

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

3rd EDITION

PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2019



MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION

DISCLAIMER

Between June and August, 2019, all seventeen political parties that were registered with the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), had been engaged to complete an interview questionnaire. Provision for face-to-face interviews had been arranged to take place in the first two weeks of August for those parties that could not meet the submittal deadline for the completed questionnaire. The questionnaire incorporated six questions addressing topical, socio-economic and political issues that were formulated to ensure that the Namibian electorate would be assisted to make informed decisions during the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

The decision to profile 13 political parties in this publication was based on their willingness to respond to the interview questions. Considering that a three-month period had been specified and communicated to all 17 parties, no political party was subjected to discrimination nor deliberately excluded from being featured herein



IMPRINT

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PROLOGUE BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY (NID)



Mr Kavena Hambira

In November 2019, Namibian citizens who are eligible will have an opportunity to participate in the nation's sixth round of Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. As Namibia approaches 30 years of independence, we must take time to reflect on her system of proportional representation. Article 17 of the Constitution guarantees the right of each citizen, who has reached the age of eighteen, to vote. Despite this privilege, a large portion of the electorate remains apathetic or simply does not exercise its democratic right.

Namibia's population is top-heavy, with youth as the largest segment of the electorate, yet this group is the least likely to participate in the electoral process. After careful investigation, the Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID) launched the "i-Vote Namibia" voter-education campaign to increase public participation and help strengthen the country's democracy. Now in its third edition, the "Spot the Difference" publication is a critical component of the "i-Vote Namibia" campaign.

This volume has been carefully compiled to represent the broadest views of all 17 political parties registered with the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) equitably. The NID team has taken great care to invite all political parties to participate and to profile themselves meticulously. In addition, our researchers solicited detailed responses through interview questionnaires. The review provides a succinct overview of the Namibian political landscape and the publication, in turn, serves as a reminder to the Namibian people that participation in the electoral process is vital to sustaining Namibia's democracy.

FOREWORD BY THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Our Constitution guarantees inclusivity through the system of proportional representation and so far, we have held five parliamentary and presidential elections since we attained independence in 1990. All these elections were accepted by both regional and international observers as free and fair. This year, 2019, specifically during the month of November, we are due to hold our sixth round of parliamentary and presidential elections, proving that Namibia is committed to regular and credible elections.

This is a period during which citizens get a chance to choose their President and the members in the National Assembly as a right afforded all eligible citizens of the country. Article 17 of the Namibian Constitution specifies, and I quote:

"All citizens shall have the right to participate in peaceful activity intended to influence the composition and policies of Government. All citizens shall have the right to form and join political parties and, subject to such qualifications prescribed by law as necessary in a democratic society, to participate in the conduct of public affairs, whether directly or through freely chosen representative(s). Every citizen who has reached the age of eighteen (18) years shall have the right to vote and who has reached the age of twenty-one (21) years to be elected to public office, unless otherwise provided by herein."

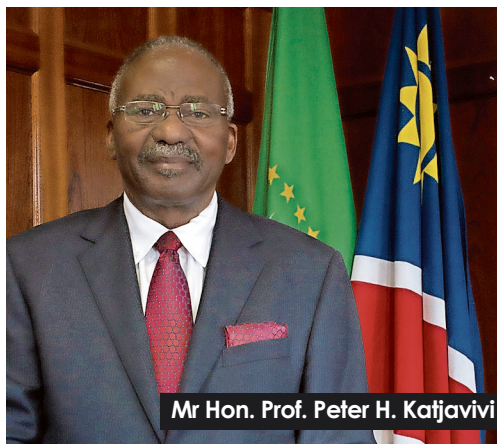
As one of the founding fathers of the Namibian Constitution, and as the Speaker of the National Assembly, I can only reiterate the importance of citizens utilising their right and mandate to participate in the democratic process. The election process in particular, is an important process where inclusivity should be ensured so as to promote participatory democracy and good governance.

The National Parliament has three core functions, viz., representation, legislation and oversight. When citizens vote their leaders into Parliament, they vest trust and confidence in

such persons to represent and address their concerns on matters of societal and national interest. Therefore when citizens vote, they are exercising their democratic right to entrust leadership to persons they feel can ably attend to critical matters in our midst.

On the question of youth inclusivity in the voting process, the youth are also citizens and furthermore, they form the largest percentage of the population. In addition, most of the challenges in society primarily affect the youth. Therefore, the youth should partake in electing leaders they feel will articulate and address these challenges. The process of voting also inculcates democratic culture amongst the youth, which is important because they will be the leaders of the future. Pre-independence Namibia did not provide these opportunities and since then, we have relentlessly strived to make sure the country promotes peaceful co-existence in line with our policy of national reconciliation.

Fellow citizens, November 2019 is just around the corner. I urge you all to vote wisely and peacefully and by so doing, fulfil your right as stipulated in Articles 17 and 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. Indeed, we are all encouraged by the large number of newly registered voters during the ECN's recent voter-registration exercise. Long live the Republic of Namibia!



Mr Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi

ECN MESSAGE BY THE CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERANDA OFFICER

Democracy recognises that people are the highest authority. Article 1(2) of the Namibian Constitution specifically states that "all power shall vest in the people of Namibia who shall exercise their sovereignty through the democratic institutions of the state." In addition, Article 17 of the Namibian Constitution also states that all Namibian citizens have the right to take part in peaceful, political activities. This includes the right to join existing political parties or to form new political parties. It also includes the right to participate in public affairs directly or through elected representatives.



Mr Theo Mujoro

Registration of Voters that took place between 8 and 27 July, 2019, the ECN consulted the Namibian Statistics Agency (NSA) regarding numerical statistics for eligible voters. Using medium-variant-projected population figures, it was estimated that about 300,000 Namibian citizens would have reached the eligible age of 18 years or older, following the General Registration of Voters (GRV) that took place in 2014 and the Supplementary Registration of Voters that was conducted in 2015. As of 3 July 2019, the national voters register stood at 1,235,020 registered voters.

Therefore, every Namibian citizen, who is at least 18 years of age, has the right to vote. Furthermore, every Namibian citizen who is at least 21 years of age may be elected to political office. Namibians are the source of power, and all laws, rules and decisions must reflect the will of the people. In a democracy, citizens have a primary responsibility and play a key role in influencing and setting their country's agenda.

Voting is one of the most important rights of citizens. When citizens collectively elect their representatives, they affirm the notion that we govern ourselves by free choice. Democracy requires an active citizenry because, without public participation, democracy lacks legitimacy. As such, it is through elections, that people choose their representatives and their leaders. Furthermore, the voting process is crucial to a government because it allows people to participate in their government, holds elected representatives responsible for their decisions, and prevents a minority from dictating policies to a majority. It is therefore important that we, as Namibian citizens living in an independent and democratic Namibia, do not waive our right, a right for which people are still fighting in other parts of the world.

In preparation for the 2019 Supplementary

Provisional statistics compiled following the 2019 Supplementary Registration of Voters indicate that the ECN has registered a total number of 255,830 eligible Namibians in-country, inclusive of all regions in the country. The ECN has further registered a total number of 734 eligible Namibians at designated registration points, at diplomatic missions abroad, bringing the total to 256,564 registered voters accounted for during the entire registration period.

The ECN is also cognisant of the fact that voter and civic education is important to ensure maximum participation in elections, and that young people who are eligible to vote, especially first-time voters, may need to be targeted with messages through youth-friendly mediums for them to be incentivised, not only on the importance of voting, but to be encouraged to participate in changing systems that aren't working for them, by being engaged at both the polls and more broadly. By exercising their considerable voting power, young people could ensure that issues of relevance and importance to them would be placed, and kept, on the national agenda. Accordingly, the ECN continuously reviews its programmes to ensure maximum participation and involvement on the part of youth.

"I-VOTE NAMIBIA" CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

"Spot the Difference" interviewed the "i-vote Namibia" campaign youth ambassadors to gain insight on how Namibian youth might be helped to grasp the importance of their participation in the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections. The campaign aims to strengthen the overall turnout of youth at the national, regional- and local-authority elections in line with NDP 5, Vision 2030 and achievement of SDG goal number 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) for good governance and prosperity.



Ms Emma Theofelus



Mr Pandu Nghipandulwa

Q1: Have you ever voted before?

Pandu: No, unfortunately, I have never voted before. As a young person, growing up I never really understood the importance of voting.

Emma: Yes, I voted in the Presidential and National Assembly elections in 2014 and then again in the local-authority and regional elections in 2015.

Q2: Why will you vote in the upcoming elections?

Pandu: After studying political science, I learned that it is vital for us as young people to actively participate in the governance of this country. Democracy, by definition, means 'rule by the people', and elections present an opportunity for the public to choose leaders who they think will best represent their interests. The reason I will be voting this time around is because I want to exercise my democratic right to participate in elections by voting as a Namibian citizen.

Emma: I am voting in the upcoming elections because I want my voice to be heard through my vote. More importantly, I want to contribute to the decision of who becomes the custodian of my constitutional rights and social welfare in this country.

Q3: Describe your ideal political party

Pandu: My ideal political party is one that puts the interests of the people first. Therefore, I would say that a great political party is one that is primarily focused on serving the people, as well as creating an environment in which the youth can thrive and reach their full potential.

Emma: I would say that my ideal political party is one that has skilled and visionary leaders, leaders who have the welfare of all Namibians on their minds, hearts and in their plans all the time. Furthermore, it would be a political party with a leadership that is in touch with the most vulnerable groups of people in our country.

Q4: Describe your ideal presidential candidate

Pandu: A candidate who is humble and inspires change as well as leads by example.

Emma: My ideal presidential candidate is one who is decisive, visionary, relates to the average Namibian and has integrity.

Q5: What are your thoughts on gender equality and elections?

Pandu: It is quite evident that we still live in a patriarchal society. For instance, the number of male candidates in the upcoming presidential elections heavily outweighs their female counterparts. However, I think that the government has been making great strides to ensure that men and women are fairly represented, especially in parliament.

Emma: More females than males, in all age groups, make up the population of our country. Therefore, it is almost guaranteed that more female voters register to vote and actually turn up at the polls to vote. This is a good thing in the overall conduct of elections. However there are still very few women who run for public office, especially in the local-authority elections. Women who become elected officials would generally better understand the needs of women and, hopefully would be the best at responding to these needs. A lot has to do with the lack of participation and representation in political parties and more importantly in the financial support to run as an independent candidate. Times are changing in the current dispensation and women are very much welcomed as long as they aim to build our democracy.

Q6: What is your opinion regarding young people who stay away from the polls?

Pandu: If young people choose not to participate in elections then they shouldn't complain about how this country is governed. Many young people argue that they are making a political statement by choosing not to vote. But elections present an opportunity

for you to vote for an individual or party that will best represent your interests. So if you do not vote then how can you complain?

Emma: It is quite sad that more and more young people are giving up their right to vote. I'm not quite sure if it's a lack of understanding or if it is really based on an informed and calculated decision. But either way, I encourage my fellow young people to fully exercise their right to freedom of expression by voting! I personally don't know why they do not recognise that the right to vote, although a silent one, is one of the most effective ways to bring about the change they seek. I can only implore young people to participate and furthermore actively hold elected officials accountable to the promises they made during their election campaigns.

Q7: What are your thoughts on technology and elections?

Pandu: Technology can be used as an instrument to educate the youth about the importance of participating in elections. Many young people today receive information daily from Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other social media platforms. Hence, these platforms should be used to engage and inform the youth about elections.

Emma: Social media, which are more appealing to the youth, have become very popular with political leaders. And I suspect that as soon as the campaign season hits, all digital platforms will be bombarded with political party slogans. Be that as it may, I think the advent of new technologies in times of elections should focus on holding conversations about the things that matter to people, their needs and welfare. The electoral commission for example must use these new methods to create platforms in which ordinary citizens interact with the candidates and give an opportunity for open and honest dialogues. I personally hope that in future, we will be able to cast our votes in the privacy of our own homes by voting online. But we need to get past the hurdle of voter apathy first. Perhaps we need an abstinence button on the EVMs to cure this.

SPOTLIGHT ON POLITICAL PARTIES!



Political parties that were registered with the ECN at the time of going to print but are not featured in this publication are: *



Christian Democratic Voice (CDV)



Democratic Party of Namibia (DPN)



Monitor Action Group (MAG)



Rally for Democracy (RDP)

*See Disclaimer on P2

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

About the Party

The All People's Party (APP) was founded on 14 December 2007. The founding president is Ignatius Shikwambeni, who will also be contesting as the party's candidate for the 2019 presidential elections.

Party Philosophy

The APP believes in inclusive and participatory democracy and is principled on transparency, accountability and equality.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

In today's tech-savvy world, there is no excuse to abstain from voting because you don't know enough about the parties or their candidates. It is easier than ever to be an informed voter. It is especially important for young Namibians to understand that they have the power to sway elections. We can only advise youth by saying, "you may not care now, but you might in four years time. While you can't predict who or where you'll be in five years, you can be sure that the political officials elected into office and the policies they implement will impact your life in the coming months and years." As a young nation, Namibia cannot afford to lose its young voters: every vote counts. This line of reasoning is justified because young voters are the ones hardest hit by the current economic recession, by other socio-political issues such as unemployment, poverty, lack of developmental opportunities, access to land and housing. It is therefore important that the youth connect with politics early in their lives and make voting a lifelong habit under the slogan, "Vote early and often".

Vision for Namibia

Our resolve is to courageously and energetically address the central questions of our current time in history, seeking answers that will create a fair and just redistribution of wealth as well as fair and equal opportunities for all Namibians. These ends, we believe, can only be brought about by a total change and departure from the way our country is currently governed, towards a more radical, people-centred approach to governance.



CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

About the Party

The Congress of Democrats (CoD) party was founded in March 1999 by former party president, Ben Ulenga.

Party Principles

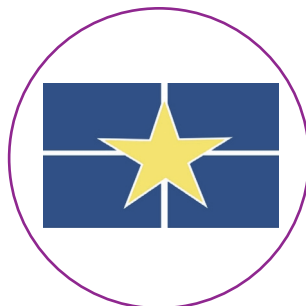
The CoD believes in the principles of democracy (representative government) and the rule of law. We stand for the principle of accountability and proclaim the virtues of an open and transparent society. We also believe in the creation of a modern, up-to-date knowledge-based, society of information that would be able to meet the demands of the modern world. Furthermore we are for the active promotion of a democratic culture of tolerance and believe, without reservation, in basic political freedoms, which include the freedom of multi-party democracy. We also stand for freedom of the press and other media, and for the right of access to information.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

It is important that all Namibians vote because this will give them confidence in holding leaders accountable for promises made in their party manifestos. Our collective future rests on "doing it right" by investing sufficient resources in Namibian youth. Therefore, we predict that young people, because they comprise the majority of voters, will participate in the upcoming elections. From our side, we will put effort into educating voters with regards to the voting process, informing them about what is required to validate their vote and the importance of participating in the elections in the first place. We will also make voters aware of who the candidates are and instruct them on processes of electing their candidates within the party context. It is also very important that we especially encourage the youth to seek positions in our party's leadership, by becoming engaged in party activities at local, regional and national levels. Learning how to assume leadership is important because the youth are obviously the future. They need to be involved early on, in order to help formulate a structured plan for their future and for the future of the country as a whole.

Vision for Namibia

National economic policy needs serious consideration and should prohibit the employment of foreign, unskilled workers. We will craft a free education policy that ensures free and compulsory education for all Namibian children below the age of 18. We will also advocate for an improved health and welfare system by introducing total and comprehensive access to health and medical facilities for all citizens, be they private or state-owned. We will also establish a comprehensive medical-aid and pension system that will include not only government employees, but also other public workers.



LANDLESS PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT (LPM)

About the Party

The Landless People's Movement (LPM) was founded in 2016 and registered with the ECN in 2018. The party is led by former Lands Deputy Minister, Bernadus Swartbooi, who currently serves as its Leader and Chief Change Campaigner (LCCC), while the party's Deputy Leader and Chief Strategist is Henny Seibeb.

Party Principles

LPM wants to establish a party that can be trusted by citizens, that will help create a safe place for Namibians in keeping with the Namibian Constitution. The party is based on principles that are people-centred, and adhere to truth, honesty, hard work and dedication to uplifting all Namibians.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

We are currently campaigning door-to-door in order to "roust the people from their slumber". We are also engaged in disseminating public information through opinion pieces in daily newspapers. The information available to young people today is overwhelming, yet our youth are disconnected from current affairs. The job of LPM is to inform and cajole the youth into action concerning the non-performance of the current government and political parties represented in parliament. This effort is important because the unemployment rate for youth in Namibia is between 50 and 60 per cent! These are facts they can't run away from. So, instead of watching them bury their heads in the sand with voter apathy, we engage with them regarding these realities. For this reason, you can see that LPM is the vehicle to empower the youth, who, in terms of their sheer numbers, should assume executive positions within the party structures. Saving Namibia from this abyss of indebtedness, poverty and SWAPO corruption, at the same time creating real jobs and futures for our youth, will be achieved in voting for LPM.

Vision for Namibia

Unlike the National Development Plans, numbers 1 to 5, which did not establish much, the LPM will address and redress challenges confronting Namibian manufacturing and value-addition of exports in its first term of governance. LPM envisages young, capable leaders who will implement policies reworked by LPM strategists and economists that will enable a multi-pronged, state-led development of our people and economy. The days of suitcase tenderpreneurs and bailed-out of SOEs are over in Namibia. LPM, through many caucuses, group-meetings, and discussion with consultants have decided to remove certain positions that interfere in the political process, such as the Ombudsman and the Public Protector.



NAMIBIAN ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (NEFF)

About the Party

The Namibian Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF) was founded on 25 June 2014 by Epafras Jan Mukwilongo. The party embraces a similar ideology to that of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) of South Africa and supports radical Marxist policies such as the nationalisation of mines.

Party Principles

We stand for the protection of human rights, which include cultural, economic and social rights of minority and marginalised communities. We also stand for an accountable, open and transparent society. Most importantly, we stand for economic growth that is able to respond to the economic crisis that confronts our society.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

Our party represents the aspirations of the working class and the poor. It provides an alternative vision and is the solution for total and radical economic freedom for Namibians. Therefore we will organise and mobilise voters through mass campaigns. Especially the youth should be encouraged; it is time they take over from an ageing generation that still rules this country. Change is vital because the future belongs to the youth; they need to exercise their right to participate in politics as enshrined in the Constitution of Namibia. Our party is a mass-based organisation that aspires to free both youth and the poor from poverty, unemployment and discrimination. We believe that our party will be remembered as the only party established with the aim of fighting for economic emancipation, eradication of poverty, nationalisation of mines, free education and expropriation of land without compensation. We have also advocated for redress of ancestral land rights.

Vision for Namibia

Our short-term vision is to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor by sharing Namibian wealth equally, burying corruption and self-enrichment and doing away with unemployment by creating more job opportunities. Our long-term vision is to grow Namibia's economy in order to meet the basic human needs of our people. Policies that are pro-economic growth will be put in place to raise the standard of living for all Namibians.



NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NAMIBIA (NDP)

About the Party

The National Democratic Party (NDP) of Namibia was established on 9 February 2003 in favour of a federal system of government, which will accommodate all ethnic groups and all political parties registered in Namibia.

Party Principles

With regard to ideology, we relate to the greater programmatic tradition of other parties and consider our manifesto to be more relevant than those of other parties.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

Citizens should participate in elections by voting, so that their voices can be heard. Our target is to reduce the number of seats held by the ruling party in the National Assembly and we hope that the electoral process will be conducted in a transparent manner. The NDP encourage young people to vote for a young candidate who is a visionary, such as myself.

Vision for Namibia

Our task is to present a clear vision of where we are, what we do, and what our target goals are. The long-term vision is to accomplish forestry plantation in the northern and southern parts of Namibia in order to save livestock and people, ensure food security and create jobs. The short-term vision is to create a developmental framework through our party manifesto.



NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

About the Party

The National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO) is a political party in Namibia founded in 1964. Ms Esther Utjiva Muinjangue was elected the party's first female president, and became the first female leader of a Namibian political party, at the party's third elective congress, which took place on 25 and 26 March 2019.

Party Principles

The party aims to realise access to quality education for all Namibians, and effect equal distribution of resources and opportunities for all Namibians. It will work to establish land restitution and land reform, redress the unresolved issues of genocide and reparations, and fight corruption and nepotism.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

It is important for all Namibians to vote, so that their voice can be raised on political issues, they can interfere in the political process where need be, and foster debate on subjects of national interest. It is now important, more than ever before, that youth especially should be heard on issues affecting them, since statistically, the youth constitute more than 50 per cent of the population of Namibia. These numbers should also be reflected in decision-making structures, as youth are literally the future of our country. NUDO has already begun reaching out to young people in various towns. Out-reach efforts took the form of organised gatherings having a single agenda point, namely, to address youth on issues affecting them specifically. At each of these gatherings, NUDO received and welcomed new party members, all of whom were youth.

Vision for Namibia

Due to a prevailing need for change, a window is open, making our party, NUDO, a viable alternative as the leading party for the masses. With a female leader, NUDO will ensure that youth will have top positions in our leadership structure, a fact that will set us apart from other parties. In addition, NUDO is the only party in Namibia that advocates on behalf of the genocide and reparation issues, instilling hope in the descendants of affected communities and resurrecting the question of ancestral land. NUDO also entered the motion in Parliament that prompted the appointment of the Special Envoy, despite the party's strong reservations regarding the envoy's specific role.

Our short-term vision entails tolerance of diversity, humanistic economic reform, quality healthcare and welfare for all, job creation and skills development, nationalisation of extractive industries, housing and restoration of family values, and respect for the rule of law. Our long-term vision encompasses peace and stability, economic prosperity and industrialisation.



POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM)

About the Party

The Popular Democratic Movement (PDM), formerly the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), was established in 1977 and is the official opposition party in Namibia. The party subscribes to conservatism as an ideology and stands at the center-right position of the political spectrum.

Party Principles

The fundamental aim of the PDM is the creation and maintenance of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, non-discriminatory, egalitarian, prosperous and democratic society in Namibia.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

Namibia attained her independence in 1990, and since then the same party has ruled this Republic. In place has been what is called a 'multi-party democracy' and the PDM has created various mechanisms that ensure higher voter turnout as well as establish mechanisms to reduce voter apathy. A PDM government would also champion deliberate action to decentralise economic and industrial development activities to be pursued in rural areas. More than 40 per cent of the youth population in our country remains unemployed, declared or not. This figure is of major concern to us, since the education system in place disadvantages our young people. The economy is such that, entrepreneurial initiatives, particularly those undertaken by young people, do not receive crucial support, neither are they prioritised. It is no secret that the future of our country lies in the young of our society. Hence it is important that young people regard the election, not only as a democratic exercise, but also as an opportunity to influence policy. We must encourage young people to vote policy, policy that is most beneficial to them as young Namibians, a group which is faced with unique challenges. It is our firm belief that policies should be based on a judicious mix of experience and energy, and be youth inclusive, enabling young people to become an integral part of the development process.

Vision for Namibia

It is a well known fact that this country is semi-arid with very limited water resources, which also faces various climatic challenges influenced by climate change. Our task is to revolutionise Namibia by making our country a hub for renewable energy, harnessing solar and wind energy and by supporting the education of young scientists who will develop uniquely Namibian responses to its energy and water-supply related challenges. Home owners will be encouraged to sell unused energy to the grid at the same time providing storage facilities. It is our plan to fashion a stronger Namibia by building a stronger economy, stronger communities, cleaner environments and more modernised infrastructure.



REPUBLICAN PARTY (RP)

About the Party

The Republican Party (RP) was founded in 1977 by Dirk Mudge. Henk Mudge, son of Dirk, succeeded as party president in July 2003 and is the sole representative of the party in the National Assembly. Prior to the 2004 parliamentary elections, the Republican Party was part of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA).

Party Principles

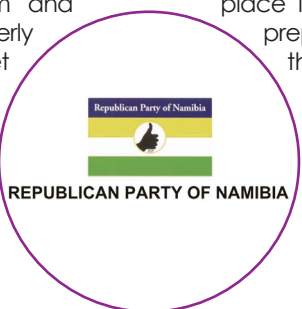
RP Party principles uphold the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, and guard against any derogation or suspension of the country's fundamental rights and freedoms. The party fights tirelessly against corruption, suppression, unfair preference and nepotism, promotes improvement of human relations and national reconciliation, promotes peace, security and stability by means of social, economic and human development, and labours to raise a new generation of God-fearing leaders of integrity who are dedicated to serve the nation.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

Democracy is about creating a better country now, as much as it is about creating a better tomorrow. Due to occurrences observed during every election since independence, we are convinced that election results were manipulated in favour of the ruling party. Our first priority will be to ensure that future elections will be conducted so that the results will truly reflect the will of the people. The current political elite is robbing the youth of its future; the youth must reclaim that future through legal and constitutional means, namely by participating in elections. It is important for every Namibian citizen to exercise their constitutional right to vote in elections; it is the only way a person can voice his or her opinion by voting for what they believe in. The ballot box is the first appointment each citizen has with their future. Abstaining from the vote will only keep the loyalists of the ruling party in power at the expense of the nation and the fundamental ideals on which the RP was founded, chief amongst them, the right of all Namibians, regardless of race, tribe, language or culture, to participate and have their voice heard by those who govern the affairs of the nation. The youth's participation at the ballot box demonstrates their commitment to the legacy they wish to leave behind. Exercising the right to vote also reinforces their ability to internalise the ideal that democracy is about individuals working together to build a better tomorrow by sending the right people to the "House of lawmaking".

Vision for Namibia

The RP's overarching vision for Namibia is to help Namibians believe in themselves, in the first instance, to see themselves as the only people who can develop this country. Although investors can assist the country to move forward, if we depend solely upon them to develop, they will easily turn us into "a schizophrenic nation that does not know whether it is coming or going". Putting it simply, our population is slightly over two million people; we could reach each and every Namibian within a span of five years with a single, powerful and uniting idea, that we are one nation, not a collection of communities quarrelling under party flags and symbols. In the short term, we should embrace the same symbols for the nation. In the medium term we should overhaul the education system and place it in trustworthy hands, ensuring that our children are properly prepared to enter the labour market, and are able to meet the challenges our country faces. Long-term focus should aim to transform Namibia into a distinct, economic-development hub, capable of stimulating growth in every region, so that people will not be impelled to leave their traditional homes and their families with the false hope that the capital city will offer them a better life.



SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION (SWAPO)

About the Party

The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) party of Namibia was founded on 19 April 1960, taking from its forerunner, the Ovambo People's Organisation (OPO), founded in 1958, a full mandate to unite and cultivate the spirit of nationalism within the Namibian people. The SWAPO party of Namibia, was born from the realisation that, "united we stand, divided we fall". Hence, the revolutionary clarion call was raised, "One Namibia, One Nation". To this end, SWAPO had by 1976, already declared in its policy documents, "the government of a truly liberated Namibia will, therefore, be called upon to take the following measures: wage the struggle towards the abolition of all forms of exploitation of man by man and the destructive spirit of individualism and aggrandisement of wealth and power by individuals, groups or classes".

Party Principles

SWAPO stands for solidarity, freedom and justice with the aim to unite all the people of Namibia. The SWAPO party brought independence to Namibia and it is our resolve to protect our country's peace. We have a responsibility to foster a sense of purpose and collective vision for all Namibian citizens. For these reasons we oppose retrogressive tendencies such as tribalism and racism, which threaten our democracy.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

Elections are important because the right of choice by voting was achieved through a painful and protracted liberation struggle. Namibians everywhere should embrace this right wholeheartedly, because it is through voting that we continue to have peace in our country. Elections are also especially important to our party because every five years we return to the electorate to seek renewal of our mandate. The SWAPO government rules, and has continued to rule since independence in 1990 because Namibian voters have given us the mandate to rule. Those who choose not vote should understand that their choice to stay away from the polls is, in essence, still a vote for whoever wins. As for the youth, the future of Namibia depends on their actions today. Therefore, as young leaders, the responsible thing to do is to vote, because the future is now and going forward.

Vision for Namibia

SWAPO has always had the development agenda of Namibia as its core focus, hence development plans such as Vision 2030. We have come a long way as a developing nation and our growth demonstrates that Namibia is on a trajectory that ranks us an upper-middle income country. Yes, inequality still exists on many levels, however this fact does not overshadow the reality that Namibia today is highly developed in comparison to the Namibia of 1990. Our vision as a party for the development of our country is best captured by our political ideology, which affirms 'socialism with Namibian characteristics'. It is important to understand that this means that socialism, as it is commonly understood, will now be customised to fit the Namibian context. We believe this goal will be possible to achieve as our 'Namibian characteristics' include open-market principles and techniques to develop the Namibian economy. Our ideology is underpinned by the principles of social justice, economic inclusion and shared prosperity and responsibility in role through the ownership of the means of production, such as land, labour, capital and entrepreneurship. Therefore, our ideology is a means to advance political, economic and social empowerment of all Namibians as well as protect and sustain the environment and ecological systems of our country.



SWANU OF NAMIBIA (SWANU)

About the Party

The South West Africa National Union (SWANU) is a Namibian political party founded in 1959 by Adv. J Kozonguizi. The party's current president is Dr Tangeni Iijambo.

Party Principles

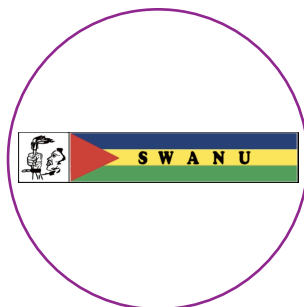
SWANU is a revolutionary and democratic organisation which ultimately aims to create a progressive and pragmatic socialist system of governance based on social justice, democracy and the rule of law.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

SWANU of Namibia believes that it is a civic and national duty for anyone, including the youth, to vote because the future of Namibia will be in their hands. Every generation is called upon to define its own issues and to fight to reaffirm and reassert its rights and freedoms. The young people of Namibia are ready to make history in that regard. We are, at this moment, involved with discouraging apathy among the youth. Due to the generational bias within the ruling party, there is evidence that young people are frustrated and growing increasingly disenchanted with its discriminatory and exclusionary tendencies. Our expectation is that this frustration could well produce a 60 per cent turnout among the youth at the polls.

Vision for Namibia

Our vision is to win both elections in the National Assembly and to secure seats in the National Council. Our short-term vision is to establish industries in order to reduce dependency on imports and to add value to our raw materials such as granite, timber, charcoal, salt, limestone, fishmeal, dairy products, minerals, meat and meat products by transporting them to other countries. Our long-term vision is to make Namibia a self-reliant welfare state with a socialised economy.



UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

About the Party

The United Democratic Front (UDF) party was formed as a coalition of various traditional groups and leaders on 25 February 1989, for the purpose of participating in the first democratic elections held in Namibia.

Party Principles

UDF believes in democracy and thus advocates for democratic rule in all its operations and participation. The party's core principles are embedded in the rule of law.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

It is very important for young people to take part in elections, because they are the architects of their own future and therefore should participate in decision-making processes today, in order to lay the foundations of their own destiny and effect change when things are not going well in the country. UDF is a political party that believes in youth empowerment; our Youth League takes youth advocacy and development very seriously, established by the fact that we have youthful leaders in party structures, such as the EXCO, the Central Committee and the regional- and local-authority councils.

Vision for Namibia

Firstly, we would mobilise, influence, inspire and convince the Namibian people, regardless of race, colour, sex, religion or economic status, to join the UDF Party as an alternative and independent political home in Namibia, and to vote to bring it to power. Secondly, we would fight for equal rights and equal treatment, socio-economic freedom, alleviation of poverty, reduction of unemployment and prevention of crime for all Namibians, regardless of their political affiliation, gender, ethnicity, religious denomination or economic status, as an independent political party in Namibia.



UNITED PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT (UPM)

About the Party

The United People's Movement (UPM) was established in 2009 and registered with the ECN in 2010. The UPM will not field a candidate for president in the 2019 election, pursuant of the MoU signed by the UPM and PDM. The party will support the PDM presidential candidate. The UPM and PDM, also in terms of the MoU, will submit a combined party list for National Assembly elections under the name of the PDM.

Party Principles

The UPM is a Christian party, which recognises the supremacy of God in the destiny of nations and people.

Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections

It is important, especially for young people, to become involved in politics. The UPM has united previously divided groups in Rehoboth and is the first political movement active in the town since independence.

Vision for Namibia

Our short-term vision is to see an end to the one-party dominance of the ruling party come November 2019, and to increase our representation on national and regional levels, while the party also strives to assume control of the Rehoboth Town Council. The party's long-term vision is to see a reduction in the poverty rate in Namibia, a decline in the unemployment rate and the elimination of corruption.



WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (WRP)

About the Party

The Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) was founded in 1984 and declared a Marxist workers' party on 1 May 1989 in the Khomasdal Community Hall under the leadership of Hewat Beukes and Werner Mamugwe. After the death of Werner Mamugwe, Hewat Beukes has led the party as its political secretary until the present.

Party Principles

Marxism is the party's basic position, as defined by dialectical materialism and political determination.




Views on voters (with special focus on the youth) and elections




The elections are a farce. Though the party won two seats in the 2014 elections, it was denied the seats by SWAPO through the speaker of parliament. The party objected that its electoral funds were paid into an account, fraudulently opened in the name of the party, at the First National Bank, from which Peter Katjavivi siphoned funds through surrogate signatories in criminal violation of the Financial Intelligence Act of 2012. The party accused the FNB, the Minister of Finance and Katjavivi of organised criminality. The FNB took the case to court, but lost.




Vision for Namibia



If society cannot succeed in organising itself against the ravages of international capital introduced through this comprador state, it will socially disintegrate and face a deepening crisis of extreme poverty and human degradation.





Party	 APP	 COD	 LPM
Youth Unemployment	It is worrisome and needs urgent attention.	Create employment for youth and make social grants.	We stand in Solidarity with unemployed youth.
Corruption and Accountability	There is a need to strengthen the ACC by establishing a special tribunal on corruption, on which retired judges would serve.	Form an anti-corruption committee with discretionary power to investigate cases Introduce stricter anti-corruption laws and regulations.	Create institutions that will be answerable only to the Constitution and the courts.
Namibian Land Question	We support demands for genocide reparations from the German government by the Herero, Nama and Damara communities Prioritise commercial farming in Namibia Resettle descendants of previous ancestral landowners (Hereros, Nama and Damara) Properly register and demarcate communal land Recognise and respect traditional leaders.	Land belongs to Namibians Farmers must be given farming land for commercial purposes Residential land should be distributed in such a way that each person has a plot they can call home Namibia needs a once-off, land-grant programme, that will make it possible for every Namibian to own a residential plot.	Start rectifying the displacement of land caused by the Germans and the South Africans.
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	We stand for gender equality and advocate for a 50/50 decision-making structure in our lifetime We advocate for a 50/50 gender representation for ministers and their deputies We advocate for a 50/50 gender representation in management positions of all state-owned enterprises (SOEs).	Offer leadership courses to women and encourage aspirations to leadership among girls from high-school age.	Take note at how many women are in leadership positions in our organisation.
Access to resources for young entrepreneurs	Denied access to financing cripples entrepreneurship Establish entities willing to finance youth ventures and provide mentorship programmes.	Young entrepreneurs need to acquire skills before being given access to resources.	Do away with tenderpreneurship Partner with South African businesses to address fundamentals that will help identify where our entrepreneurs go wrong in the first years of business.

Party	 NEFF	 NDP	 NUDO
Youth Unemployment	Enforce compulsory retirement to open job opportunities for our youth.	Prioritise job creation through industrialisation.	We plan to put the youth first The youth should hold an annual symposium that must impact the status quo regarding how the country is governed. Young people should be in school regardless of their age. Vocational and tertiary education should form part of their day-to-day schedule Sectoral capacity-building will be initiated to benefit youth who are not attending school.
Corruption and Accountability	Prosecute culprits and impose state expropriation of properties of tax evaders.	Eradicate corruption by empowering independent institution.	We believe in accountability and will prosecute all offenders equitably before the law.
Namibian Land Question	Expropriate land without compensation and redistribute it to Namibians.	Revisit original land boundaries and return land to those whose land was confiscated.	Namibia is a signatory to various international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on indigenous People and the African Mining Vision, ^t to mention two. We would ratify these and adapt their provisions in the Namibian context, at the same time reminding the Namibian government to address the issue of land reform.
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	We envisage gender balance in all our structures by 2024.	Incorporate traditional and customary law together with provisions of the constitution.	We adhere to various international conventions and local laws that deal with discrimination against women and seek to uplift the status of women.
Access to resources for young entrepreneurs	Young entrepreneurs will be prioritised in accessing loans and grants Revisit the free-market economic policy that allows multinational companies to dominate the local market.	Avail access to information.	Agricultural mentorship should be rolled out for the benefit of youth, who should be encouraged to engage in food production and value addition.

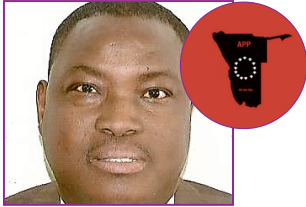
Party	 PDM	 RP	 SWAPO
Youth Unemployment	Link the needs of business with education programmes to empower the youth with employment-creation skills.	Implement programmes and policies that will create more employment opportunities Government has allowed the seemingly uncontrolled influx of unskilled Chinese nationals who have infiltrated the labour market and who have taken basic, unskilled positions away from Namibians. Problem is exacerbated by sub-standard education, and the lack of vocational schools and colleges throughout Namibia.	Youth unemployment can and will be solved and the recently concluded Economic Summit produced several ideas about how to resolve the issue.
Corruption and Accountability	Strengthen investigations into corruption and develop capacity of the the courts to prosecute cases.	Curb the ongoing looting of our resources and do away with greed and nepotism. The general perception is that the ACC is totally incompetent and needs to be replaced by individuals who will act without fear or favour.	We do not tolerate corruption, hence the creation of the ACC We trust our courts to deal with corruption.
Namibian Land Question	Impose rates and taxes on unproductive farmland.	Address the plight of people who lost land during the colonial era The discourse about land has acquired a racial character. The first priority should be to create food security.	The land question is in the process of being answered through resolutions from the Land Conference.
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	Financially empower rural women and formulate a 'women in the workforce' guide to inform policies.	The entry point for discussion of this subject should be in schools, inculcating in girl and the boy children the ideal that in today's world they will be judged not by what they wear but what they bring to the table in order to improve the conditions of life for everyone.	SWAPO has a 50/50 Zebra policy, which focuses on gender equality. This principle is entrenched in our party constitution.
Access to resources for young entrepreneurs	Establish a youth-venture capital fund and capacitate SMEs.	We would place more emphasis on skills development for young people, also teaching them how to solve problems in their communities and in the nation. It would appear that we allow a small number of politically connected young people to get huge tenders, which makes them very rich overnight, but who show nothing for their entrepreneurship.	The Economic Summit has shown us that we need to focus on youth-enterprise development. We advocate for young people to be innovative regarding their skill sets and become employers so that reliance on government as the largest employer can be eliminated.

Party	 SWANU	 UDF
Youth Unemployment	<p>Design programmes to encourage the youth to focus on vocational training and innovation.</p> <p>Offer scholarships in order to eliminate the creation of exorbitant debts, which are produced by student loans.</p>	<p>We believe in the empowerment of young people. Our party has many youthful leaders in party positions.</p>
Corruption and Accountability	<p>We will demand and field candidates of integrity, who will act as stewards of the welfare, wealth and resources of the nation and not as their owners.</p> <p>We will follow the Singaporean approach, targeting high-profile perpetrators and making them examples of our commitment to cleaning up corruption.</p> <p>All assets of those found guilty of corrupt practices, whether in the public or private sector, will be confiscated and forfeited to the state. Perpetrators will be held accountable, imprisoned and rehabilitated.</p>	<p>We advocate for an independent anti-corruption body</p> <p>Strict supervision, control and monitoring systems must be installed in all government offices, agencies and ministries.</p> <p>Presidential enquiry commission reports must be commissioned and acted upon</p> <p>The auditor general's findings in corruption cases must be taken seriously and culprits brought to justice.</p>
Namibian Land Question	<p>Establish a joint commission on ancestral land claims, comprised of representatives from Namibia, Germany and South Africa, which would raise funds to buy land for the purpose of redistribution.</p> <p>Germany and South Africa should bear responsibility because they administered the process of land acquisition, alienation and distribution during the illegal occupation of Namibia.</p> <p>We advocate for expropriation of foreign-owned land without compensation, and for expropriation of excess land owned by locals with just and reasonable compensation.</p>	<p>We believe that land in Namibia belongs to all Namibians, not only to those who can afford to purchase it. Excess land should be sold at or above market value and heavily taxed for any foreigner who wishes to own land in Namibia. All foreign landowners should be granted ownership rights for a limited number of years, and extended only if they apply for Namibian citizenship.</p>
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	<p>The current laws and regulations are not gender sensitive.</p> <p>Introduce a mandatory 'equal pay for equal work' policy</p>	<p>We enacted the 50/50-quota principle in our new party constitution because we believe in the empowerment of women.</p>
Access to resources for young entrepreneurs	<p>The youth should be provided access to resources</p> <p>Provide procurement with preferential treatment for companies registered by Namibian youth.</p> <p>Young entrepreneurs who identify projects, such as provision of hospital beds, pharmaceuticals and equipment, are denied access by senior government officials and political office bearers. This needs to stop!</p>	<p>Encourage, train and empower young entrepreneurs to take part in building the Namibian economy, through the purchase of shares in all economic sectors of the country.</p> <p>If elected to power, we would enact laws stipulating that all franchise businesses like KFC, Shoprite, Hungry Lion and service stations, be owned by Namibian entrepreneurs.</p>

Party	 UPM	 WRP
Youth Unemployment	The education system is to blame for the high rate of unemployment Low budgetary allocations for youth programmes hamper youth development.	Youth unemployment will continue to rise under this comprador state.
Corruption and Accountability	Political affiliation seems to be a licence for corruption, which is evident on the Rehoboth town council. Corruption in the system of tender submissions is high and the ACC is selective in its efforts to fight corruption. The meaning of accountability needs to be clarified as the concept of accountability has been misunderstood.	Corruption has become institutionalised because the state is dysfunctional and cannot hold individuals accountable for their actions.
Namibian Land Question	The willing-seller-willing-buyer system could have addressed the land issue, however it was hampered by poor leadership on the part of the government. Namibia has had sufficient time to address the land issue, however discrimination against minority groups during the resettlement process has done damage and prevented rectifying injustices.	Dispossessed communities will never achieve human dignity without the collective restoration of their ancestral land.
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	Currently, women make up 70% of the top structure of the party, with 62% on the NEC and 67% on the Central Committee.	Gender equality and the empowerment of women can only become a reality under the political ascendancy of the working people. In the Namibian context, with a tribal regime foisted on society, gender equality is an illusion.
Access to resources for young entrepreneurs	Prioritise security before giving youth access to financing for the development of SMEs.	With the level of graft present in a dysfunctional tribal regime, the creation of small and medium enterprises is illusory.

The complete political party interviews can be retrieved from NID's website www.nid.org.na

KNOW YOUR 2019 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ★



APP:
IGNATIUS
SHIKWAMBI



COD:
VAINO
AMUTHENU



LPM:
BERNADUS
SWARTBOOI



NEFF:
EPAFRAS JAN
MUKWILONGO



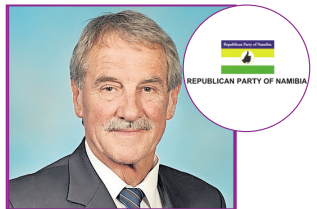
NDP:
MARTIN
LUKATO LUKATO



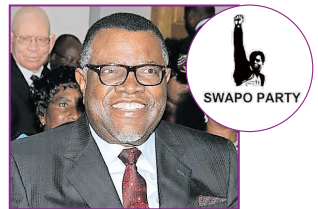
NUDO:
ESTHER UTJUA
MUIINJANGUE
*(the first female in Namibian history to
contest as a presidential candidate)*



PDM:
MCHERRY
VENAANI



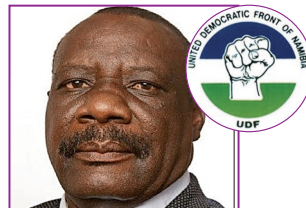
RP:
HENRY
FERDINAND
MUDGE



SWAPO:
HAGE
GOTTFRIED
GEINGOB



SWANU:
TANGENI
IJAMBO



UDF:
APIUS
AUXAB

*At the time of going to print



NAMIBIA IS A MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY

RECAP ON THE 2014 ELECTION RESULT

1. National Assembly Elections 2014

Political Parties	Votes Counted	% of votes	Total Seats
SWAPO	715,026	80.01	77
CoD	3,404	0.38	0
DTA (now PDM)	42,933	4.80	5
NUDO	17,942	2.00	2
UDF	18,945	2.11	2
RP	6,099	0.68	1
MAG	3,073	0.34	0
NEFF	3,259	0.36	0
SWANU	6,354	0.71	1
APP	20,431	2.28	2
CDP	2,606	0.29	0
DPN	1,131	0.12	0
NDP	1,389	0.15	0
RDP	31,382	3.51	3
UPM	6,353	0.71	1
WRP	13,328	1.49	2

2. Presidential Elections 2014

Candidate Name	Party	No.Votes	% of Votes
Geingob, Hage Gottfried	SWAPO	772,528	86.73
Hamutenya, Hidipo Livius	RDP	30,197	3.39
Maamberua, Usutuaijie	SWANU	5,028	0.56
Mbai, Asser	NUDO	16,740	1.88
Mudge, Henry Ferdinand	RP	8,676	0.97
Mukwiilongo, Jan Epafras Mulinasho	NEFF	2,514	0.28
Shixwameni, Ignatius Nkotongo	APP	7,266	0.82
Ulenga, Ulenga Benjamin	CoD	3,518	0.39
Venaani, McHenry Mike Kanjonkere	DTA	44,271	4.97

BRIEF PROFILE OF EACH PARTNER ORGANISATION

The Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID)

The Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID), founded in 1991, implements civic education, civil-society development, socio-political surveys and research and anti-corruption programmes in Namibia. Current programmes include a domestic, civil-society-election observation programme, political-party training, civic and voter education, anti-corruption and study-circle programmes.



The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)

The Hanns Seidel Foundation Namibia (HSF) is a German, non-profit organisation. Its Namibian office, located in Windhoek, dates back to 1978. The HSF supports the Namibian government in its efforts to consolidate democratic values, economic advancement, accountability, transparency and environmental awareness as part of the Namibian development plan. The foundation's work is funded primarily by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



The Namibia Media Holdings (Pty) Ltd (NMH)

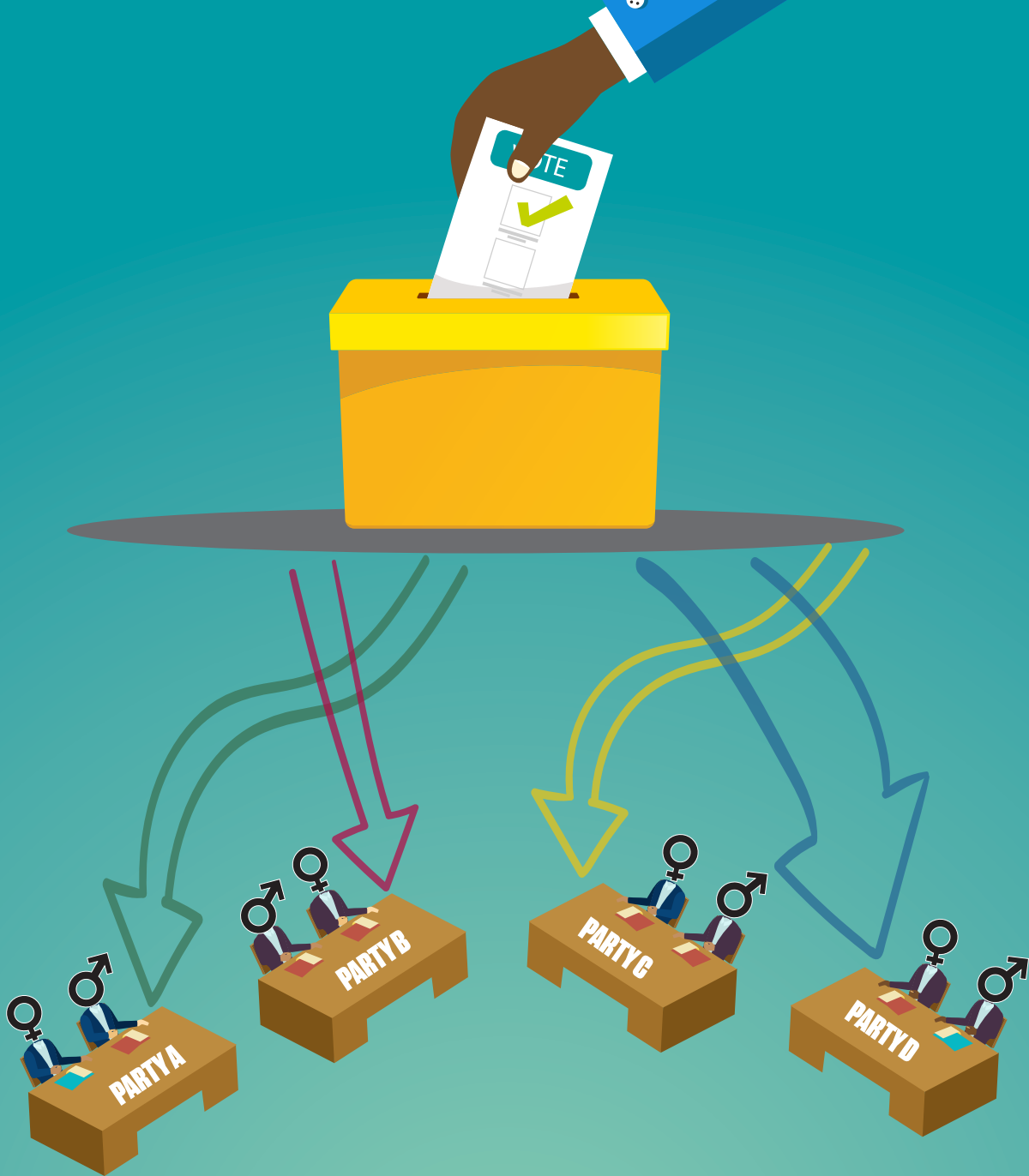
Namibia Media Holdings (NMH) is the largest media group in Namibia and serves as an umbrella company for three newspaper brands, Allgemeine Zeitung, the Namibian Sun and the Republikein). It manages print and digital offerings, a state-of-the-art newsprint operation and a distribution network. With a history of over 39 years, NMH stands by its purpose to empower communities with knowledge, facilitated through the dissemination of information.



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme is the United Nations' global development network. It advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources in order to help people create better lives for themselves.





Hanns
Seidel
Foundation

NiD

NMH

NAMIBIA
MEDIA
HOLDINGS

UN
DP

i-Vote
Namibia

**"YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR VOICE
IN PARLIAMENT"**