caprivi region remained peaceful and most of the refugees in Botswana were repatriated. As a strategy to meet Namibia's Safety and Security needs, the Ministry of Safety and Security was established for better coordination and enforcement of law and order. The new Ministry took over the mandate of prisons and correctional services; internal security and law and order. The key objective of the safety and security ministry is to ensure the internal security of Namibia and the maintenance of law and order; provision of safety, security and correctional services.

1.2 Maintaining Peace and Stability in SADC and beyond

During the period of the mandate, the Government actively fulfilled its international obligations towards the maintenance of international peace and security. This is demonstrated by Namibia's participation in several UN Peace Keeping and Peace Support Missions in countries such as Liberia.

Bilaterally, Namibia has forged excellent relations with several countries on Technical Cooperation and on Economic and Trade Cooperation. Agreements have been signed creating avenues for cooperation through Joint Permanent Commissions for Scientific, Trade, Economic and Cultural Cooperation, among others.

The country has also been playing her role within the SADC structures with the aim of promoting peace, regional integration and development. Namibia has thus been actively engaged in efforts towards promoting peace and security and sustainable social and economic development within the SADC region.

1.3 Democratic Elections

The SWAPO Party Government remains committed to upholding the Namibian Constitution, which is the cornerstone of the country's democracy. The basic law of the land contains a comprehensive guarantee of human rights and freedoms and obliges the State to strive for the welfare of the people. Namibia has, indeed, become a well-functioning democracy in a comparatively short time, with regular free and fair elections of national, regional and local councils being held since independence in 1990.

In the country's momentous trek towards nationhood, thousands of citizens voted in these elections and confidence in the credibility of the elections and their outcomes has virtually increased. It is through this process that the citizens are accorded a rightful and democratic opportunity to make their individual choices as to who should be given the responsibility to govern the country.

1.4 Governance

In line with the broad principles of strengthening the institutions of democratic governance, the Government plays a very decisive role in view of the fact that it is elected by the people and should serve them in the most diligent manner. Good governance as a concept or ideal would remain elusive if it is not guided by the relevant structures on the ground. Therefore, the Public Service is one of the focal points in creating the necessary conditions under which all the tenets of good governance flourish. Needless to say, a modern society cannot function without an effective public service.

1.5 Fight against Corruption

During the period of the mandate, the SWAPO Party Government enhanced accountability, transparency and reporting mechanisms, and enacted an anti-corruption law for countering corruption.

The establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission is provided for in the Anti-Corruption Commission Act. The Commission is an independent and impartial body consisting of a Director, a Deputy Director and other staff.

The Commission, among others, aims at receiving, initiating and investigating allegations of corruption; giving advice on preventing corruption; educating the public; and examining the systems of organisations to ensure that corruption is prevented. In performing these tasks, the Commission is obliged to cooperate with other authorities, including those of other countries.

The Anti-Corruption Act prohibits direct, indirect or attempted corruption; offering or receiving a bribe; using public resources for private gain; conspiring to commit a crime; the corrupt acceptance or giving of gratification to an agent; and bribery or giving

assistance in relation to contracts. The Act also prescribes punishment for conviction as a fine not exceeding N\$500,000 or a prison term not exceeding 25 years, or both.

1.6 Efficient Management of State-Owned Enterprises

In order to promote good corporate governance of Namibia's State-Owned Enterprises, relevant legislation establishing State-Owned Enterprises Governance Council was promulgated.

Furthermore, the Act provides for, amongst other things, the efficient governance of State-Owned Enterprises and the monitoring of their performance; the restructuring of State-Owned Enterprises and the establishment of State-Owned Enterprises;

1.7 Improved Policy Coordination

The system of reporting to Cabinet by the implementing offices, ministries and agencies (O/M/As) has now been strengthened. A reporting mechanism for bi-annual reporting on Cabinet decisions to enhance accountability and responsibility of the implementing offices, ministries and agencies has been established.

This enables Government to address the suitability of policy-making systems to secure intended outcomes and deliver value for money in designing and implementing policies.

1.8 Institution Building

In addition, a Performance Management System (PMS) has been put in place within offices, ministries and agencies. This measure has greatly assisted in the effective implementation of the SWAPO Party Manifesto, and other short, medium and long-term development plans. The system monitors, evaluates and reports on progress in achieving targeted results and progress in realising the goals of Vision 2030. Implementation of the PMS began during the period under review with a strategic planning roll-out to 75% of all offices, ministries and agencies. To this end, the Namibian Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) was established to facilitate the effective implementation of PMS and to provide in-job training to public servants.

1.9 Law and Order

The SWAPO Party Government continued to ensure access to equitable justice for all citizens, residents and visitors to the Republic of Namibia. In that connection, Government grants legal aid to those in need thereof. For instance, the Ministry of Justice disbursed a total of N\$7,000,000 in legal aid, for the Caprivi Treason Trial for the 2006/07 financial year.

The Government continues to ensure that the citizens have access to justice. This is reflected through, among others, the construction of the High Court building in Oshakati, which was completed in January 2009. In addition, several Magistrates' Courthouses have been built and others upgraded across the country.

The composition of the Judicial Service Commission has been broadened so as to reflect the interests of the greater majority of the citizens.

During the reporting period, the SWAPO Party Government availed the necessary resources to the Namibian Police to fight crime. Due to NAMPOL's efforts, the crime situation in the country is generally reported to have been under control throughout the period under review. Many operations were conducted, ranging from daily patrols in cities, towns, villages, settlements, highways and borders, to special operations targeting organised criminal syndicates, drug traffickers, illicit dealing in protected resources, motor vehicle theft gangs, stock theft, etc. At times, such operations were of a bilateral nature, involving the police forces and/or police services in other SADC countries.

1.10 Decentralisation & Development of Towns and Villages

During the period of the mandate, the SWAPO Party Government further enhanced the national policy on decentralisation that provides for the delegation of certain Central Government functions to the Regional and Local Authorities.

Substantial financial, technical and material resources were availed to the Regional and Local Authorities to strengthen their capacities in delivering services. A significant step in the process of decentralisation has been the adoption of the *Decentralisation Implementation Plan* in 2005, which paved the way for delegation of some functions from Central Government to the Regional Councils. Another milestone in the decentralisation process has been the increase in the budget allocation to regions, towns, and traditional authorities from N\$379 million in 2005 to N\$516 million in 2008. In addition, a whopping N\$1.3 billion was allocated as grants and subsidies to regions, towns and villages from 2005 to 2008.

2. Building a Socially Just Society

The Swapo-led government effectively carried out its commitment to social justice focusing on expanding opportunities for the people in all areas of human endeavour. These efforts have resulted in the provision of land for farming and resettlement purposes, housing, job opportunities, education, health services, safety and security, and access to water, electricity, telecommunications and transport infrastructure.

2.1 Land Reform

The Swapo party government has taken several steps during the period of the mandate to purchase farms to facilitate the process of making land available to the majority of Namibian people within the framework of the Constitution.

2.1.1 Accelerating Land Acquisition

It is clear that Government's move to acquire land and resettle landless Namibians is being realised considering the 21% increase in 2005/6 and the 47% increase in 2006/7.

Government bought 100 farms that were offered to it for sale, at an estimated cost of N\$127 million. In line with the Namibian Constitution the SWAPO Party Government expropriated five (5) farms measuring 780,198 ha.

The SWAPO Party Government had set a target to acquire 9 million ha. Added to this was another 6 million ha that would be provided through the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme (AALS) for previously disadvantaged Namibians. In addition, a total of 15 million ha was acquired for the benefit of 240,000 families in need of resettlement. The SWAPO Party Government's current target is to acquire 86,000 ha of farmland each year to resettle 72,000 families in the same period (for an average six-member family).

2.1.2 Enhancing Capacity of Resettled Farmers

In order to ensure appropriate training and capacity building to support resettled farmers, a total of 1,145 farmers benefited and received training in large and small stock management, crop production, animal health, financial management and farm mechanics. Similarly, 7, 000 families and 295 destitute and landless families were resettled during the period of the mandate.

2.1.3 Land Fund

Government allocated substantial financial resources to acquire land in commercial farming areas for resettlement purposes. In that respect, the allocation to the Land Fund increased from N\$50 million to N\$80 million per year. The Land Reform and Resettlement Programme has so far benefited to the tune of N\$325 million.

2.1.4 Identification of Virgin Land

Government intensified efforts to develop communal land by identifying virgin state land and making it available to communal land inhabitants. Thus government made available the following hectares of land: A total of 1 million ha in Kavango; 110 000 in Caprivi; 62, 100 ha in Ohangwena; 240, 000 in Omaheke; 820, 000 in Oshikoto; 450, 000 in Omusati; 43, 000 in Oshana. In addition, 82 small-scale farming units were surveyed in Caprivi, 457 in Kavango and 24 in Ohangwena.

Also, in order to enable resettled farmers to access water, 13 boreholes were drilled in small-scale farms in Kavango, 6 in Caprivi and 14 in Ohangwena. A total of 44 leases were granted to small-scale farmers in Gciriku, 19 in Shambyu, 44 in Ukwangali and 58 in Mbunza.

2.1.5 Main Valuation Roll on Commercial Agricultural Land

During the reporting period, the Main Valuation Roll on Commercial Agricultural Land was produced and approved by the Valuation Court. In addition, the Land Valuation and Taxation Regulations were amended and the Second General Valuation of commercial

agricultural land for land tax purposes was completed in 2007. An amount of N\$112 million has so far been collected through land tax.

2.2 Social Welfare and Safety Nets

The SWAPO Party Government believes in the promotion of welfare for all Namibians and especially care for the vulnerable groups within society.

2.2.1 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

Equally significant is the fact that Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) are being assisted in the form of foster parent and maintenance allowances. Approximately 107,000 grants have been paid annually since 2004, amounting to N\$450 million per annum.

2.2.2 Social Welfare Support Services

The SWAPO Party Government, in line with the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, strengthened Social Welfare Support Services to elderly and vulnerable communities. For instance, during the Financial Year 2007/2008 an amount of N\$659 million was spent on social grants. Moreover, old-age pensions were increased from N\$300 to N\$450 per month during 2008. With regard to working Namibians, there has been an improvement in their benefits.

2.2.3 San Development Programme (SDP)

In order to integrate the San communities into the mainstream of the country's economy, the SWAPO Party Government introduced the San Development Programme (SDP). The programme aims at uplifting the standard of living of the San communities, according them access to education, and creating employment opportunities for them. The SDP is deemed an essential element for the attainment of Vision 2030, and contributes towards Government's constitutional duty to serve all its citizens equally. Since the inception of the programme, the SWAPO Party Government appropriates some N\$300,000 a year for SDP, in addition to donor funding.

2.2.4 Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD)

In line with the SWAPO Party Government's commitment, the Government spearheaded the integrated early childhood development programme (IECD), which is being implemented in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders. Government provides the necessary technical and material support to regional offices and communities through an integrated approach and to ensure training in ECD.

The various activities implemented are financed from a variety of sources, including Government; the UNICEF-supported Young Children's Health, Care and Development Programme; and ETSIP. There are currently 2,386 ECD centres registered in the

country's 13 regions. Altogether 66,457 children (26,872 boys and 39,585 girls) are enrolled at these centres.

Government has also facilitated the enrolment of OVC in ECD centres during the period under review. As a result, 9,390 OVC (3,277 boys and 6,113 girls) have been enrolled.

3. Provision of Housing

Housing is a basic need and crucial to the realisation of Vision 2030, NDP3 and the Millennium Development Goals. Improving the living conditions of urban residents, especially those in informal settlements, by improving housing, security of tenure and access to water and sanitation, has produced positive results on the attainment of most goals, but especially on the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

In this respect, the SWAPO Party Government has created an environment that is conducive to the participation of all role players in respect of facilitating the process of providing affordable shelter for all Namibians, particularly the rural and urban poor.

3.1 Shack Dwellers' Federation of Namibia

Government also continues to support the Shack Dwellers' Federation of Namibia by way of an annual grant of N\$1 million with a view to address the housing needs of Namibia's poor communities. Community participation under the umbrella of the Shack Dwellers' Federation of Namibia has led to projects being completed on time and has promoted the concept of ownership.

3.2 National Housing Programme

The National Housing Programme encourages participation by women and about 52% of the beneficiaries are women. Through the programme, the SWAPO Party Government constructed 1,270 houses in 9 regions during the period under review, and provided basic services to 4,852 households.

3.3 Build-Together Housing Project

During the period of the mandate, and as a part of efforts to mobilise resources so as to fast track the construction of affordable houses in urban & rural areas, the SWAPO Party Government has allocated N\$165 million for the Build-Together Housing Project. In addition, 40 housing groups were organised and 7,333 houses constructed as part of the programme. The programme aims at providing serviced plots in towns, villages and settlements. Complementing SWAPO Party Government's efforts, the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) constructed 2,622 houses country wide.

4. Building a Healthy Nation

Primary Health Care continues to be the foundation of the SWAPO Party Government's national health system in line with the World Health Organization's primary health care approach, which emphasizes the following key principles:

- Equity in access to health services and allocation of resources;
- Community participation and involvement;
- Decentralized health care management, so that services can be tailored to the needs of communities.

4.1 Assisting People living with Disabilities

The Nationwide Orthopaedic Technical Services provided Orthopaedic appliances to people living with disabilities. The primary beneficiaries are 16,676 people living with disabilities. During the period 2002 - 2006, the number of recipients amounted to 15,791 (94.7%).

4.2 Combating HIV/AIDS

Namibia is one of the countries with high HIV prevalence rates. However, as a result of high level commitment by the SWAPO Party Government, there are positive trends in the course of the epidemic, as witnessed by the reduction in the national prevalence ratio, among pregnant mothers, from 22% in 2002 to 17.8% in 2008.

More encouraging is the reduction in prevalence among the youth: from a 15.2% prevalence rate in 2004 to an estimated rate of 10.6% among the 15-24 age group. Among the 15-19 years age group, a 50% reduction was recorded between 2004 (15%) and 2008 (5.1%). Namibia was one of only three African countries to meet the WHO 3-by-5 target at the end of 2005.

Currently, over 56,000 people are on Antiretroviral Therapy, representing about 70% coverage of people living with HIV/AIDS and in need of treatment. Over 70% of pregnant mothers are provided with a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis. The number of AIDS related deaths decreased from 9,200 per year in 2003 to 5,400 in 2007.

4.3 Malaria prevention

Significant progress has been made in the area of malaria control. For three consecutive years, Namibia has witnessed a drop in the number of malaria cases and deaths. In 2006 and 2007, the number of outpatient malaria cases dropped by 35% and 79% respectively.

4.4 Polio eradication

Another area where Namibia is making significant progress is on immunization, especially with regard to polio eradication. In 2008, Namibia was declared a polio-free

country by the African Region Certification Commission. This is a result of having achieved global surveillance standards.

4.5 Developing Capacity of Health Personnel

During the reporting period, a large number of medical staff entered the public health system. For example, in 2006, 19 doctors, 115 registered nurses and 287 enrolled nurses graduated and took up positions in the health system.

In 2007, seventeen (17) doctors, 137 registered nurses and 415 enrolled nurses graduated and entered the public health system in 2008. Meanwhile, fourteen (14) Namibian doctors have started with specialization training programmes, of which two have completed their training. Seventy-two (72) registered nurses were trained in Health Promotion Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment.

A total number of 948 nursing assistants went through the upgrading programme to become enrolled nurses.

5. Gender Equality

Gender mainstreaming is globally accepted as a strategy for promoting gender equality. The SWAPO Party Government committed itself to addressing gender disparities, and has made considerable efforts to achieve this effectively through the ratification and signing of international instruments, agreements and conventions to protect the rights of women and children, as well as to promote gender equality.

Women in Decision Making

In line with the commitment made in the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, the SWAPO Party Government has aggressively pursued the goal of increasing the number of women in decision-making.

Women's participation in politics at Parliament level has improved from 22% in 2000 to 28% in 2005. Women in Cabinet are at 25% and significant improvement has been made at local authority level, where women's representation is at 45%.

It is important to note that there are women in positions of Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Minister of Finance and the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council.

Table 1: Summary of women in decision-making positions at political level

Political body	Total	Male	Female	% female
National Assembly	78	57	21	26.9
Regional Council	102	89	13	12.7
Local authority	299	165	134	44.8
Total	478	310	168	35.0

Prevention of Violence against Women and Children

The Combating of Domestic Violence Act, no. 4 of 2003 and the Child Status Act, no. 6 of 2006 have been passed. The regulations for the implementation of the Child Status Act are being worked on and the Child Care and Protection Bill is being drafted.

A high level strategic Inter-Ministerial Committee on Domestic Violence and violence in general was established in 2002 to monitor and coordinate efforts to reduce the high level of violence. A National Conference on gender-based violence was subsequently organized and hosted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare in June 2007. Key resolutions to be implemented by relevant stakeholders were adopted.

It should be noted that effective combating of gender-based violence needs societal change of negative cultural norms and traditions and that encouragement is needed among progressive forces to promote such change. Between 2002 and 2006, 4,411 rape cases were recorded by NAMPOL Crime Unit as shown in the table below.

Namibia	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
TOTAL	763	861	915	931	941

Source: NAMPOL Crime Prevention Unit, 2002 - 2005.

6. Education and Training

In its 2004 Manifesto, the SWAPO Party emphasised the importance of human capital development in advancing Namibia's economic growth and development with equity and social progress.

In the past five years, the SWAPO Party Government, apart from making education and training a national priority for resource allocation, encouraged research and scientific analyses into the education sector's response to national requirement and labour market demand. This was done with a view to informing the overall review of the then existing national plans and strategies on human resource development and to subsequently feed into future national human resource plans and development plans such as the NDP3.

The achievements of the SWAPO Party Government should therefore be seen against its commitment in the 2004 manifesto, through which the Party undertook to address issues of inequities in terms of resources (human, physical and financial) allocation to educational services across the country; issues of inefficiency and wastage within the system due to poor quality of learning and teaching environment; issues of enhancing the use and application of technology to industrial development; and most of all, issues of access to quality education and training and improvement in managerial competencies.

6.1 Equity in Education

Per Capita Financing Policy for education and a formula for allocating resources to schools were approved by Cabinet in 2008 and financial provision made available for implementation during 2009/2010.

In addition, increased financial resources will flow to regions with higher poverty profiles, higher learner enrolment and long distances away from the national capital.

6.2 Efficiency and effective use of resources

- An expenditure strategy was developed for the education sector. Regional expenditures for education are in place and are used as tools for budgeting and financial management and control. Policy and programme planning has been linked to financial planning and budgeting processes. This is continuously informing prudence in programme costing, financial management and accountabilities;
- National standards and performance indicators were developed to be used as benchmarks for assessing schools performance and as indicators for targeting teacher in-service education and teacher professional support, as well as learner support. The standards have introduced three levels that our schools are now required to engage in. These are:
 - Self evaluation, which applies to individual teachers, learners and school management,
 - School Self Evaluation, which applies to how individuals within a school rate the performance of their schools against the quality indicators with regard to the school's performance against other schools.
 - National External School Evaluation, where a national team of professionals evaluates the schools based on the results of Self Evaluation and School Self Evaluation to establish the validity of their rating and recommend a series of actions to be undertaken to improve the school rating. With these standards in place, the Ministry of Education hopes that uniformity in terms of assessment, teaching and learning programmes, management and administration as well as

overall performance, will improve across our schools. This process started this year (2009) and it is to be carried out annually.

- School board and principal training programme developed and implemented to improve school leadership quality, financial and general management;
- Capacity building programme for managers is in place, and benefiting principals and subject teachers, inspectors of education and subject advisers.
- National Standards for the Teaching Profession have been developed and all providers of Teachers Education Preparation Programme are now being revamped in line with the new Standards. The consequence of this move is that teacher education programme providers who fail to meet the said standards will not qualify to have their programmes accredited by the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA). In this regard, colleges of education and the Faculty of Education at the University of Namibia are busy reforming their programmes in line with the Standards.

6.3 Enhancing use and application of technology to industrial development

The national policy on Information Communication Technology in Education (ICET) is in place, curriculum reform has been undertaken and implemented.

New subjects that have been introduced in the curriculum include:

- Design and Technology, which replaced the old Pre-Vocational subjects to allow for proper alignment with Vocational Education and Training subjects;
- Entrepreneurship Education, which replaced Business Management; and
- International Computer Driving License, which was brought in to reinforce Computer Studies, Keyboard and Word Processing, as well as Technology Integration.

6.4 Access to quality education & training

The SWAPO Party recognises that provision of quality education is critical to improving Namibia's human capital in order to enable citizens to engage in activities that produce wealth and improve their own livelihood. To demonstrate its commitment to improving the quality of education, the SWAPO Party Government spent a substantial amount of its resources on education and the country was ranked eighth out of 134 in the world in terms of education expenditure as per the 2008 World Economic Forum Report. SWAPO Party's commitment to and investment in making quality education accessible to Namibians of all ages has paid off in the last five years in that:

- Adult literacy is at 85% (2007) compared to 83.9% (2005), in line with the expectation of Millennium Development Goals of achieving 90% literacy by

2015. Family literacy, a concept with practice that links family to improving learner performance at school, was introduced to more than 100 rural schools;

- 97.4% (girls: 99.2%, boys: 95.7%) (2008) of all children between the age of 7 and 13 were in school compared to 93.6% (girls: 95.4; boys: 91.7%) (2005), on average;
- 16,093 (77.3%) of the 20,830 teachers in 2008 had more than 2 years teacher training compared to 13,360 (69.2%) of 19,304 in 2005. (Only about 35% of the teaching force had teacher qualifications by 1990).

6.5 School facilities

Capital investment in education has led to the construction of new physical facilities and improvement of the existing facilities (schools, hostels, classrooms, teacher housing and services, water, electricity, telephone services).

6.6 Vocational education & training

The National Vocational Education Training Act, which makes provision for the establishment of the Namibia Training Authority (NTA), was passed by Parliament. . The Act will empower the private sector to be actively involved in the design and development of the curriculum of Vocational Education and training, and in the identification of skills shortages. It will also guide the NTA in areas of focus as required by the industries. In this process close cooperation will be established in relation to apprenticeship and learnership across industries, including SMEs.

The SWAPO Party Government has successfully revised vocational education and introduced the Competency Based Education and Training (CBET). This is a modular based training that allows trainees to take modules that are related to their field of interest. It allows trainees to simultaneously acquire theory and practice and have unlimited exit and re-entry access.

With ETSIP reform, enrolment in Vocational Education and skills development has picked up from 4,741 (2007) to 5,733, while 1,673 students graduated between 2006 and 2008.

6.7 Tertiary education

Two national tertiary institutions, the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN) are more than 80% financed by the SWAPO Party Government at an annual budget of more than N\$300 million. Both institutions have capacity to offer and run academic courses and research.

Advancement has been made under the SWAPO Party leadership, on capital development at tertiary institutions in terms of expanding students' accommodation facilities, lecturing space, libraries and laboratory facilities. Considerable capital development/construction was undertaken under the SWAPO Party leadership, in terms of expanding students'

accommodation facilities, lecture halls at both UNAM (including the northern campus) and at the Polytechnic.

The UNAM Faculty of Engineering opened its doors to the first student intake in Ongwediva early this year; while a Steering Committee was established to steer the establishment of the UNAM School of Medicine. PoN continues to increase access to quality education and training services, completing and making accessible to students: the Engineering Block, Resource Centre/Library, Hotel School, Auditorium; see enrolment under access above. Programmes offered have grown from 20 (2001) to 70 (2006). Such programmes include 2 masters and 20 first-degree courses.

The majority of the students graduating from these institutions are loan financed by the Government through the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund, (NSFAF). A total of 1,118 NSFA financed graduates are recorded between 2005 and 2008 at certificate, diploma and degree levels.

Since labour market analysis reveals that between 96% and 98% Grade 12 graduates that have two or three years of tertiary training obtain employment, the SWAPO Party Government will continue to make resources available to ensure the demands of the labour market are met as envisaged in Vision 2030 and the NDP3.

The SWAPO Party Government will make available opportunities and resources to ensure a productive and competitive human resource is supplied to the labour market through consistent monitoring of the Education and Training Sector Improvement (ETSIP), whose fruits have already started to bear in (i) early childhood development and pre-primary education; (ii) general education; (iii) vocational education and training; (iv) tertiary education and training; (v) knowledge and innovation; (vi) information, adult and lifelong learning; and (vii) HIV and AIDS. Capacity building of managers and institutions are considered a backbone for this process.

6.8 National Youth Service Scheme (NYSS)

The SWAPO Party Government recognises the role the youth play in the process of economic development. As a result, the National Youth Service Scheme was established. The Scheme provides training, counselling and mentoring, and financial services support to the youth. During the reporting period, 1,086 youth were trained, 750 young people received loans to start up their businesses, and 1,100 jobs were created in the Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Omusati regions. The programme was rolled out to Kunene, Kavango, and Caprivi regions in 2008/9 and is being extended to Otjozondjupa, Omaheke and Khomas regions in 2009/10. This initiative was launched and piloted in May 2005.

The SWAPO Government has established the framework for the setting up of cultural villages in each of the 13 regions in the next five years. Budgetary provision has also been made to start with the first phase of this initiative.

7. Infrastructure

A well functioning infrastructure is critical for ensuring the effective performance of the economy, as it is an important factor for determining the location of economic activity and the kinds of activities or sectors that can develop in a particular economy. Namibia is now placed in 2nd position in Sub-Saharan Africa and ranked 33rd globally out of 134 countries as a country with the most developed infrastructure. Namibia's investments in infrastructure are yielding results, as the quality of the country's infrastructure is only comparable to that of developed countries, ranking neck-to-neck with the UK.

Infrastructure	UK	Namibia	Botswana	SA	Kenya
Quality of Overall Infrastructure	24	26	43	46	88
Quality of Roads	24	23	44	40	95
Quality of Railway	20	24	36	37	68
Quality of Port (<i>Turn around time</i>)	30	24	60	49	83
Quality of Air	27	50	97	25	68
Quality of Electricity	18	57	73	101	94
Telephone lines	8	99	97	91	121

Source: *Global Competitiveness Report, 2008*

7.1 Provision of Electricity

The SWAPO Party Government's electricity programme has ensured that electrification rates in Namibia were at 35% by 2005 for the entire country (urban 70% and rural 10%). According to the International Energy Agency, the electrification rate for sub-Saharan Africa as a whole is around 22.6%, far below Namibia's electrification rate of 35%. In 2008, Cabinet mandated NamPower and Namcor to develop the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project. As a result, the Government committed an amount of N\$750 million to this endeavour in the 2007/08 national budget.

NamPower has made progress towards the completion of feasibility studies for the construction of the 800-Megawatt Kudu Power Station, to be built outside Oranjemund. The Caprivi Link is under construction, connecting the Namibian electricity network with that of Zambia. When implemented, the link will make it possible for the Caprivi Region to receive electricity directly from Zambia's national power grid.

Namibia is also participating in the Western Corridor Initiative to exploit the huge potential of the Inga Rapids in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The aim is to build a hydropower station at Inga Rapids, which has a potential rated output of 39 000 Megawatts.

7.2 Provision of Water

Namibia is among the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, but through the intervention of the SWAPO Party Government the percentage of the population with access to safe water has increased substantially.

The rural water supply achieved 90.7% coverage by 2006, and urban water supply population coverage achieved was 98.4%, exceeding the promised targets. In addition, 138 boreholes were established and 81 new earth dams have been constructed.

In line with the decentralisation policy, 95% of regional rural water supply resources were decentralised to the Regional Councils during 2006. The aim is to achieve 100% decentralisation by 2010. Regional rural water supply development plans were developed for the Hardap, Karas, Kunene, Kavango, Erongo and Omaheke regions. In addition, a total of 2,391 Water Point Committees (WPCs) were established in 2006.

7.3 Desalination Plant

A feasibility study and environmental impact study have been completed by NamWater for the establishment of a desalination plant. Plans are at an advanced stage for the setting up of the plant.

7.4 Construction of Road Network Infrastructure

A highly developed and reliable road network is a pre-requisite for successful implementation of other national policies like primary education, reduction of child and maternal mortality and poverty reduction. The SWAPO Party Government promised to provide safe, secure, and effective road infrastructure over the 2004-2009 period.

The table below provides a summary of the construction of road network infrastructure:

2004 SWAPO Promises	Region	Achievements/ Progress
Kongola-Katima Mulio Road (118 km)	Caprivi	Completed in 2007
Katima Mulilo-Quarantine Camp	Caprivi	To be completed in 2009
Ngoma-Muyako Road (43 km)	Caprivi	To be completed in 2009
Kongola-Border Road (22 km)	Caprivi	To be completed in 2009
Okahandja-Karibib Road(118 km)	Erongo	To be completed in 2009
Mururani Gate-Rundu Road (140 km)	Kavango	Completed in 2005
Tondoro-Kamupupu Road (15 km)	Kavango	To be completed in 2009
Rupara-Muveve-Gcangu Road (12 km)	Kavango	To be completed in 2009
Mpungu Vlei-Katope Gravel Road (12 km)	Kavango	Completed in 2005

Nepara–Gava Gravel Road (16 km)	Kavango	Completed in 2005
Rundu–Elundu-Okongo Phase 1 (350 km)	Kavango - Ohangwena	Phase 2: To be completed in 2009
Mpungu Vlei-Katope Kavango	Kavango	Completed in 2006
Tsumeb–Tsintsabis–Katwitwi (180 km)	Oshikoto - Kavango	Ongoing: Completion date 2009
Aus–Rosh Pinah (168 km)	Karas	Completed in 2006
Opuwo-Omakange (56 km)	Kunene	Completed in 2007
Kamanjab–Omakange Phase 1 (104 km)	Kunene	Completed in 2007
Kamanjab–Omakange Phase 2 (104 km)	Kunene	Completion in 2009
Ekolanaambo-Ongha (27 km)	Oshana-Ohangwena	Completed in 2006
Ondobe-Omafo	Ohangwena	Completed in 2006
Gobabis–Drimiopsis Road (200 km)	Omaheke	To be completed in 2009
Epukiro–Eiseb–Gam Road (235 km)	Omaheke	Remaining 85 km to be completed 2009
Ekamba-Onkani road (46 km)	Omusati	Completed in 2006
Onesi-Olupaka (39 km)	Omusati	Completed in 2005
Gobabis-Otjinene (157 km)	Omusati	To be completed in 2009
Oshikuku-Okalongo (23 km)	Omusati	To be completed in 2009
Ogongo-Olutshiidi road (23 km)	Omusati	Completed in 2005
Outapi–Tsandi-Okahao upgrading (58 km)	Omusati	Completed in 2006
Onesi–Olupaka Road (39 km)	Omusati	Completed in 2005
Ondangwa–Oshikango (61 km)	Oshikoto	Completed in 2005
Onyaanya-Onnke road (38 km)	Oshikoto	Completed in 2006
Omuntele-onanke (46 km)	Oshikoto	Completed in 2006
Otavi-Tsumeb (60 km)	Oshikoto	Completed in 2007
Okahandja-Otjiwarongo	Otjozundjupa	Completed in 2005
Okahandja–Karibib Road Phase 1 (77 km)	Okahandja	To be completed in 2009
Ompundja-Eheke road (18 km)	Oshana	Completed in 2005
Eheke-Onakamwandi (27 km)	Oshana	Completed in 2006
Opoto-Omagongati road (10 km)	Oshana	To be completed in 2009
Okapya-Ohalushu (27 km)	Oshana-Ohangwena	Completed in 2006

7.5 Railway Construction and Rehabilitation Plans

The SWAPO Party Government initiated the Northern Railway Extension Project, with Phase I of the project from Tsumeb to Ondangwa covering 247 km completed in 2005. Phase II of the project from Ondangwa to Oshikango, covering 60 km, is being completed. Phase III of the project from Ondangwa to Oshakati, covering 30 km, will follow thereafter.

In addition to new railway construction, the SWAPO Party Government embarked on the rehabilitation of the Aus-Luderitz railway in the south of the country. In addition, a feasibility study has been completed on the extension of the Northern Railway Extension to the northeastern regions (Kavango and Caprivi) and the Cape Fria Harbour.

7.6 Development of Communication Network

The SWAPO Party Government believes that modern communication networks create an economic environment that stimulates growth in all sub-sectors of the economy. Such networks are an important element in facilitating integration of the domestic economy and its linkages with the rest of the world.

A project known as SCHOOLNET NAMIBIA was initiated. This is a partnership between Telecom and SCHOOLNET NAMIBIA to roll out and operate a wireless LAN network for schools and educational centres with the aim of connecting 500 schools in the northern regions.

The SWAPO Party Government remains committed to new developments such as e-Government, e-education, e-commerce, as well as web-based tourism and increased usage of Internet financial services. In that connection, the SWAPO Party Government has made e-governance a reality. The foundation has been laid for e-governance.

Communication Network: Key Performance Indicators

Telecommunications population coverage	93% population coverage
National Radio service coverage	96% coverage
Population with access to TV network	65%
Access to Postal Services	90% of the population

8. Building a Vibrant Economy

The Namibian economy was historically shaped by a highly profitable, but narrowly based, primary and secondary economy reliant on the production and export of minerals. Through implementation of the National Development Plans, the SWAPO Party Government ensured that an increasing number of people, living without opportunities,

are provided with basic services regardless of where they are currently located in the country.

The SWAPO Party Government's goal is, therefore, closely linked to the creation of employment and increased labour force participation in the economy. A stable and accessible financial service sector will help businesses expand and channel savings to where they are needed most. The SWAPO Party Government believes that a sustainable route out of poverty must include the ability to take advantage of income-generating opportunities.

8.1. Creating Jobs as a Priority

The SWAPO Party promised to create 136,000 jobs through Government infrastructure investment programme in roads, railways, schools, clinics and other Government initiatives.

In view of the afore-stated, the SWAPO Party Government achieved the following:

- Approximately 65,000 jobs (seasonal) were created from roads and railway construction;
- Approximately 15,000 jobs were created through construction of schools, hostels, clinics;
- 18,800 permanent and 71,000 temporary jobs were created in the tourism industry between 2004 and 2008 (source: World Travel and Tourism Council Report, 2008);
- More than 5000 jobs were created in both the Ministries of Defence and Safety and Security; and
- Other Government initiatives such as the National Youth Programme, San Project created more than 5,000 jobs

Total jobs created through direct Government investment programme over the past five years came to 17, 800 jobs, while jobs created by the private sector through Government initiated and sponsored projects was 20,200 jobs. A total of two hundred thousand (200 000) jobs were created between 2005 and 2009.

8.2. Promotion of Private Sector Investment

The SWAPO Party Government, over the past years, created a conducive environment for the private sector to thrive and attract foreign investors. Namibia ranks favourably in terms of various indicators for attracting investments. The table below shows that all systems are in place that protect investors in Namibia, with the World Bank giving Namibia a score of 5.3 higher than Sub-Saharan Africa and very close to OECD countries score of 5.8. Despite Namibia's cooperate at 35%, there are number of exemptions and

tax incentives given by Government to attract foreign investment. According to the 2008 World Bank on Doing Business Report, Namibia has the best tax regime with companies only effectively paying 25% of their profits compared to Sub-Sahara Africa and OECD where companies pay effectively 67% and 45% of their profits respectively.

Doing Business in Namibia			
	Namibia	Sub-Sahara Africa	OECD
Investor Protection Index (From 0–10)	5.3	4.3	5.8
Profit Tax (% of profit)	16.7	21.5	17.5
Other Taxes (%)	7.6	32	3.4
Total Tax Rate (% of profit)	25.3	66.7	45.3

8.3. Foreign Direct Investments in Namibia

The SWAPO Party promised to attract foreign investment into Namibia by offering a conducive investment environment, guaranteeing investors protection and a friendly tax regime.

A total of N\$54 billion was invested in the Namibian economy since 2004 as highlighted in the table below. Mining and manufacturing recorded the highest investment inflows, while the Government sector injected massive investments in infrastructure.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Mining & Quarrying (N\$ billion)	N\$1.7	N\$1.8	N\$3.8	N\$2.3	N\$2.7
Fishing (N\$ million)	N\$42	N\$104	N\$71	N\$162	N\$160
Agriculture (N\$ million)	N\$432	N\$464	N\$495	N\$540	N\$570
Manufacturing (N\$ million)	N\$833	N\$715	N\$1,100	N\$1,400	N\$1,300
Government (N\$ billion)	N\$1.2	N\$1.5	N\$2.0	N\$3.1	N\$2.7
Total Investment (N\$ billion)	N\$7.9	N\$8.8	N\$11.9	N\$12.7	N\$12.5

9. Prudent Fiscal Management & Strengthening Productive Sectors

One of the major achievements of the SWAPO Party Government has been the maintenance of macro-economic stability. Namibia has one of the highest savings rates in the world, ranking eight out of 134 countries. At the time of independence the economy was confronted by an unsustainable budget and current account deficits, high debt levels and high debt service costs, high inflation, low investor confidence, high interest rates, low levels of foreign reserves, low savings levels. Government made macro-economic balance and stability the main focus of economic policy for much of the first 10 years of independence.

The SWAPO Party promised to achieve macro-stability by end of 2009 and this was achieved as follows:

- Total public sector debt was managed down from 29.0% of GDP in March 2005 to below 19% in March 2008.
- Total Government budget deficit was managed down from 6.4% in March 2004 to a surplus of 4.7% in March 2008.
- Inflation was brought to a single digit number, and average of 4.7% during 2004 – 2007.
- In 1995, prime interest rates peaked at 26% and were managed down to 13.75% in February 2009.
- Namibia's total foreign reserves stood at two weeks of imports in 2000, and was increased to 4 months of imports by 2008.
- Revenue collections steadily increased from N\$9,767 billion in March 2004 to N\$20,689 billion in March 2008.

**all figures based on revised GDP*

9.1 Economic Sector Performance Review

In the context of the 2004 SWAPO manifesto, the SWAPO Party Government set out to achieve high economic growth by stimulating growth in different sectors of the economy. It emphasised the need to speed up restructuring of the economy in ways that build its capacity to grow faster, absorb more labour, ensure competition and innovation, increase exports and promote emergence and thriving of small and micro-enterprises.

The stabilising intervention created the space for a growth-oriented and redistributive stance with focus on micro-economic reform.

The Namibian economy performed satisfactorily over the period 2005-07, with real growth averaging 4.3 percent. The sector with the greatest contribution to growth was mining, with construction, transport and communication also performing strongly.

Agricultural Sector

Crops Sub-sector

Despite the fact that agriculture in Namibia is susceptible to unpredictable cyclical climatic change, the sector remains strategic and important to the country's economy. The sector does not only contribute significantly to the employment opportunities, but it also plays a role in the promotion of food security and the generation of foreign earnings through exports.

During the period under review, great strides were made in diversification of the sector in terms of products and exports. Several agronomic projects were developed by Government and the private sector in the Karas, Kavango, and Omusati regions. These agronomic projects have diversified crop production to such an extent that the country now produces and exports grapes, dates, potatoes, beans, butternuts, cabbage, chilli, gem squash, mangoes, onions, oranges, paw paw, pumpkin, sweet corn, sweet melon, tomatoes, and water melons.

It is also important to note that great efforts were made successfully for Namibia to reduce its dependence on imported basic foodstuffs. Through irrigation, Namibia's white maize production has increased by 27 000 tonnes between 2005 and 2008, resulting in the reduction of white maize imports over the same period by the same figure. Equally, the country's wheat production has also increased by 18,223 tonnes, resulting in equivalent reduction of wheat imports over the same period. With regard to Horticultural production, Namibia's market share has increased by 17.1% (39,817 tonnes) to 22.5% (46,636 tonnes) over the same period.

Of significance is the SWAPO Party Government's strategy to create strategic food reserves. To that effect, silos have been constructed in Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Okongo, and Omuthiya, while plans are underway to construct the Tsandi silo. The SWAPO Party Government has also recognized the importance of mahangu as a means of livelihood for the majority of the Namibian people, hence declared it a controlled product. Through this declaration, mahangu producers will be afforded an opportunity to market their surplus production.

The other notable development is the plan to construct cold storage facilities and marketing chains country-wide, in order to promote horticultural production.

Livestock Sub-sector

Livestock production continues to play a significant role in contributing to the GDP. The subsector generated more than N\$3 billion annually, most of which is attributable to foreign earnings. There has been a very significant penetration of foreign markets, which has contributed to the increased export of Namibian meat and meat products. These markets constitute mainly Norway, the EU, Angola and South Africa. Of late, there has also been a noticeable development of domestic and international marketing of game meat, which has the potential to significantly contribute to the country's meat exports. The SWAPO Party Government has continued to contribute to the further development of the sector through its investment in public health, which saw the provision of qualified public health inspectors to the processing facilities, as well as veterinary services. Advisory services have also been provided on SPS requirements for export markets.

Further efforts are being made to conclude market access agreements with the USA and China.

In order to promote job creation and better income through foreign earnings, the SWAPO Party Government has continued to place emphasis on processing and value addition to our products such as dairy and small stock. The private sector has taken up this opportunity and a number of processing facilities for both dairy and small stock currently exist in Karas, Hardap and Khomas regions

Integrated Grain Storage Project

As part of the SWAPO Party Government's programme to expand crop production and improve food security, the construction of community grain storage facilities at Kabbe, Kongola, Linyanti and Makanga have been completed. Modern storage facilities are being built in the Kavango and Ohangwena regions. A Silo Advisory Committee was established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and funding for the running and maintenance of the silos has been secured from donors.

Fisheries Sector

The Marine Resources Sector remains the second largest sector in the Namibian economy, after mining, in terms of export earnings. The sector accounted for 18% of total export of goods from Namibia in 2007. The final value has increased from N\$3.3 billion in 2004 to N\$4, 7 billion in 2007.

With respect to freshwater aquaculture, total investment from Government in the sector, during the period under review, is valued at N\$62,300,000. Achievements in the sector are signified by the establishment of infrastructure such as Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute, Epalela Fish Farm, Onavivi Inland Aquaculture Center, the Fish Feed Plant at Onavivi Inland Aquaculture Center and community-based freshwater fish farms in the Kavango and Caprivi regions, as well as the National Youth Service Aquaculture Development Programme.

Manufacturing Sector

The SWAPO Party believes that Namibia has a comparative advantage in natural resources endowments. These resources are still not fully explored, yet they offer great opportunities for further job creation, wealth creation and other economic benefits through local value addition. These are principally red meat, fish, diamonds, uranium oxide, gold, base metals and a whole range of mineral resources.

Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SME) Sector

To date, more than 41 business facilities have been developed across the country and are housing close to 500 SME businesses, including: four industrial parks, 24 SME business

parks, nine common facility centres (CFCs), four fully equipped slaughterhouses and butcheries. The existing business parks created over 7,275 (temporary) jobs during their construction and the businesses that they house employ over 3,727 people on a permanent basis. Over 57% of the entrepreneurs occupying these industrial premises are women.

Studies by NEPRU in 2004 and 2005 indicated that the average income of SMEs increased by approximately 21% during the period under review. The NEPRU study also revealed that about 90% of small businesses in the country are run and owned by previously disadvantaged Namibians, of which about 37.1% of the business owners are women. This finding is also supported by the information available at the Ministry of Trade & Industry, that almost 60% of the SME businesses that are leasing space at the business parks that the Ministry has constructed country-wide are women.

A NEPRU study indicated that the share of SME investment increased by 70%, and reached 8.54% of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation for the period covered by the study to 2005. The businesses that are operating from the Government-funded SME industrial parks employ close to 4,000 people, while the construction of these business infrastructures created over 7,000 (temporary) jobs.

Tourism Sector

In recognition of the potential that the tourism industry offers the country, the Government of Namibia has set out to develop this industry to its full potential in order to drive the sustainable development of the economy by creating more employment opportunities and reducing poverty. Over the past five years, considerable progress has been achieved in this regard.

An increased marketing effort of the country as a tourist destination has resulted in increasing numbers of visitors to Namibia over the past five years. This shows an accelerated rate of growth of more than 1 million arrivals a year. According to the tourism satellite account, in 2006, Travel and Tourism in Namibia contributed N\$1.8 billion (3.9%) to GDP directly, and N\$6.6 billion (14.2%) if the indirect contribution is also included.

According to the global Tourism Satellite Account of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), Namibia is now projected to become the second fastest growing tourism economy in the world over the next 10 years in terms of Direct Industry Contribution to the GDP.

A study by the World Travel and Tourism Council estimated that in 2006, tourism in Namibia accounted for 18,800 direct jobs, and 71,800 jobs through the broader tourism economy. This is a ratio of approximately 1:4 – meaning that for every direct job created in the tourism sector – an additional 3 jobs are created in the wider economy through increased demand in products and services.

Expansion of the Mining Sector

The SWAPO Party Government undertook initiatives to promote the expansion of the mining sector. These efforts have yielded excellent results with massive new investments recorded in the economy. These include re-opening of copper mines; significant international interest in Namibia's uranium resources; opening of Skorpion Zinc Mine.

In 2007, the mining industry injected N\$2.4 billion into fixed investment, contributing 19.4% of total fixed investment made into the country. Capital investment amounting to 47.6% was spent on machinery, vehicles and equipment; 32.4% on building and construction; and 20% on explorations.

Namibia is ranked sixth among uranium producing countries, producing 7.7% of the world uranium. During the review period, diamond exploration has intensified in the eastern parts of the Kavango Region and around Tsumkwe.

The Langer Heinrich Uranium Mine in the Erongo Region and Trekkopje Uranium Mine started operations. Another positive development in the mining sector is the fact that the life of Rössing Uranium Mine has been extended to 2016.

Mining: Key Performance Indicators & Projects (2005 to 2008)

Project name/ Actions	Location	Status/Progress
Mining Royalty Tax Introduced	Namibia	Implemented in 2005
Weatherly International Acquire Ongopolo	Tsumeb	Opened 2005 & Closed in 2009
Langer Heinrich	Erongo	Opened in 2007
Trekkopje Uranium Mine	Erongo	Project started 2008
Diamond exploration - 160 Prospecting Exploration Licenses (PEL)	Coastal area of Namibia as well as the Caprivi	Awarded May 2008
Uranium: 25 Exclusive Prospecting Licences issued	Namibia	Awarded May 2008

10. Conclusion

Through the decisive *vox populi* of the past elections, the SWAPO Party was mandated by the Namibian people to steer them to peace, progress and prosperity with equity, social justice and development. The present review of the achievements of the SWAPO Party Government during the period 2005 – 2009 has shown that the Government has made significant achievements in realising commitments made in the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto.

The review also shows that the SWAPO Party Government did not limit its programmes to the commitments made in the 2004 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto but also successfully focused its development agenda on overarching long-term goals of Vision 2030 strategy, national development plans and the Millennium Development Goals. In the process, the SWAPO Party Government governed in a way that optimises the security and welfare of Namibian citizens. Equally, the development agenda of the SWAPO Party Government was informed by the tenets of good governance such as democracy, accountability, transparency, honesty, commitment to service and partnership of relevant stakeholders in the governing process.

Therefore, as the SWAPO Party prepares itself for yet another decisive mandate from the populace during the forthcoming Presidential and National Assembly elections, the results of the past five years give the electorate an assurance that the SWAPO Party heeds the aspirations of the citizens in discharging its responsibilities. Furthermore, it shows that people's concerns are mirrored by the core Government agenda: peace, democracy, fighting crime, health, employment creation, access to services and sustained economic development.

Correcting social deficits built up over decades requires actions that go far beyond improving macro-economic indicators. Developmental policies were, therefore, oriented towards a human-centred, holistic development approach. Such a focus was considered essential for reducing inequities through investment in the provision of services, such as education, health, housing, sanitation, water, and infrastructure.

The SWAPO Party is proud of many success stories, but we face numerous conventional challenges that must be addressed. These include the continued need to address the land question, creation of jobs, countering the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and improving security. However, the SWAPO Party, along with all patriotic citizens, have the necessary will to meet the challenges of the future with confidence.