

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

Interview questionnaire with the United People's Movement (UPM), represented by its MP Jan J. van Wyk

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:

1. The UPM is the only Party in Namibia that is realistic about politics. The UPM, considering its membership is due to increase its representation in the National Assembly with at least two more seats. The UPM is convinced that no opposition party will win national elections due to various reasons such as the use of the EVM's.
2. The UPM will not field a candidate for the Presidential Election and will at a later stage decide which opposition presidential candidate its member should support.
3. The UPM believes that the youth of this country would play a magnificent role during this election and future elections and hope that 80% of the youth would cast their votes.



How will you go about achieving the above prediction?

The UPM instructed its branches to each nominate five members as candidates for the National Assembly Elections of which at least three (3) members should be between the ages of 18 and 35. Whilst the UPMYL should nominate ten members.

Why is it important for young people to vote?

It is important for young people to become involved in politics as decision making processes champions their future.

Why should the youth vote for your party?

The United People's Movement has been the only Party that really has the youth at heart. The UPM also allows direct representation which makes it easier for the youth to serve on Party structures. The UPM has served one position in its top six for the youth.

What motivated the formation of your political party?

The UPM was established to again involve those who due to various reasons were not interested in politics. The UPM has managed to unite various groups in Rehoboth which resulted in changes in the political landscape.

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

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

How do you think history will remember your party?

The UPM has united previously divided groups in Rehoboth and has been the first political movement since independence.

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

The UPM as a Rehoboth based Party has managed to get votes from all across the country and proved that it is not a tribal party as claimed by some.

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

Unemployment amongst the youth

The UPM believes that the education system greatly contributed to the high unemployment rate.

Access to resources for young entrepreneurs

The low budget allocation to the ministry of youth hampers programs to improve on youth development. Access to finance through financial institutions is difficult to get without security.

Gender equality and Women empowerment

It is important to have women equipped to be part of the decisions making processes. The UPM currently has 70% women representation in its top structure, 62% on the NEC and 67% on its Central Committee. This shows the UPM’s commitment towards women empowerment.

The Land Question in Namibia

The Party believes that Namibia had enough time to address the land issue, however discrimination against minority groups during the resettlement process has done more damage than rectifying injustices. The party believes that the willing seller willing buyer system could have addressed the land issue, however it was hampered by poor leadership from the government side.

Nation-building amidst gender-based violence, ethnic heterogeneity

The high rate of gender based violence is caused by various factors which include the lack of Christian principles, a poor education and justice system whilst a lack of parental guidance during early childhood could not prepare the younger generation.

Government procurement processes of goods and service

The system had been exploited for many years; however the intention with the new procurement system seems to be cumbersome.

Corruption and Accountability

The country is faced with a high corruption rate that has been denied by Government. Political affiliation seems to be a license to corruption as is evident by the Rehoboth Town Council. Tender corruption is high whilst the ACC is selective in its efforts to fight corruption. Accountability and its meaning need to be defined as the word is clearly misunderstood.

Decentralization: Devolution to Regional and Local councils.

Decentralization is a process that could have benefited the people on grassroots level if not has been sabotaged by those who want to keep authority. However, the lack of capacity at Regional and Local Authority level has been used as a reason not to decentralize services. National Level has failed to implement the required capacity building whilst indentified.

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

As a short-term vision, the UPM wants to see an end to the one-party dominance of the ruling party, coming November 2019. [Additionally as a party we would like] to steadily increase our representation on National and Regional level, whilst the Party needs to take over the Rehoboth Town Council.

Long-term vision: To see the reduction of poverty rate in Namibia, decline in the unemployment rate and the elimination of corruption.