

## Spot The Difference, 3<sup>rd</sup> Election in-lay Interview with the CoD party

### Interview questionnaire with the Congress of Democrats, represented by its President Mr. Vaino Elago Amuthenu

If you were to predict the elections outcome, which will likely be true?

1. Your party wins majority seats in the National Assembly
1. Your presidential candidate wins the majority vote
2. 60% of Namibian youth will cast their vote



Answer:

3. 60% of Namibian youth will cast their vote.

#### How will you go about achieving the above prediction?

- The party will put effort into educating voters with regards to the voting process, what is required of them to be valid voters and the importance of participating in the elections.
- Make the youth aware of the candidates that are going to be up for voting, and include them in the processes of electing their candidates within the party structures.
- Encourage the youth to be part of the party's leadership, by taking up leadership positions at Local, Regional and National spheres.

#### Why is it important for young people to vote?

- CoD believes that the youth is the future, and they need to be more involved in order to formulate a structured plan for their future and country at large. The process of voting allows them to elect their leaders with policies in place that benefit them.
- The youth should vote because this will give them confidence in holding leaders accountable for promises stated in their party's manifesto.

#### Why should the youth vote for your party?

- The CoD believes that our collective future rests on '**doing it right**' by investing sufficient resources into the 60% of our population, who are 35 years and younger.
- CoD is unequivocally convinced that **investing** in the youth of our country remains our ultimate **insurance policy**.
- We believe that we should mould today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders of our country is both an exhilarating challenge and rewarding opportunity we all must embrace; as we cannot afford to fail this responsibility.
- CoD is for in laying a sound foundation for the youth, we will render an invaluable service to Namibia the land of our forebears.

- We in CoD are mindful too that the election of 2019 represents a coming of age for the youth born after independence.
- CoD would like to make it a priority to build more vocational training centres and lower tuition fees to a reasonable amount because this vocational centres best suit the stage of development the country is at.
- We thus congratulate them and urge them not to dodge this responsibility, but to go out and be counted.

**What motivated the formation of your political party?**

- CoD believes that Namibia belongs to all its people (who live in it) and its resources and boundaries should be shared by all and exploited for the common benefit of all its children irrespective of their race, social, tribal or ethnic origin, creed, gender or any other superficial and irrelevant distinction.
- We want to fight corruption, nepotism, political patronage and general abuse of public office, as those have become the distinguishing features of the current political culture in Namibia and Africa at large.
- The emancipation of women and empowerment of the youth have become mere talking points and there is a need to execute faster to a more equal and gender sensitive society.
- With the idea to improve socio-economic justice and solidarity with the poor and marginalised.
- Multi-party democracy
- A one party that contrasts of many cultures.
- Land and agrarian reform, and a rural development programme.
- To protect, defend and uphold our country's constitution, just laws and the rule of law.
- To fight for social justice, and eliminate socioeconomic inequalities in the Namibian society.
- To protect and promote the rights, freedoms, and welfare of all our people.
- To fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and other **epidemics**.

**What philosophies/principles are at the core of your party's identity?**

- The CoD believes in the principles of democracy (representative government) and the rule of law. We are for the active promotion of the democratic culture of tolerance and believe without reservation in the basic political freedoms, including the freedoms of multi-party democracy. We stand for the freedom of the press and other media, and for the right to (the freedom of) information.
- CoD stands for the principle of accountability and proclaims the virtues of an open and transparent society. The CoD commits itself to actively instil a service culture amongst its leaders, activist, officials and members. Honesty, efficacy and promptness on the side of those who hold office should characterize this culture. The

CoD believes in empowering the party structures so as to hold leaders accountable, and remove them if they cannot meet the expectations of their constituency.

- We the CoD also believe in the creation of modern up-to-date knowledge-based information society that is able to meet the demands of the modern world. The CoD regards education not merely as a tool to gain access to the labour market, but also as an instrument of freedom. Education must allow Namibian's to develop to their full potential both in terms of skills, as well as critical thinking. A broad-based education should inculcate a sense of tolerance, civil duty and responsible citizenship.
- The CoD would like to work with NGO's and CBO's to remove all legal impediments raising barriers to equal participation by women.
- As CoD, we do take the approach that 'Politicians' come to be such not necessarily through a self-interested decision taken after a session with the Career-guidance teacher towards the end of your last secondary school year. Well, there may be those in Namibia who believe that politics is a career field where you join to go cheat people repeatedly and get rich quickly. However, in the CoD, serving the nation is a principle and a value we believe in. Our leaders are not here because they have been led on with promises of bags full of gold, but to serve accordingly.

#### **How do you think history will remember your party?**

- The CoD was the first (1<sup>st</sup>) political party to be formed after independence.
- The CoD fought against the Constitutions amendment for a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Presidential term and life President.
- CoD fought against the involvement of NDF troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo's conflict and the loss of lives of Namibian soldiers in DRC's conflict.
- CoD fought for the shaping of a fair electoral process, after winning a case at the High Court fighting against the lack of transparency and irregularities in the election outcomes.

#### **In what ways do you think your party has changed since its formation?**

The party has not changed with regards to why it was formed, it is still a 'Zebra Party' and serving the same purposes that motivated the foundation of the CoD; besides the having a new leader ever since its formation, all the other aspects remain the same.

#### **What is your party's stance on the following issues?**

##### **Unemployment amongst the youth**

The CoD believes that the only way to improve employment amongst the 'youth' is to put in place an Economy employment and job creation and labour based issues, emphasising the need to develop the economy and creating jobs for those currently sitting at street corners and **ghettos** across the length and breadth of our country; pay social wages and provide appropriate and quality housing to the working people.

### **Access to resources for young entrepreneurs**

The young entrepreneurs are able to benefit and access the country's resources, with regards to the skills and knowledge they have in a particular entrepreneurial direction they chose.

### **Gender equality and Women empowerment**

Gender equality and women empowerment will improve much, if women are given a chance to attend leadership courses and given a stand to be leaders from the lower spheres, such as being school LRC's and so forth.

### **The Land Question in Namibia**

Land in Namibia belongs to all Namibian citizens, regardless of their age, race, tribe or ethnic origin or social class. However, a distinction should be made between 'residential land and farming land'. The farming land should be made available to those that are able and willing, after a careful assessment of the qualities and abilities observed in him/her to be productive after acquiring the land. It should also be that one person should only be able to own one farm, to allow for others to gain access to farming land that are as well interested. Residential areas should also be treated that everyone that is able to own a plot, should only own one regardless even if they do not fall in the same region or town. One residential (town land) plot per person should be enough, and in the process allowing others to occupy the remaining. I personally believe there should be a once-off land give off programme, that will make it possible for every Namibian to own a piece of residential plot.

### **Nation-building amidst gender-based violence, ethnic heterogeneity**

Nation Building, which shall aim at building and enhancing the Namibian National Identity. There should be an immediate stop to the so-called Returnees/Remainders Dichotomy, stop all discrimination based on exiles and the support of certain political parties; Reform and **radically change the Veterans Act** to do away with political rewards and build unity to enhance true national RECONCILIATION. Introduce stricter anti-corruption laws and regulation, enhance good governance practices; do away with all negative social classifications, negative tribal connotation and name-calling; introduce a law to fight tribalism, nepotism and general discrimination in employment and the awarding of tenders and other public national resources.

### **Government procurement processes of goods and services**

In such a case, there should be limits put in place at regional levels as to how much money they are allowed to pay out when rendering private services, by centralising the procurement board of Namibia and tenders advertised should be approved by the line Ministry. There should be no middle-man in the purchasing of medicine, that is really hazardous and life gambling if the medication provided by the contractor is not of the recommended standards and to avoid the shortage of medicine due to the corrupt tenderpreneurs.

### **Corruption and Accountability**

We should introduce stricter anti-corruption laws and regulations, with a mind to enhance good governance practices. There is a need for the formation of an anti-corruption parliamentary committee, and that committee should be granted discretionary power to overlook cases of corruption and take them solely to court for review, appeal and prosecution.

### **Decentralization: Devolution to Regional and Local councils**

The idea stated under decentralization is good in that it will make public services efficient and efficient, because they are bringing services closer to the people. In the same vein, it releases central government of a bit of pressure and at the same time reducing rural-urban migration cause of the lack of services in the parts of the country where they reside in. This will allow Deputy's in the Regional and Local authorities to make their decisions, acting on behalf of central government.

### **What is your party's short and long-term vision for Namibia?**

- Put the National Economic Policy into serious consideration, so that it prohibits and bans the employment of foreign unskilled workers as it should be doing.
- Free education policy that makes provision for free and compulsory education for all Namibian children under 18 years of age.
- Improved Health and Welfare system by introducing total and comprehensive access for all our citizens to health and medical facilities in the country, be it private or state owned facilities. A comprehensive medical aid and medical insurance and pension system that will not only include government employees, but also other social workers.

### **Additional Questions**

#### **How can we make colonial and apartheid-past wrongs right for Namibians?**

- The Laws should be reviewed to identify Laws that were passed, in order to favour a particular group of people and not taking all into consideration during its implementation.
- Build unity and enhance true national **reconciliation**.
- We should put an immediate stop to the so-called returnees/remainers.

#### **How will political parties ensure that Namibians are justly compensated to be able to live decently?**

- We best believe that the best way to compensate the previously disadvantaged people and those land whom was dispossessed, can be best compensated in the form of Land Redistribution and job creation; rather than paying out money to those individuals as a form compensation.
- This must be done in tripartite between Labour, Private Industry and Government.