



Solidarity • Freedom • Justice

# President for all

By Asser Ntinda

Newly sworn in President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has promised to preserve the gains made so far since independence, while fast-tracking Namibia's unfinished agenda of economic and social advancement for all the people. She says she will be President for all Namibians.

"The mandate that the electorate gave the SWAPO Party under my leadership is clearly articulated in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto 2025-2030, the SWAPO Party Political Program and the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia," said the President on Saturday shortly after being sworn in at State House.

"Those will be my guiding instruments throughout my presidency, as I serve all the people of Namibia, regardless of their political affiliation."

President Nandi-Ndaitwah has been a passionate advocate for equality between men and women, believing that it is not good for society to underplay the role one segment of the population can play in the social, political and economic fabric of society.

In 1996, she was appointed Director General of Women Affairs in the Office of the President, a position she held with distinction until 2000. In 2000, she was appointed Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare. From 2005 to 2010, she was Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

She also served as Minister of Environment and Tourism until 2012, when she became Minister of Foreign Affairs, which has been renamed to International Relations and Cooperation.

In 2015, President Nandi-Ndaitwah was appointed Deputy Prime Minister while serving as Minister of International Relations and Cooperation at the same time. Following the death of President Hage Geingob in February last year, she became Namibia's Vice President.

In 2002, SWAPO took a bold decision to amend its Constitution to provide for 50-50 representation in leadership in all Party structures. This policy was also followed in the running of the government, which SWAPO leads.

"The results have been encouraging, as many women including myself have been occupying strategic positions in government," said the President.

"We all know that the equality between women and men and the empowerment of women is work in progress all over the world. However, in Namibia, we have made progress, but still, a lot remains to be done."



## 'Goodbye Namibians,' Mbumba



# 'Goodbye Namibians,' Mbumba

By Asser Ntinda

Outgoing President Nangolo Mbumba delivered his last emotional speech on Saturday at State House, as he handed over the instruments of power to incoming President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah -- the fifth smooth transition of leadership since independence.

Namibians celebrated their 35th independence anniversary last Saturday, which also coincided with the swearing in of Namibia's first female President, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"This is the day on which we witness one of Namibia's foremost daughters breaking through the ceiling. It has been a long time coming, it has been a long journey filled with trials and tribulations, but just as our struggle for independence, spearheaded by the gallant sons and daughters of Namibia, has paid dividends," said President Mbumba.

"Likewise, the struggle for gender justice, spearheaded by the brave women of Namibia and their allies across the international community, is playing dividends, as we await to swear-in our first female President of the Republic of Namibia."

President Mbumba said what the nation was celebrating today could not have been possible without the invaluable sacrifices made by brave Namibian men and women who sacrificed their lives to ensure that freedom and independence became a reality for all Namibians.

"Their blood waters the foundations of our democracy and it waters the pillars of



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah with outgoing President Nangolo Mbumba.

unity, liberty, and justice," said President Mbumba, as he also paid tributes to Founding President Sam Nujoma, Presidents Hifikepunye Pohamba and Hage Geingob.

"This triumvirate of revolutionary leaders has played a significant role in shaping Namibia and the destiny of its

people," said President Mbumba.

Saturday was also President Mbumba's last address to Namibians as President, to "say goodbye to you, the beautiful Namibian people as President. To say that my tenure has been eventful would be an understatement," said an emotional Mbumba.

"From my first day in office, to this moment, it feels like I never had a chance to catch my breath. Nevertheless, I would like to state that being President of the Republic of Namibia has been the greatest honour ever bestowed upon me."



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was the Guest of Honour.

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She said that having been elected as President of Namibia would encourage women from all walks of life to stand up to be counted.

"I was not elected because I am a woman, but on merit. That is to say as women, we should not ask to be elected to positions of responsibility because we are women, but because we are capable members of our societies to hold those positions," said President Nandi-Ndaitwah.

**The swearing in ceremony was attended by various heads of state and government such as Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, Tanzanian President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was the Guest of Honour, South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa, Kenyan President William Ruto, DRC President Félix Tshisekedi, and former South African President Jacob Zuma and many other dignitaries.**

# The chosen Team

**President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**

As I have indicated last year after the Presidential Elections, the people of Namibia gave me and the SWAPO Party an overwhelming mandate to govern our country for



**President**  
Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

the next five years.

The Namibian citizens voted for us because they have demonstrated their confidence in the promises that we have made in our Election Manifesto which is based on clear principles, namely “Unity

In Diversity: Natural Resources Beneficiation and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”. In order to realize our goals, we have developed the Implementation Plan which will be the Blueprint of the new Government. The implementation plan is a catalyst for economic growth and job creation through economic diversification while at the same time prioritizing human capital investment through education and youth empowerment.

Therefore, as elected leaders, we have an immense responsibility to ensure that we consolidate democracy, peace, stability and good governance in the country, as well as to expedite the delivery of quality public services to all Namibians.

Moreover, our Government is tasked to enhance food security in the country, improve the health of our people, deliver affordable housing, quality education and create job opportunities for thousands of unemployed Namibians.

Equally, we have to implement targeted interventions in the priority sectors of agriculture, mining, tourism, sports, creative industries, among others to accelerate the socioeconomic development of our country.

In accordance with Article 32 (3) (g) of the Namibian Constitution and guided by the Election Manifesto Implementation Plan, I have decided to establish, abolish some and make several alignments in various Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies in order to eradicate duplications, cutting on expenditures and to ensure smooth and effective implementation of our development programmes. I have also merged some Ministries and transfer some mandates to the Ministries where we can maximize outcomes:

1. The trade mandate has been transferred to the Ministry of International Relations and

Cooperation to ensure coordinated synergies in the implementation of our economic diplomacy, while at the same time promoting regional and continental economic integration and enhancing opportunities offered by the African Continental Free Trade Area.

2. Social grants will fall under the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises to improve effective delivery of social grants to the beneficiaries, while also removing bottlenecks in the distribution of these services to thousands of beneficiaries in all the fourteen regions of our country.

3. Fisheries and Marine Resources have been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to improve the management and sustainable development of our fisheries and aquatic resources for the benefit of our national economy.

4. Higher Education and Innovation will be placed under the Ministry of Education, Arts, Sport and Culture to enhance effective coordination and improvement of our education system.

5. Industrialization will migrate to the Ministry of Mines and Energy which is responsible for the management of our country’s mineral resources in order to ensure effective implementation of our national industrialization drive and

*The chosen on page 4*



**Vice President**  
Lucia Witbooi



**Prime Minister**  
Dr. Elijah Ngurare



**Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Mines and Energy**  
Natangwe Ithete



**Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs**  
Frans Kapofi



**Deputy Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs**  
Charles Mubita



**Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security**  
Lucia Iipumbu



**Ministry of International Relations and Trade**  
Selma Ashipala-Musavyi



**Deputy Minister of International Relations and Trade**  
Jenelly Matundu



**Ministry of Finance and Social Grants Management**  
Erica Shafudah



**Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Land Reform**  
Albert Hengari



**Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture**  
Sanet Steenkamp



**Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture**  
Dino Ballotti



**Ministry of Health and Social Services**  
Dr. Esperance Luvindao



**Deputy Minister of Industrialisation, Mines and Energy**  
Gaudentia Kröhne

					
<b>Ministry of Environment and Tourism</b>	<b>Ministry of Information and Communication Technology</b>	<b>Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare</b>	<b>Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare</b>	<b>Ministry of Works and Transport</b>	<b>Ministry of Urban and Rural Development</b>
Indileni Daniel	Emma Theofelus	Dr. Emma Kantema	Linda Bayoli	Veikko Nekundi	James Sankwasa

**The chosen** from page 3

economic diversification through value addition initiatives.

6. The Marginalized and Disability functions will be placed in the Office of the Vice President to improve national coordination.

7. Poverty eradication is a cross-cutting function. Therefore, all Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies will be required to put in place programmes that are aimed at eradicating poverty and accelerating socioeconomic development.

8. Labour relations will be transferred to the Ministry of Justice to ensure effective coordination of labour relations as well as the implementation of the labour legislation.

9. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has valuable immovable properties and assets in all the fourteen regions of our country. Therefore, a new public entity will be created to manage and take care of Government immovable properties

and assets.

10. The new emerging industries of oil and gas need to be managed in the manner that maximize benefits for all Namibians. Therefore, the management of these industries will fall under the Office of the President.

In view of the said alignment and re-organization of the Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies, the Executive will be constituted as follows:

- The President;
- Vice President;
- 1. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister;
- 2. Ministry of Defence and Veterans

			
<b>Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development</b>	<b>Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations</b>	<b>Attorney General</b>	<b>National Planning Commission</b>
Eveline Nawases Taeyele	Fillemon Wise Emmanuel	Festus Mbandeka	Dr. Kaire Mbuende

Affairs;

3. Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security,

4. Ministry of International Relations and Trade,

5. Ministry of Finance and Social Grants Management,

6. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform,

7. Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture,

8. Ministry of Health and Social Services,

9. Ministry of Industrialization, Mines and Energy,

10. Ministry of Environment and Tourism,

11. Ministry of Information and Communication Technology,

12. Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare,

13. Ministry of Works and Transport,

14. Ministry of Urban and Rural Development,

15. Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations;

16. Attorney General;

17. NPC; and

18. NCIS.



The new Cabinet pictured shortly after being sworn in. On the right is Chief Justice Peter Shivute.



# FLIP SIDE

## A Winning Nation is Passing By

By Chris Jacobie

The door is softly closing on the historic, significant, and eventful Mbumba presidency—the 4th in Namibia’s history—while the door to the future and promise of an equally historic 5th presidency under Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah is opening.

Even more historic is the nation itself, which has risen from the ruins and ashes of a 23-year war into a free, democratic, peaceful, stable, and confident Namibia. Soon, the nation will celebrate 35 years of independence and the inauguration of Dr. Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Namibia’s peace has endured far longer than the bloody trenches of war. Across the world, on the continent, and in the region, millions would trade places with even the poorest Namibian, if only for a day.

Namibians celebrate their success under the continuous, strong, and unwavering leadership of their past and present presidents: the Founding Father, the late Dr. Sam Nujoma; Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba; Dr. Hage Geingob; and Dr. Nangolo Mbumba.

The fragile roots of trust have grown into a mighty tree under whose shade all citizens have found a place—a testament to leaders who kept their word to each other, the world, and, most importantly, to democracy, the Constitution, the Parliament, and the judiciary.

Dr. Nandi-Ndaitwah earned the trust of the people through a lifetime of duty and service to her party, culminating in her receiving 53,000 more votes than SWAPO, the party she leads.

The difference in votes between her and SWAPO exceeds the total votes of twelve of the fourteen presidential candidates from other political parties. Her additional 53,000 votes surpass the total votes of thirteen contesting political parties, meaning her support beyond SWAPO alone would have made her backing the fourth-largest political force in the new Parliament.

These 53,000 additional votes also provide a solid foundation to mend internal party divisions. It is a remarkable achievement for any politician and a staggering confirmation of the broad, cross-party support Dr. Nandi-Ndaitwah has earned. It is a just and well-deserved reward from her party and leaders for her unwavering loyalty and dedication, now culminating in her ascension to the highest office.

Independence is a moment in the 35-year journey of unity and mutual tolerance that Namibia can use to appreciate, confirm, and respect the diversity of its sovereign community.

For this, President Mbumba deserves immense credit. After a challenging year that included the loss of two iconic leaders, a highly contested election, and legal battles, he kept his eyes on the horizon and his hand firmly on the rudder, steering the nation safely to calmer waters, where Namibia will continue its journey under Dr. Nandi-Ndaitwah.

There is likely no leader anywhere else who, like President Mbumba, could have so steadfastly guided a nation through these times. Though he is too humble to admit it, his calmness and statesmanship kept Namibia united despite the many crosswinds and unexpected challenges threatening to throw it off course.

Mbumba led the country through monumental grief when he had to take over from his friend and comrade, the late President Geingob, a revered Namibian and international statesman. He managed the challenges surrounding SWAPO’s presidential candidate, the elections during a period of global democratic uncertainty, a court challenge from political opponents, and the passing of the Founding President, Dr. Sam Nujoma.

At the same time, there is no one better than Dr. Nandi-Ndaitwah to rally the nation, dry its tears, and look with clear vision toward the future.

Yes, she is Namibia’s first female president, as well as the leader of SWAPO. But she is more than that. She is the 5th President of Namibia - elected by the people.

What self-proclaimed analysts in distant countries and out-of-touch elites fail to recognize is that they were wrong. From their high-rise offices in Windhoek or abroad, where their cellphones cost more than a worker’s car, they have lost touch with the Namibians tilling the fields and walking beaten footpaths in search of opportunity.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah is the President of Namibia. She is a national symbol. Just as she holds Namibia in her hands, so too must Namibians uphold her reputation and values.

She must be protected from political vultures and opportunists who will always be circling.

Namibia has a woman president not because she is a woman, but because she is a leader affirmed by her party and confirmed by thousands beyond it.

If Namibians cannot protect and support their first woman president, how can any woman or marginalized Namibian expect the nation to protect and promote their interests?

Namibians must celebrate their achievements while embracing the challenges ahead. The road to nationhood is never-ending and unwavering.



## Zoom In

By: Asser Ntinda



*“If I tried to read, much less answer, all the criticism made of me, this office would have to be closed for all other business. I do the best I know how, the very best I can. And I mean to keep doing this, down to the very end. If the end brings me out all wrong, ten angels swearing I had been right would make no difference. If the end brings me out all right, then what is said against me now will not amount to anything.”*

Abraham Lincoln

Mee Netumbo, your bumpy journey to State House fits well into those words by Abraham Lincoln. Your journey has not been smooth sailing. So many dirty things have been thrown at you. But if you stopped to answer and address each of them, you couldn’t have been where you are today. That is leadership, for which we are proud of you as a nation.

On 21st March 2025, Namibians ushered you into State House from where you must plot strategies to solve the many challenges the country faces: biting unemployment and its concomitance of poverty and socio-economic inequities, especially among the youth, a pathetic healthcare system, quality-dropping education standards, nauseating corruption, and many others. These problems require urgent and bold measures to stem the tide, certainly not overnight, but people must see that the new broom is sweeping well. For them, seeing results means reviving their dashed hopes and retrieving their shredded trust.

This doesn’t mean we haven’t done well since independence. We have. There is no denying that SWAPO has been the driving force for change in this country. We started with a budget of N\$2.5 billion in 1990. Today, our budget stands at N\$100.1 billion. At independence, SWAPO formulated policies and adopted a comprehensive legislative agenda designed to heal the wounds of apartheid injustice. We scrapped many racist laws and policies and replaced them with laws that defend and protect our people’s hard-won civil liberties. School enrollment has shot up. Scores of hospitals and clinics have been built. Considerable investment has been made to ensure widespread provision of clean water and electricity to communities in the country. Irrigation schemes have mushroomed to diversify crop farming.

We have passed laws designed to ensure responsible management and sustainable use of our fisheries. Until everything was reversed by the Fishrot scandal in 2019. Things have not been well since then. And SWAPO’s popularity has dropped badly. True, we have two Cabinet ministers and their accomplices behind bars waiting for their day in court. But that has not been enough to regain the public’s trust. To date, that scandal still stinks and follows us like a bad smell. In 2019, SWAPO lost 14 seats and its revered two-thirds majority. Last year, SWAPO lost 12 seats. These are bad signs. We need firm leadership to clean up the mess. Your anti-corruption stance has inspired and rallied many people behind you. You have their firm support. Reversing those losses is possible, with your firm leadership. You have promised the nation a passionate and caring leadership that is action-oriented. Namibians take you at your word when you say: “Corruption is the cancer that eats away at the very fabric of our developmental efforts and initiatives as a nation. We must fight against it. Simply stated, under my leadership, any individual who involves themselves in acts of corruption will face the full wrath of the law, and this will be done without prejudice.”

Prepare your double-edged sword -- to bring back SWAPO to its former self as a glorious former liberation movement that brought about Namibia’s independence in 1990 and set in motion a comprehensive economic agenda that transformed and changed the lives of many people; and vigorously implement SWAPO’s 2025-2030 Election Manifesto for SWAPO to regain the trust of the people. All is not lost. We know and trust that you will honour your commitments. As you have said on many occasions, it will not be business as usual. Actions speak louder than words.

Mee Netumbo, it is your turn and time to lead. Make a difference in the lives of our people to prove wrong those who doubted you in the first place. Lead from the front, in form, and content. The nation awaits positive results. This is so that when your tour of duty comes to an end, Namibians will, with pride and joy, say this is our best leader who has been long in coming. The ball is in your court. The business of a leader is to give hope where there is despair, turn weakness into strength, obstacles into stepping stones, and disaster into triumph. Hit the ground running.

# VP Netumbo's rocky road to State House!

By Asser Ntinda

When President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah writes her autobiography one day, the most interesting chapter in that book, and most likely the longest, will be about her rocky and bumpy road to Plot Number One — the State House. And none will be the best person to it sign off than her husband, the always cool-headed and composed retired Lt General Epaphras Ndenga Ndaitwah.

They will no doubt thank the heavens and the moons which have been by their side in good and bad stormy weathers. The Gods will certainly not be crazy when they say, "Here you are. Mission accomplished." And the gates of State House flung open.

It all began in 2017, when former President Hage Geingob included her in his slate as his preferred candidate for the Vice President of SWAPO at the November ordinary congress that year. Geingob's unexpected slate caused uproars within the SWAPO leadership. It birthed two camps — Team Harambee and Team SWAPO.

The campaigns that preceded the 2017 November Congress were bruising, and the political skirmishes nasty. Throughout her campaign, though, VP Netumbo displayed a unique character unseen in her before — she never mounted personal attacks on those who challenged her. She simply spoke about what she would do if she were elected. She was challenged by Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana and Helmut Angula, while Jerry Ekandjo and Nahas Angula challenged President Hage Geingob in the presidency race. Netumbo won hands down. She got 552 votes, Iivula-Ithana 194, and Helmut 20. President Geingob, too, won with 577 votes, Ekandjo 153, and Nahas Angula 39. It ended in tears. In the end, President Geingob fired Ekandjo and Iivula-Ithana as Cabinet ministers in February 2020. Things have never been the same ever since.

The VP position is the most sought-after position in SWAPO. It is a stepping stone to the Presidency of the country and of the SWAPO Party, especially when the sitting President is serving his second last term as laid down in the Constitution of Namibia. Fast-forward to the November 2022 ordinary congress, and the same battle lines emerged again, this time with different actors, except VP Netumbo.

The race for the VP was tense once again, because whoever emerged as VP would automatically be the Party's presidential candidate in the 2024 November Presidential and National Assembly elections, to succeed President Geingob who was barred from running as a presidential candidate. He was serving his second last term.

In 2017, Geingob popped up with his slate and campaigned heavily to ensure all his preferred candidates emerged victorious. In November 2022, however, he retreated behind the scene, saying that he was not "backing" anyone. Three contenders threw their hats in the ring to challenge VP Netumbo. They were Prime



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Environment Minister Pohamba Shifeta, and Defence Minister Frans Kapofi. Kapofi was later talked into withdrawing behind the scenes by a powerful no-nonsense SWAPO stalwart. He perfectly understood and withdrew before the congress, a move that apparently displeased President Geingob.

VP Netumbo put her war room in place and did what she always does best — organize and mobilize to win, leaving no loose ends hanging. On her side was the combative SG Shaningwa. When the results were announced, she won hands down. She garnered 491 votes, Kuugongelwa-Amadhila 270, and Shifeta 91. About 700 delegates attended the congress. VP Netumbo resoundingly won without the backing of the President. "I this it was good because nobody would come around and claim that she won because the President backed her," says one Politburo member.

It was game over. Or so many people thought, until President Geingob shocked all and sundry that VP Netumbo would only become a presidential candidate if she won again at an "extraordinary congress." VP Netumbo later said she was not aware of an extraordinary congress. President Geingob, too, later backtracked on the extraordinary congress.

But once whispered, the wind takes over. Some SWAPO senior leaders started calling for an extraordinary congress to "elect a presidential candidate," arguing that the ordinary congress did not elect a presidential candidate but the Vice President. They wanted an extraordinary congress to elect a presidential candidate. This call went against the SWAPO Rules

VP Netumbo on page 7





SWAPO Party Secretary General Cde Sophia Shanigwa.

provide evidence to prove irregularities they cited in their applications. The Supreme Court also ruled that President Nangolo Mbumba did not act illegally and wrongly when he extended the voting dates. That judgment cleared once and for all VP Netumbo's journey to State House.

It has not been smooth sailing. VP Netumbo has survived many court battles and political upheavals from within and without SWAPO to become Namibia's first female President. It's easy to fight against your defined political opponents, but to successfully ward off political skirmishes mounted against you by your "trusted" comrades within the Party, makes tragic reading.

It's over now. VP Netumbo has been sworn in as Namibia's fifth President. Shipwikeneni and his four accomplices are now left to pick up the pieces and pay the bills. Hopefully, those who were urging them on behind the scenes will be forthcoming to help settle the bills. And it's not small money.

They say, as a man makes his bed, so too must he lie. Being a puppet on someone's strings is one of the worst thankless jobs in the world, as Shipwikeneni will later learn this year. You break your back, squander your reputation, and suffer the humiliation, only to be abandoned and discarded like an expired credit card. These cases will ruin him financially. And he will have himself alone to blame. The Gods have really been crazy with him.

In the words of SG Shanigwa, "Shipwikeneni is a destructive, divisive, and mischievous character. He politically thrives on propagating lies and misinformation on or about the Party's leadership. He naively and cynically believes that an insult-based public discourse is part of the constitutionally protected fundamental freedom of expression. In fact, he is a muckraking politician with a misguided obsession with searching out dirt against prominent leaders of the Party."

SG Shanigwa couldn't have said it better. Let him clean up his political mess.

**VP Netumbo** from page 6

and Procedures for electing office-bearers. Rule 53 states that the President of the Party shall automatically be the Party candidate to the presidency of the country. Where such Party President is barred by the Namibian Constitution to be a presidential candidate on account of having served two terms as President of the country, the Vice President shall automatically be the candidate for the Presidency of the country.

Despite that clarity in black and white, VP Netumbo's legitimacy was being questioned, even by those who should know better. So intense and dirty were the anti-Netumbo campaigns that the Politburo and the Central Committee tasked VP Netumbo and Secretary General Shanigwa, to visit all the regions in 2023 to convey to Party members and Namibians at large the outcome of the 2022 November Congress, and that she was the official SWAPO presidential candidate in the November 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections. She captured the imagination of the nation. It was almost laid to rest.

But then, the sudden passing on of President Geingob in February last year renewed intense calls for the extraordinary congress once again, this time not to elect a presidential candidate anymore but to elect President Geingob's successor. Some senior leaders saw an opportunity to throw in their hats and upset VP Netumbo's chances. Some even said it should be reserved for "men" only. If she wanted to contest, she should first resign as Vice President. The calls lingered on, but no extraordinary congress ever took place.

After President Geingob was laid to rest, SWAPO SG Shanigwa explained that the circumstances under which SWAPO had found itself could not allow for an extraordinary congress. She said since the Party already had a presidential candidate for the November elections, held a

congress in November 2022, and seeing that the Party would soon brace itself for an expensive election campaign in 2024, there was no need for an extraordinary congress as financial and logistical resources would not allow until after the November elections. In March last year, the Central Committee decided to hold the extraordinary congress in April this year, after the elections.

Five SWAPO members, Reinhold Shipwikeneni, Petrus Shituula, Joshua Martins, Erich Shivute and Aina Kalimba Angula, didn't take that kindly. They took SWAPO to court, asking the High Court to order SWAPO to hold the extraordinary congress within three months as stipulated in the Party's Constitution. But their application missed the urgency deadline they sought as it was

filed late. That case, and several others on this same issue, is still on. The five are now embarrassingly busy withdrawing it because the extraordinary congress had already taken place where VP Netumbo was unanimously elected as SWAPO President to complete the unfinished term of the late President Geingob.

But others were not yet done with VP Netumbo. After the November Presidential and National Assembly elections, which SWAPO and VP Netumbo won convincingly, the Independent Patriots for Change, IPC, and the Landless People's Movement, LPM, challenged the election results and approached both the High Court and the Supreme Court to have the results nullified and set aside. The Supreme Court dismissed the application last month as the applicants failed to



Chief Justice Peter Shivute looks on as President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah signs the Oath of Office.



*Presidents Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Samia Suluhu Hassan.*



*President Samia Suluhu Hassan delivers her speech at State House as Guest of Honour.*



*President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah receives symbols of power.*



*Presidents Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Duma Gideon Boko*



*Presidents Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Cyril Ramaphosa*





President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah with outgoing President Nangolo Mbumba.



Presidents Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Félix Tshisekedi.



South African former President Jacob Zuma with Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema.



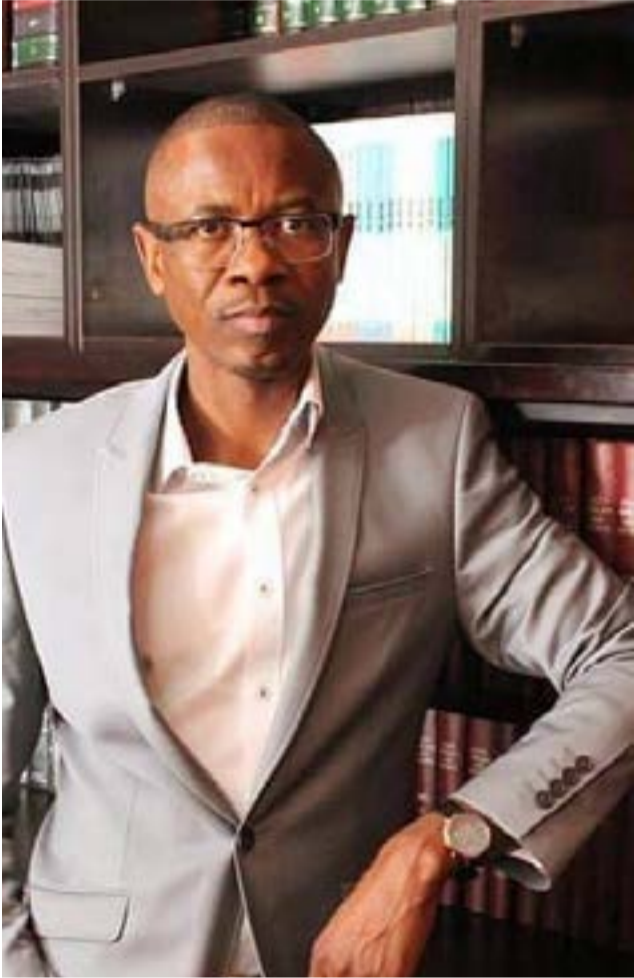
Presidents Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and William Ruto



Presidents Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Hakainde Hichilema.

# Namandje slams NBC

## Windhoek Observer, over sensational reporting



Sisa Namandje



Joseph Nakalemo



Tim Ekandjo

### By Staff Reporter

Lawyer Sisa Namandje has slammed the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, and a weekly online newspaper, The Windhoek Observer, for publishing what he calls a sensational report based on a published complaint by a “mentally unstable individual” without background check, investigation, and without an opportunity for him to respond.

This followed a complaint launched against Namandje by Joseph Nakalemo with the Law Society of Namibia, LSN, to have Namandje suspended as a legal practitioner and subsequently face “maximum” disciplinary investigation by the LSN linked to 10 different cases.

In his affidavit to the Law Society, Nakalemo alleged that Namandje should face suspension and disciplinary investigation for his “unethical, dishonest, and dishonourable conducts of fraud, perjuries and obstructing the course of justice” with his client Tim Ekandjo from Mobile Telecommunications Company, MTC.

Nakalemo further claimed that the two

committed perjuries before court and tampered with evidence, which he claimed were criminal offenses.

Nakalemo further alleged that Namandje and Ekandjo had “recruited innocent people” to do dirty things against him. The two have also allegedly conspired with the Namibia Defence Force, NDF, and the Namibian Police, NAMPOL, to have him “assassinated,” with the involvement of NAMPOL’s Inspector General, Lt General Joseph Shikongo, whom he alleged was also a “gangster.”

Namandje told the two media houses that they were downright wrong to publish a sensational report by a “mentally unstable individual” without giving him a right to be heard.

“The purported complaint has no merit whatsoever. It will inevitably be dismissed in a summary fashion. It is a nasty attempt to intimidate lawyers by a disgruntled and demented litigant after losing cases in court,” said Namandje.

“He had, in the past, filed purported complaints against two or three other lawyers, something you have not reported on. He has also filed non-meritorious

complaints against two judges of the High Court.”

Namandje said that although Ekandjo was his law firm’s client, his case was being dealt with by his juniors, and no by him.

“Surprisingly,” Namandje said, “your report targets me instead of our award-winning firm. Moreover, had you properly considered the relevant court records before you published your sensational story, you would have found that the case in the High Court in which we are representing a client is largely being handled by my junior colleagues, yet your obsession with my name got the better of you.”

Nakalemo had alleged in the past that Ekandjo was involved in a huge corruption scandal at MTC involving N\$1,25 billion. Acting as Ekandjo’s legal practitioners, Namandje’s firm instituted summons against Nakalemo.

After he entered a notice to defend, Namandje said Nakalemo started a smear campaign against judges, lawyers, the Inspector General, and many others. He lost his other case against Ekandjo, and the judgment on that was available.

“We are one of the most gutsiest and most audacious law firms in Namibia. We are slavishly loyal to our clients. We do not shy away from our duty of loyalty towards them. This is something we have taken an oath for. We will, therefore, with tenacity, defend Mr Ekandjo to the best of our skills and abilities,” said Namandje.

He said the case in which they were suing Nakalemo on behalf of Ekandjo remained pending and being delayed because of Nakalemo’s delaying tactics and his myriad of unjustified applications for recusal against judges, coupled with his continuous attack on court officials and against his own Legal Aid Lawyers.

“It is thus clear,” said Namandje, “with the greatest respect, that had you given us an opportunity to respond, you would have immediately realized that what you were conveying to the public was worthless, misleading, and unverified information by a person who clearly needs help — a mentally unstable individual.”

*The Windhoek Observer has since apologized.*

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**SWAPO UNITED.  
SWAPO VICTORIOUS.  
NOW HARD WORK.**

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# Postulating some schools of thought on nationalization of mines in Namibia

By Ananias Usiku

Let us start this important discussion with a proposition from microeconomic theory. "Give up some of your consumption today with the hope of consuming more in the future." This proposition simply postulates that good investment is good for development and improved quality of life. In the discussion that follows, we shall endeavour to find whether or not Namibia is ready and has the requisite capacity to nationalize some of its mines for the benefit of the nation.

## Defining nationalization

Investopedia, a global financial media website, defines nationalization as "the process in which a country or state takes control of the companies that were once part of the private sector and transforms them into a public good." Nationalization is by and large a contentious issue that is met with opposition, including here in Namibia. It often, at times, happens in developing countries when governments seek to control profit-making industries that are central to the economy, such as the mining sector.

Developing countries have opted for a mix of nationalization and privatization strategies. This means they enter into public-private partnerships that have proved to be highly successful.

## Zambia's nationalization and privatization experience

A look at Zambia's nationalization and privatization experience can give us valuable lessons. According to Investec Company News, published in June 2017, Zambia went through a 24-year nationalization period from 1973 to 2017. A notable achievement characterizing this nationalization period was the establishment of the University of Zambia's School of Mines in 1973. The school trained more than 1000 graduates in mining engineering, geology, metallurgy, and mineral processing. Additionally, the nationalized mining sector under the state-owned Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines, ZCCM, sent large numbers of Zambians to study at leading international universities, pursuing mining and related fields of study.

After completing their studies abroad, the Zambian graduates brought back home valuable skills, which helped build a solid foundation. This is according to a paper, "Copper Mining in Zambia, History and Future," published in the journal of the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in June 2016.

Zambia returned to privatizing the copper mining industry after nationalization because the state-owned enterprise, ZCCM, faced significant financial losses and declining production, coupled with mounting losses after a slump in global copper prices in the 1970s.

The Zambian government at the time, recognizing the challenges faced by

ZCCM and the potential of the sector, decided that privatization was the best strategy going forward. The privatization goals were aimed at revitalizing the copper mining industry through restructuring with the participation of private investors to increase production and ensure efficient management of operations.

As the years have gone by, Zambia's privatization of mining has led to



Ananias Usiku

increased investment and consumption, accelerated economic growth, job creation, and positive economic outlook.

## In the Spotlight: Economic and Management Challenges facing Namibian Mines

The mining sector is a significant part of the Namibian economy, contributing approximately ten percent to the country's Gross Domestic Products, GDP, on an annual basis. In 2023, Namibia's mining sector directly employed 18 189 people with the majority, 97 percent, being Namibians. The employment breakdown is as follows:

- \*8950 permanent employees
- \*803 temporary employees
- \*8436 contractors

## Namibia's mines can be listed as follows:

- \*Husab Uranium Mine near Swakopmund, owned in partnership by Namibia and China
- \*Navachab Gold Mine, an open pit mine

near Karibib

\*Rosh Pinah Zinc Mine, owned by various shareholders

\*Langer Heinrich Mine, an uranium mine

\*Rossing Uranium Mine

\*Namdeb Diamond Corporation: a 50-50 percent venture between Namibia and De Beers

\*Debmarmine, also a 50-50 percent joint venture between Namibia and De Beers, doing offshore diamond mining.

I should underscore the fact that the list of mining companies herein contained is not exhaustive. However, let me hasten to point out that the mining companies listed above are the most important ones. It is reported that Namibia's mining sector has been undergoing a process of revival, despite several challenges that the Namibian government and other stakeholders must address to ensure sustained progress and stability. The following are among the reported challenges facing mining operations.

## \*Infrastructure Challenges

This is said to be a major hurdle for Namibia's mining industry.

## \*Underdeveloped Railway System

Investing in and upgrading Namibia's railway system would curb the current reliance on the inefficient and costly road transportation of minerals using trucks.

While the challenges facing Namibia's mining sector are immense, with the political will, they can be turned into opportunities for growth and innovation.

Take-home lessons from Zambia's nationalization/privatization of the mining sector: The way forward for Namibia's mining sector.

From the evidence herein contained, Zambia's 24-year nationalization and subsequent privatization has laid bare the fact that governments are not good at managing business. The management of Zambia's copper mines started after the government acquired a 51 percent shares in mining companies.

Similarly, here in Namibia state-owned enterprises have acquired a bad

reputation for mismanagement. Broad daylight theft and misappropriation of funds have accrued over the years with no consequences for the culprits, even when they are known. In several high-profile cases that were reported in the media and by the government, money went mysteriously missing after being invested with other companies. The notorious AVID, ODC, SME Bank, and GIPF scandals add up to hundreds of millions, if not billions, of Namibian dollars that have gone missing.

With the above evidence in mind, I now move to recommend a governance strategy for Namibia's mining sector, going forward:

\*Ownership of Namibian mines is largely dominated by foreigners, around 81 percent, and Namibia accounts for 11.9 percent only. This calls for more joint venture partnerships between the government, local entrepreneurs and foreign companies to ensure economic growth.

Economic implications: Nationalization of the mining sector in Namibia could potentially deter foreign and domestic investments. Nationalization could lead to job losses and worsening of working conditions in the mining sector.

Management implications: Mining companies should invest in local training initiatives and collaborate with training institutions to ensure the workforce is equipped with the skills that meet industry demands. Mining companies should align with the government objective of job creation by reducing their reliance on foreign labour. Mining companies should make the necessary efforts to transfer skills from expatriates to local workers by having a skills transfer programme in place.

The Namibian government together with mining companies should collectively focus on workforce development investment in research and development, R&D, to enhance new product development and value addition to our mineral resources, infrastructure development and adaptation to changing market conditions.

**NB: This article is written as a gift to all Namibian readers as we celebrate our 35th independence anniversary.**

*Ananias Usiku is an economics and public management professional with training in development studies and management, public enterprise management, economics, political science and SME management and development, with extensive experience in rural economic development. He is also a veteran guerrilla fighter in the bush war for Namibia's independence.*

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# Mee Netumbo, you have made it



By Kristian Ngendina Auene

On this momentous occasion, we celebrate a significant milestone in Namibia's history as Her Excellency, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, takes Oath of the Office as the country's first female president. This historic achievement not only signifies a remarkable moment for Namibia but also serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for women and girls across Africa and the world.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah's ascension to the highest office in the land is a testament to her unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and resilience over the years. With a storied career in politics and public service, she has consistently championed the causes of equality, empowerment, and social justice. Her commitment to advancing the rights of women and children echoes powerfully, paving the way for future generations. The world watches as Namibia leads the charge for female representation

in governance, showcasing the potential and capacity of women leaders to shape a brighter future.

We extend our warm congratulations to the First Gentleman, Lt General, (Rtd) Epafra Denga Ndaitwah. His support and partnership are commendable, and together, they symbolize a progressive vision for Namibia. The role of the First Gentleman is one of support and advocacy, and with his experience and dedication, General Ndaitwah is poised to contribute meaningfully to the nation's endeavours in fostering unity and development.

Furthermore, we recognize and congratulate the SWAPO Party Secretary General, Cde Sofia Shaningwa, whose exemplary leadership has been instrumental in this historic moment. Her commitment to the ideals of equity, representation, and progressive governance underscores the importance of female voices in leadership roles. As an architect of change within the party and a champion for the rights of all Namibians, Cde Shaningwa's efforts have made a lasting impact on the political landscape of the nation.

As we celebrate this monumental occasion, we are reminded of the vital role that women play in leadership across the globe. The inauguration of President Nandi-Ndaitwah stands as a powerful illustration of breaking barriers and shattering glass ceilings. In a world that often grapples with inequality, her presidency sends a strong message that leadership knows no gender, age, or background. It is a clarion call for nations everywhere to embrace diversity and inclusion in their governance structures.

Congratulations, once again, to Your Excellency, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the First Gentleman, and Comrade Sofia Shaningwa. Your dedication to progress, empowerment, and justice has set a historic precedent that will inspire countless individuals for generations to come. Together, let us look forward to the transformative journey ahead, as Namibia charts new paths and vigorously pursues the ideals of democracy, peace, and prosperity for all its citizens. The world stands with you in solidarity and hope for a brighter future.

We wish you all the best in all your aspirations and endeavors.

# All eyes are on Netumbo to deliver



By Theodora Mweuta

For the second time since Namibia attained its independence, 21 March is celebrated after deep hyperventilating. Last year, 2024 the curse of leap year resulted in the sudden death of the then sitting President Hage Geingob. This year, the spoiled brat February, whom we are now convinced connived with the leap year, agreed to be the carrier of bad news. February went too far. This time, in a classic robbery style before midnight of the fateful 08 February, he took our Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma.

After consecutive two years of mourning, only a consolation of a woman will suffice.

It is indeed inspiring that the lullaby is coming from a woman. Her Excellency, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's ascending to power as Namibia's fifth President came at the right time.

Normally, when the ruling party changes a leader after an election, often one hears a cliché "old wine in the new bottle". President Netumbo does not fit that description. She is not just a repackaged SWAPO leader presented to the nation. She is the

first for Namibia, a female President.

With "Beyond 35 for a Prosperous future", all the eyes are on her to do what is to be done and to make it happen.

In the corridors of power, boardrooms, bars and in shebbeens, the question on everybody's lips is, "what difference will Mee Netumbo," as she is affectionally known, "make?"

The answer is in her "My leadership Vision for Namibia" Bible.

Mee Netumbo is talking about Pragmatism, Integrity, Accountability, Meritocracy and Inclusivity (PIAMI) as guiding principles of her leadership philosophy for Namibia.

"I am resolute in my conviction and commitment to build upon the work already done - a remarkable legacy worth preserving and scaling to greater heights. The PIAMI principles that I will seek to tirelessly promote will serve as my benchmark to achieve that", she said in the introduction message of her vision for Namibia.

As from 21 March, President Netumbo says Namibia will experience a passionate and caring leadership that is action-oriented, the promotion of a culture of honesty, transparency and fairness being steered by the President who believes that accountability to one another is the heart of nationhood.

In her own words, "through meritocracy,

we will be able to fast-track development, and subsequently serve the needs of our people".

With the above PIAMI principles, President Netumbo has set the expectation bar high.

As the saying goes, children ought to do better than their parents. In terms of job creation, provision of quality education, quality healthcare, and housing, all eyes are literally on Mee Netumbo to do better than all her predecessors. She has an obligation to make the spirit of "Engel Nujoma" happy, who has been instrumental in women empowerment. It was late Founding President Nujoma who appointed the 5th President as director-general of Women's Affairs in his Office in 1996.

Thus, the Commander in Chief has double barreled responsibilities to deliver as a President, but most importantly, to prove to the Namibia Nation that women are just as capable as their male counterparts, if not better. Any sign of laxation, will result in a collective judgement and punishment and name calling such as those "ruling with empathy vote them next time at your own peril".

After all, if the statistics of women Head of States in the region, on the continent and in the world at large, is something of referral importance, all indicators show that power is patriarchy!

