

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

Interview questionnaire with the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) represented by Ms. Inna Hengari, one of its Parliamentary Researchers

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

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How will you go about achieving the above prediction?

In the political sphere, we have a common saying: “change is the only constant”.

The most important tool however, is the national election task force. The National Election Task Force will be driving the Movement’s national strategy to the people and to ensure that we obtain favorable results in these up-coming elections. They are what we call ‘ground soldiers’, they have day-to-day contact with the grassroots.

Namibia attained her independence in 1990 and since then we have had the same party ruling this Republic. Namibia has in place what is called ‘a multi-party [democracy]’. The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) has set various mechanisms in place to ensure, higher voter turnout as well as mechanisms to reduce voter apathy.

Why is it important for young people to vote?

Namibia has in place what is called a ‘multi-party democracy’, however, our biggest challenge remains the 2/3rd majority vote that is aligned to one party, the SWAPO party.

The goals and visions for the Republic have changed and therefore, there is a clear need to transform governance and government. This can only be achieved through voting. Young people need to vote because voting is an opportunity to decide the opportunities afforded to them as young people in future and to the entire country. There is a clear need for transformation, both political and economical.

More than 40% of the youth population in our country remains unemployed, degreed or not. This is a major concern to the Popular Democratic Movement. The education system in place disadvantages our young people; the economy is such that, entrepreneurial initiatives particularly by young people do not receive the necessary support nor are they prioritized. The youth population in this country is the most affected and therefore it is important that they determine who governs them depending on opportunities afforded to them and who deems youth empowerment a priority.