

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

Interview questionnaire with the United Democratic Front of Namibia (UDF), represented by its Secretary General Mr. Elijah H./Gawaseb

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:

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How will you go about achieving the above prediction?

UDF Party, in order to achieve the above predictions will:

- a. Ensure that all eligible voters that turned 18 years and above are duly registered with the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) as voters.
- b. Fund branches, constituencies and regions to campaign, lobby and mobilise door – to – door in their respective jurisdictions for masses to vote for UDF Party come 27 November 2019.
- c. Embark upon vigorous national campaign strategy through rallies, branch meetings and campaigns.

Why is it important for young people to vote?

It is very important for young people to take part in elections, because:

- a. They are the architects of their own future and thus have to take part in the decision making today to lay the foundation of their own destiny.
- b. For them to ensure their own future.
- c. To effect change wherever things are not going well in this country.

Why should the youth vote for your party?

UDF Party is a political party that believes in youth empowerment. It has a Youth League as one of its wings and advocates youth development and empowerment through it. UDF Party has youthful leaders in its structures like EXCO, Central Committee and Regional and Local Authority Councils.

Thus, youth voting for UDF Party will:

- a. Ensure their own future,

- b. Keep the legacy
- c. Take part in the decision making process of the country for themselves and their fellow young people in power.
- d. Effect change and get young people in the decision making and law making bodies like the National Assembly.

What motivated the formation of your political party?

UDF Party was formed as a coalition of different traditional groups and leaders on 25 February 1989 to participate in the first democratic elections of Namibia in 1989. Since then the Party has grown very strong and is always having representatives in Parliament.

The main aim is to represent the wishes, aspiration, dreams and will of the Namibian people in government and at all levels of government. The Namibian people need land, housing, jobs, healthcare, and better education. UDF Party has always been advocating for all of them in all levels of government where it is represented.

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

UDF party believes in democracy and thus advocates democratic rule in all its operations and participation. Besides, UDF Party's principle is rule of law and implementation of laws enacted. UDF Party believes in people participation in making Namibia great again.

How do you think history will remember your party?

UDF Party is one of the greatest political parties in Namibia. History will remember UDF Party as:

- a. The only alternative political party that won and run a region successfully for 25 years besides Swapo.
- b. As the alternative political party that always has representation in parliament and regional and local authorities.
- c. As the party that advocated change in towns like Hentiesbay, Walvisbay, Swakopmund and Khorixas were it has young and energetic local authority councilors.
- d. As an alternative political home that made a great impact in parliament with most motions and questions since 2014 to date.
- e. As only alternative political party that advocated through a motion in parliament for the split of Kunene region into two regions due to its vastness and far apart distanced and for government to bring development closer to the people.

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

Since its formation to date UDF Party has changed from being a coalition front to become a well established political party with its own laws, regulations and policies. It started holding elective congresses after every five years, enacted a well established constitution, election manifesto, bylaws and policies for its smooth operations. It enacted in its constitution the

50/50 gender representation rule which will be effective from its second elective congress in 2022 as well as during 2019/2020 elections.

Women and youth participation in politics has become its main focus, thus UDF Party has more youth and women representation in all its levels.

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

Unemployment amongst the youth

Young people are the biggest human resource Namibia is having. Above 60% of our population are young people between the ages of 15 to 35. UDF Party as explained above believes in empowering young people. That is why UDF Party has more youthful leaders in positions. To build a modern Namibia, UDF believes that: The best tools are our own hands, minds and skills; the best foundation is our own traditions and culture and the best material our own ideas, wishes, aspirations and qualifications. Most of these are found in young people.

Access to resources for young entrepreneurs

UDF Party will encourage, train and empower young entrepreneurs to take part in building the Namibian economy by buying shares in all economic sectors of the country, Besides, UDF Party will enact laws if elected to power for all franchise business like KFC; Shoprite, Hungry Lion and service stations to be owned by Namibian entrepreneurs. All investments must at least have 40% Namibian ownership with 10% Government shareholding.

Gender equality and Women empowerment

UDF Party enacted in its new constitution the 50/50 gender representation rule and it currently busy empowering all women in UDF Party through workshops and trainings.

The Land Question in Namibia

UDF Party believes that land in Namibia must not be sold to a bon [born?] and bred Namibian citizen in this country, Urban land must be allocated to those that qualify to build houses either through subsidy or bank guarantee, Farm land must be divided into equal shares of hectares and given to those with viable farming proposals. Besides, government must put in place strict monitoring and supervision processes and systems to ensure that land is used effectively and for the intended purpose.

Besides, UDF Party also believes that excess land must be sold on an above market price and taxed high to any foreigner who wishes to own land in Namibia. In addition, all foreign land owners must only be given a certain number of years to own land in Namibia if they do not become full Namibian citizens.

Nation-building amidst gender-based violence, ethnic heterogeneity

UDF Party believes in One Namibia – One Nation policy, thus will advocate the Namibian Flag and its colors more than any political party colors. National days like independence Day,

Heroes Day, Casinga Day etc. will be by law celebrated in Namibian flag colors and not political party colors.

UDF Party believes men need to be educated more to take their father role more than just being bread providers. Men need to be educated through national platforms to love their wives, girlfriends and children more like fathers and protect them instead of harming them.

Government procurement processes of goods and service

UDF Party wants the entire government procurement policy and process to be review and changed to benefit Namibian entrepreneurs more than foreign investors. Foreign investors need to be limited at least with 30% participation in any government tender or they must form joint ventures with 100% Namibian owned enterprises.

Corruption and Accountability

Corruption in Namibia reached the sky and need to be addressed urgently on all levels. UDF Party wants an independent Anti Corruption body that will fight corruption tooth and nail on all levels and bring all culprits to book. Strict supervision, a control and monitoring system must be enacted in all government offices, agencies and ministries. Presidential Enquiry commission reports must be attended to and acted upon. Auditor General's findings must be attended to seriously and culprits brought to book.

Decentralization: Devolution to Regional and Local councils.

All regions must be given full responsibility to run their regional affairs and report annually to the office of the Prime Minister. All government ministries must be regionalized to carry out their mandates effectively and according to their budget allocations.

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

1. To mobilize, influence, inspire and convince the Namibian people regardless of their race, color, sex, religion and economic status to join UDF Party as an alternative independent political home in Namibia and vote for it to gain power.

Additional Questions:

How can we make colonial and apartheid past wrong right for Namibia?

Enact the policy of truth and reconciliation commission and thereafter reconcile all Namibians under one umbrella which is One Namibia – One Nation.

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

Table a motion in parliament and fight for its enactment so that it becomes law for all Namibians to be compensated justly and live a decent life. Social Security Commission must be the government organ to implement the law as all working Namibian are contribution towards it already through Social Security Commission.

Interview with the „United Democratic Front of Namibia“ for Spot The Difference 3rd edition