

Spot The Difference, 3rd Election in-lay Interview with the LPM

Interview questionnaire with the Landless People’s Movement (LPM), represented by its Coordinator and Authorized Representative Mr. Ivan Skrywer

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

- 1. Your party wins majority seats in the National Assembly**
- 2. Your presidential candidate wins the majority vote**
- 3. 60% of Namibian youth will cast their vote**



Answer:

LPM wins majority seats in National assembly.

How will you go about achieving the above prediction?

We are currently doing door-to-door campaigning to roust the people from their slumber. We are also engaging in public information through opinion pieces in daily newspapers; weekends we are holding rallies in specific towns with large non-voters.

Why is it important for young people to vote?

The information available to young people today is staggering, our job as LPM is telling the youth to status quo; the unemployment rate for youth in Namibia is between 50-60%! These are the facts, which they can’t run away from. So instead of burying their head in the sand with voter apathy, we engage with the youth. This is why you can see that LPM is basically run by the youth in terms of sheer numbers and executive positions.

Why should the youth vote for your party?

LPM has the right motivation and answers for the youth. Even the older leaders in LPM are currently studying, which is a good example set for future leaders of Namibia. Only through voting for LPM will the fortunes of the youth change. Through our different careers, we want to give them hope for their future.

What motivated the formation of your political party?

What motivates us is the undying solidarity of the exiles and Tanganjika groups with their lust and greed. The Swapo, which was formed before independence, and the Swapo now are two different organizations. So LPM wants to bring forth a party that can be trusted by citizens. We will attempt to create a safe place for Namibians according to Namibian Constitution.

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

[Our core principles are] truth, Honesty, hard work and dedication to the upliftment of all Namibians.

How do you think history will remember your party?

[As] the party that was started not for self-gain, but for honesty and the desire to rule and develop Namibia.

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

From a focus group on land matters, we have changed and use the intellect of our members to evolve slowly and surely in the political house for all who are tired of the same promises and empty slogans.

What is your party’s stance on the following issues?

Unemployment amongst the youth

This is a scourge on the unity of Namibians who stood together against the Germans after 1896; against the unity of our people who stood up against Apartheid South Africa. This time we are standing in solidarity with our youth who are unemployed.

Access to resources for young entrepreneurs

This is a critical head-ache for any entrepreneur and LPM has the right idea to fight this scourge. Our idea is to partner with Business Partners in SA, to redress the fundamentals where our entrepreneurs go wrong in the first year to five. We are willing to source the money, but then we want to see dedicated young entrepreneurs who are building for tomorrow, not these get-rich-quick tenderpreneurs.

Gender equality and Women empowerment

Just look at how many ladies are leaders in our organization.

The Land Question in Namibia

[The land question in Namibia is] a crucial question, which we will revisit again and again in our first term of holding office. We first need to address the Diaspora experienced at the hands of Germans and then under South Africa.

Nation-building amidst gender-based violence, ethnic heterogeneity

The laws of the country should be geared towards safeguarding the future of Namibia. Our women should become our resources, higher in value than our diamonds. These are not just our colleagues at work, but our partners, mothers and children as well.

In terms of ethnicity, LPM will create platforms to engage and redress imbalances with regards to employment and education.

Government procurement processes of goods and services

Government tenders should be ran by administrators who nobody knows, or rather [by administrators] that are not bribable. In this regard, jail-time for anyone bribed first, and better checks and balances in the system. Always favoring our Namibian companies.

Corruption and Accountability

Real public institutions need to be created such as Public Protector, which will only be answerable to Constitution and the courts.

Decentralization: Devolution to Regional and Local councils.

One thing is for sure, we will not be appointing governors at all. For a large country like Namibia, we should move the government to the people; essentials such as healthcare, Home Affairs, Police and other government services should be available near you.

What is your party’s short and long-term vision for Namibia?

Unlike the NPD1-5, LPM will address and redress Namibian capacity in its first term of governance. With that said, we need to keep money in circulation in Namibia for long as possible before exporting such money. Best way to do this is through industrialization. Let’s just start with one factory a year, with spin-offs created to add value through other companies/manufacturers.

What is your party’s short and long-term vision for Namibia?

It is our desire and yearning for genuine fundamental change, and transformation of our economy to ensure fair and just wealth redistribution in our lifetime that the APP was formed as a change vehicle.

Our resolve is to courageously and energetically address the central question of our current historical time FAIR AND JUST WEALTH REDISTRIBUTION AND FAIR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL NAMIBIANS. This we believe can only be brought about by a total change and departure from the current business as usual approach of the way our country is governed to a more radical people centered approach of governance.