
National Alternative Policies of the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)

As the official alternative party in the country, the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) has a duty and responsibility towards the people of Namibia to presents to them its alternative policies to the ruling party. We believe it is simply not enough to constantly condemn the failing policies of the SWAPO led government without us presenting alternatives. For those who have been yearning to know our policies on key economic and social sectors of the country can now feel at ease. Below, we have laid out our national alternative policies on which an RDP led government will be governed.

(1) ***Proposed Legal and Government Affairs Policy***

RDP will embark on:

- (a) *Constitutional Amendments* - RDP will remove party list systems to constituency-based system, for accountability to the electorate. The RDP will abolish the National Council and increase the number of the National Assembly;
- (b) *Separation Powers* – The RDP will enforce the separation of powers as stipulated in the Namibian Constitution. (i.e. Executive members shall not be part of Legislature);
- (c) *Appointment of Judges* – The Judiciary Service Commission will recommend judges for approval to Parliament for endorsement
- (d) The Judiciary Service Commission will be approved by Parliament
- (e) *Electoral Act Amendments* – The RDP has (together with other alternative parties) come up with a proposed document of the electoral law and submitted to the Law Reform Commission of Namibia. Amongst others, we will disallow traditional leaders (including Headmen) from active politics as is with the police and the army;
- (f) *Traditional Courts (Concerns about victimisation)* - RDP will strive to offer basic legal training to traditional leaders with the aim of strengthening and promoting a fair traditional legal system;
- (g) *Law Review* – The RDP will prioritise to repeal and amend laws in statute books, which are no longer efficient today. There are currently about 500 laws already identified for repeal;
- (h) *Decentralisation* – The RDP will speed up the implementation of the decentralisation policy. Here, precedence will be given to essential service delivery ministries or institutions for efficiency in delivery. These are identified as education, health and housing. RDP would allow regions to have their own budgets, which shall then be incorporated into the national budget. The RDP will eliminate the appointment of Governors, who shall be directly elected in the Regions. Decentralisation will be carried out in terms of the Decentralisation Act.

- (i) *Appointment of Permanent Secretaries* - All Permanent Secretary vacancies shall be advertised and contracted on a performance basis for five (5) years.
- (j) *Tackling Poverty* – The RDP will implement the Basic Income Grant (BIG) as a short-term measure to tackle abject poverty in our society.

(2) ***Procurement & Tendering Policy***

RDP will:

- (a) Preference must be given to Namibians
- (b) Policy must be clear and appealing
- (c) That State procurement will not be done by permanent secretaries, but by experts, and the tender board will be reformed, and be composed of knowledgeable personnel.
- (d) That the appointment of tender board members be done by parliament. It is, however, advised examine proposals made s made in a booklet by IPPR on the issue.
- (e) That the exemption of awarding of tenders may only occur under exceptional circumstances, through public bidding, in priority sectors and are only applicable to amounts not exceeding a certain amount;

(3) ***Transport & Logistics Policy***

RDP will:

- (a) introduce an effective public transportation system for both motorized and non-motorised, including pedestrians, in urban and rural areas;
- (b) strive to electrify and liberalise our national railway network system;
- (c) enforce laws that regulate heavy duty transportation and;
- (d) develop a master plan to monitor that infrastructure developed is geared towards public development.
- (e) Each Ministry, Office or Agency takes responsibility to maintain Government property and infrastructure

4. Proposed Environment Protection and Tourism Policy

RDP will:

- (a) encourage domestic tourism by creating incentives such as lowering rates for Namibians
- (b) uplift and improve the standards of service of the industry, through training;
- (c) Tourism development on a competitive basis and be able to attract investment;
- (d) Tourism must be private sector-driven and operate with a high level of efficiency, be of sustained benefit to all citizens, develop requisite educational skills, infrastructure, marketing and targeted in removing historical barriers;
- (e) promote green economy;
- (f) promote sustainable development in creating green jobs;
- (g) closely monitor the contribution of greenhouse gases and introduce control mechanisms to ensure that industries take care of their pollution;

- (h) initiate long-term coastal planning and strengthen compliance to the coastal development plan and
- (i) improve the management of conservancies by close monitoring and provision of regular training.

(4) Proposed International Relations Policy

RDP will:

- (a) Promote Namibia's non-alignment;
- (b) not allow foreign military bases in the country;
- (c) support SADC integration, but with lessons in mind from other world regional blocks and strengthen ties with other organisations such as SADC, AU, IMF, etc;
- (d) introduce cost-benefit analyses of foreign missions, taking in consideration national economic interests and;
- (e) vigorously promote economic diplomacy for mutual benefit.

(5) Proposed Gender & Child Policy

Make (e) New (a) and expand on 'girl-child issues'

The RDP shall:

- (a) strive to achieve at least 50% representation of women, both in government and public service, as well as within our own Party's political and organisational structure;
work with NGOs to promote training for women and girl-child issues and focus on educating women for active participation in socio-economic and political affairs, and nurture them for leadership roles;
- (b) increase public information to stop practices that harm or discriminate against women;
- (c) review and promote laws (such as marriage and inheritance laws) create a gender balance;
- (d) work with employers to establish and vigorously promote paternity leave and maternity leave;
- (e) strive to achieve at least 50% representation of women, both in government and public service, as well as within our own Party's political and organisational structure;

(6) Proposed Labour and Mass Organisation Policy

Delete and reformulate (c) and add new paras to state the RDP will review certain clauses in the Labour Act, which appear to discourage foreign investment.

The RDP will:

- (a) establish and maintain relations with progressive unions;
- (b) establish and maintain relations with professional bodies;

- (c) encourage the development and formation of independent Trade Unions ;
- (d) ensure increasing education and training opportunities for workers, at both technical and professional levels;
- (e) give particular attention to the observance and implementation of labour legislation, especially with regard to the protection of workers' rights such as maternity leave, health and safety at work, and the right to strike and
- (f) expand the social security system, to include a national pension scheme and unemployment insurance.

(7) Proposed Land, Agriculture & Food Security Policy

Discussion of 'fencing off of land in communal areas necessary

The RDP will:

- (a) ensure capital assistance and training to emerging and resettled commercial farmers;
- (b) ensure capital assistance and training to communal farmers for food security;
- (c) conduct transparent selection process for resettling new farmers and farm workers;
- (d) introduce water harvesting mechanisms in for irrigation/farming;
- (e) Increase water provision in communal areas;
- (f) Implement aquaculture and farming diversification policy;
- (g) distribute green scheme under public, private and community sectors;
- (h) invest more in agricultural research;
- (i) promote market accessibility for farmers, in and outside Namibia;
- (j) co-operate with neighbouring countries to gradually and strategically shift the veterinary line (red line) to the Namibia-Angola international borders;
- (k) identify and demarcate land for sub-economic units in communal virgin areas, but does not support fencing off of commonage areas and
- (l) adjust land price control and taxation act - current land tax to be adjusted with real market related prices and not as practices today
- (m) deforestation regulations and laws will be enforced
- (n) conservation agricultural approach will introduced
- (o) national drought policy will be a priority

(8) Energy and Mineral Resources

RDP will:

(a) Mineral Resources

The Namibian state is the owner of mineral resources found on land or underneath the surface. The owners of these resources are the Namibia people. The Namibian mineral wealth should be exploited and developed for complete benefits of all Namibian without consideration of their status in society

- a. These mineral resources should be mined, developed and exploited with highest concerns to the environment in which mining activities are taking place.

- b. There shall be restoration of mined sites after their operations ceased and a national fund shall be created with financial obligation from all mining operators;
- c. That the Namibians should be provided with opportunities to enter the mining sector, development of small scale mining shall be supported with technical training and financial backing;
- d. The human resources development capacity shall form the back bone of skills development at all level of the industry;
- e. The state shall participate in mining activities in terms of equity ownership as well as the promotion of Namibians ownership in the mining industry;
- f. To encourage mineral beneficiation processes and significant reduction of export of raw minerals, increased investment in mineral processing plants in the country to create local capacity and employment;
- g. To promote Namibia as final investment destination for mining investment and attractive investment in mining industry
- h. The development of a national approach for the development of precious, semi-precious stones and dimensional stone aimed at local skills development and industrialization
- i. Exploration and development of radioactive minerals to be undertaken according to best practices, protection of environment and people, transportation of such materials shall be carried out in accordance with relevant provisions of the Namibian Laws and international Law
- j. With regard to strategic minerals such as;
 - Copper, diamond, rare-earth, uranium, etc

These minerals shall be rationally exploited and developed; the state shall regulate their production, license awards, in consideration of the future generation

- k. That exploration, mining and export thereof shall be strictly controlled to preserve and conserve these resources for next generation

(b) The Energy Sector

Electricity generation:

Namibia shall develop all potential electricity resources within its borders to enhance electricity generation capacity by using locally available resources such as hydro, coal, wind resources, solar resources, biomass resources (bush encroachment), solid municipal waste, biogas resources, tidal wave resources and geo-thermal resources

- (a) That each political region of Namibia shall have its own electricity generation plants using its locally available energy resources

- (b) The state shall invest significantly in human resources capacity to produce the required scientific and technical skills to operate and manage these plants
- (c) That Namibia shall become self-sufficient in electricity generation in order to secure security of supply and to meet electricity demand for national economic development
- (d) That Namibia shall reduce electricity import from the region which has create a dependence which is not appropriate for national security
- (e) That state and private sector shall play amicable role to fund the development in the power generation sector
- (f) That private sector investment shall be welcomed in power generation, transmission, distribution as Independent Power Producers, or as electricity off-takers

(9) Proposed Information Communication Technology Policy

The RDP will thus:

Information and Media Freedom

- (a) promote free flow of information and freedom of speech as a basic human right and access to information;
- (b) review Communication Act of 2008 (dubbed the spy bill), Broadcasting Act and other legislation which restricts media freedom;
- (c) allow equitable access to public broadcasters for political parties as per SADC Protocol and;
- (d) review appointment of communication SOE's (NBC, New Era, CRAN etc.) board appointments for the independence of the sector.
- (e) A commitment to roll out ICT training progressively in schools, colleges & universities;
- (f) Increase investment in e-learning
- (g) regular reviews for personnel remuneration will be carried out to guarantee quality service delivery and prevent.

(10) Proposed Economic & Development Planning Policy

In Chapter 11, principles of State Policy, under Article 98 on 'Principles of Economic Order', sub article(1) of the Namibian Constitution, it is stated that the principles of the economic order of the Republic of Namibia shall be based on

"mixed economy with the objective of securing economic growth, prosperity and a life of human dignity for all Namibians."

However, what Namibia has seen over the years under a SWAPO led government is that the **economic order** has relatively been kept stable **but** the social order or economic equity has failed miserably. The gap between the rich and poor continues to grow shamelessly and the RDP plans to put a clear balance between the economic and social order. Therefore, the RDP does not intend to reinvent the wheel but to borrow selectively and intelligently some economic policies that have measures of success in

the world. It is within this context that the RDP plans to adopt a policy of **Social Market Economy**.

It is not suggested in this regard that the only pragmatic alternative policy to the free-market liberalism as practiced in many western countries, (e.g. USA) is the only model.

This new view represents a dynamic concept which can be adapted to political and economic changes. It aims to achieve a synthesis between efficiency and equity by combining the efficiency gains of a free market economy with a publicly induced social balance. In other words, it is **aimed at keeping a balance between economics and social order**.

The provisions of the social order are oriented towards the needs of society's members and also attempt to provide equal opportunity for each individual in the society. The main components of this are:

- (a) a **TAX SYSTEM** based on a progressive income taxation. However, there will be **no tax** on individual pension money; except if he/she withdraws his/her pension before his pensionable age;
- (b) a **SYSTEMS OF SOCIAL SECURITY** – protection and mitigation against the risks of unemployment, diseases, poverty and ageing;
- (c) **INDEPENDENT LABOUR UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS** - decide autonomously on the conditions and wages, the development of markets and sustainable profit base respectively and
- (d) an **EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM** based on the equality of opportunities/chances and providing free education for all up to tertiary education

Therefore, it can categorically be stated that the RDP will endeavour to establish a socio-economic order based on free market system and based on the following three main pillars:

- (1) ***safeguard the free market rule; i.e.*** competition, private property of means of production, free pricing, contract freedom, warranty systems and controls against monopolies and power abuses, free international trade and monetary stability; and
- (2) ***protection of the individual's freedoms*** and independence in the face of arbitrary actions by the state;
- (3) guarantee of the principles of inclusiveness, solidarity, subsidiarity and equity with respect to the ***safeguard of social peace***.

(1) Industrial, Agro-industrial, Manufacturing and trading policies:

- (a) to embark on extensive agro-industrial development programme by strategically making use of the recently discovered abundance of underground water to ensure food security for Namibia;
- (b) to embark on clear-cut national programme of value addition to most Namibian commodities;
- (c) a deliberate policy to encourage the establishment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) in many sectors of our economy;
- (d) discard the current BEE fraudulent system and introduce a transparent BEE policy that will truly address the inequity in the national economy and

- (e) to introduce new stringent vetting system to identify genuine foreign and direct investments.

(2) Fisheries & Marine Resources Policy

Namibia is endowed with fish and marine resources. It is the RDP view that these resources should be properly utilized in the interest of all Namibians. The RDP recognized that it is not possible for the whole nation to be turned into fishermen and women. However, those entrusted with the management of these resources should be fair, transparent and accountable to the Namibian nation. The current trend of allocating concessions and quotas based on nepotism and political connections is not sustainable. Therefore the RDP will advocate for the following in order to address the current practice:

- (a) Establish an independent committee of professionals to allocate the rights and quotas in a sustainable manner free of nepotism and political connections;
- (b) To establish a Special Fund through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to be managed by a Board of Trustees. The Fund will support newcomers in the industry to finance their operational requirements. The Fund will specifically focus on fishing, aquaculture, mari-culture farming, value addition and research in the industry;
- (c) To strongly encourage value addition in the sector ;
- (d) To strengthen the training and upgrading of personnel in the fishing sector and
- (e) Subsidise the promotion of local fish consumption.

(11) Proposed Education Policy

The RDP will:

- (a) Establish a free public pre-primary to tertiary education system and a subsidy for private pre-primary schools for high performers as a means to encourage competition for financial support;
- (b) Incorporate and promote vocational subjects in primary schools;
- (c) promote mother tongue language and make it compulsory for African/indigenous languages to be taught at all Namibian schools;
- (d) religious, ethical and moral education in primary schools;
- (e) promote the recruitment of career and social counsellors/psychologists at all schools;
- (f) introduce and advance vocational training in secondary schools, supported by state and industry;
- (g) work closely with industry and NGO's, including Churches in civic training for women and children;
- (h) promote in-service training for teachers;
- (i) review the current school trimester to quarters;
- (j) encourage mathematics, science and arts, in primary school education;
- (k) promote civic education in primary schools;

- (l) commit to more investment in education infrastructure. (e.g. laboratories, teachers housing, and hostels) especially in rural areas;
- (m) establish physical education and sports academies/high performance centres in regions;
- (n) strive to better the conditions of service and remuneration for teachers;
- (o) promote education for students with special needs and remedial programmes;
- (p) Scrap VAT on books and all related educational materials (e.g. uniforms etc) and
- (q) Provide a new timetable for summer and winter time for schools (essentially reintroducing the 'old system'), but this will not affect industry and Government.
- (r) Avail more information and brail material to the less fortunate visual impaired people

(12) Proposed Health & Social Welfare Policy

The RDP will:

- (a) improve salaries and promote working conditions for nurses /medical personnel;
- (b) promote and invest in more hospitals and mobile clinics in both urban and rural areas;
- (c) invest substantially in latest medical technologies and equipment, and medical research centres and training of medical doctors;
- (d) promote continuous in-service training to improve health service delivery;
- (e) promote the existence of the Special Public Medical Fund;
- (f) review the recruitment of medical personnel and instil work and professional ethics;
- (g) improve public healthcare system and establish a health insurance policy for all;
- (h) prioritise primary health and promotion the conditions of home-based caregivers;
- (i) standardise qualifications of health professionals and
- (j) promote free treatment and living conditions of people living with HIV/AIDS as well as people with disabilities.

(13) Proposed Youth Policy

Namibia currently has a National Youth Policy as well as a National Youth Development Policy. Although this is in place, much is still to be desired in terms of implementation or inadequate examination of issues and solutions.

The youth is face with unemployment and underemployment. The economic growth rate has not been sufficient to create enough employment opportunities to absorb the increasing labour force. Most of these are the youth, only about 32% of whom are absorbed, leaving 68% to bear the burden of unemployment. Furthermore, some of those absorbed in the labour market have jobs that do not match their qualifications and specialisation or only have temporary jobs.

As poverty and unemployment skyrockets, youth are faced by limited and poor housing structures especially in urban areas. Youth also have limited participation and lack of opportunities in the political and economic spheres because of societal attitudes, socio-cultural and economic barriers, and lack of proper organization

The Namibian youth are faced by increasing school and college drop-out rates due to insufficient funds to pursue studies or other social circumstances.

There is currently little protection from the authorities. Due to their vulnerability, the youth are exposed to sexual abuse, child labour and other forms of economic exploitation under the guise of employment and other forms of abuse.

Sports and recreation facilities provide the youth with an opportunity to socialize and spend their time productively, strengthening and developing their character and talents. However, such facilities are scarce and, where they exist, they are sometimes not accessible to the youth. Because of idleness, especially after formal education, the youth become restless and try anything. Some end up in crime or with deviant behaviour.

The youth also face a myriad of health related problems, including widespread malaria, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), drug and substance abuse as well as poor access to health services.

Due to the aforementioned challenges facing the Namibian youth and the short-coming of the current policies on youth, the RDP provides the following alternative policies on youth:

1. Education, Training, and Employment creation

- Allow automatic access to government funding for students at tertiary level;
- Increase investment in student accommodation and hostel facilities at secondary and tertiary level;
- Encourage regional, national and international student exchange programmes;
- Promote and encourage skills development of the youth through vocational training and imparting life skills to be job creators;
- Create linkages between educational institutions and the private sector through research, internship opportunities and financing;
- Develop links between training institutions and the employment market to ensure such institutions offer relevant skills;
- Increase the promotion of youth enterprises through finance, training and networking support programmes;
- Encourage and promote youth participation in manufacturing and agricultural production, through land resettlement, training and resource support; and
- Provide housing subsidy for ease of home ownership for students and first time homeowners.

2. Youth Health and Social Wellbeing

- RDP will closely work with civil society and the private sector to:
- expand and promote health services in schools such as counselling , contraceptives, antenatal, mental health services;
- ensure that youth affected by HIV and other preventable diseases are able to access programmes that will build their life skills capacity and accessing livelihood opportunities;
- promote awareness about the circumstances of youth living with disabilities, and realise their best potential; and
- integrate young offenders into schools with the aim to offer second-chance opportunities for education and training and be reintegrated into society.

3. Sports, Culture and Human Development

- Promote sporting activities as platforms to advocate and campaign for behavioural change to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, and alcohol and drug abuse;
- Establish and improve accessibility to recreation and sporting facilities in schools and communities in both urban and rural areas. These facilities should have trained personnel to assist in identifying and developing young people's talents;
- Establish sport academies in order to promote sports excellence in Namibia;
- Promote traditional games for recreation and as a way of preserving culture;
- Encourage the establishment of a Youth Parliamentary Forum (PYF);
- Promote a truly non-partisan National Youth Council (NYC);
- Work with civil society to promote active participation of youth in community services, politics and economy; and
- Work with civil society to encourage civic education and public dialogue through establishing debating societies for students and out-of-school youth.

(14) Propose Housing Policy

It was agreed that Cde Mike must re-write this

- a) The backlog of 300,000 housing units and still increasing;
- b) The notion of housing as 'a human right' and
- c) Financing of the tackling the backlog by creative financing options such as 'securitisation'.

(15) Proposed Arts, Culture and Sports Policy

The RDP will

- (a) Encourage a national policy and approach to the promotion of arts, culture and sports;
- (b) Introduction of sport science at tertiary institutions in order to train coaches, sport administrators and first aid personnel;
- (c) Promote the establishment of arts institutions in selected regions;
- (d) Arts will be offered as a subject at all school levels;
- (e) Regional Sports Academies shall be prioritised and
- (f) Establishment of Cultural Centres in the regions to promote Namibian diverse cultures in order to appreciate cultural differences and understanding.