

WORKERS  
REVOLUTIONARY  
PARTY  
(WRP)  
FOR THE REBUILDING  
OF  
THE 4TH  
INTERNATIONAL

Published by

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Namibian Section

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# THE WORKER



Namibia's proletarian newsletter

Edition 3

December 2015

## IMPERIALISM CONTROLS NAMIBIAN ELECTIONS

By Erica Beukes and Paul Thomas

The following is the Report on the Regional and Local Authority Elections of 2015. Namibian workers have organised themselves for the abovementioned elections which took place throughout the country on 27 November 2015.

### Participation of the Workers Revolutionary Party

The Workers Revolution Party for the first time in its history took part in the Local Authority Elections where the working class of each town, where the party contested, organised themselves and fielded candidates.

The following are the towns where the party fielded candidates:

Windhoek, Okahandja, Keetmanshoop, Okakarara, Gobabis.

The working class in each of these towns compiled their manifestos according to their social, economic problems and demands. The Workers Revolutionary Party Central Committee assisted them in refining their manifestos and the party was the only political party to present manifestos for each town.

### The Control of Electoral System.

The two phase election of the Namibian nation was in the total control of the Indian technicians.

The electronic voting machine EVM was manipulated by the Indians and the Swapo functionaries.

The Workers Revolutionary Party and members stand firm to reject the electronic voting machines which does not reflect the true choices of the Namibian working people.

### Foreign Influence In Namibian Electoral Process.

Institutions like the Namibian Institute of



Photo from the Namibian Archives

Democracy (NID), the Institute of public policy research (IPPR) all regulated the elections. The foremost analyst used by the NBC and the newspapers was a British citizen Graham Hopwood reportedly a former consultant to the British Government.

A week before the elections he predicted that the opposition parties faced a wipe-out. His analysis was clearly meant to give credibility to the Indian EVM's and the inevitable fraud.

He ignored the widespread opposition to the EVM's, the fact that Germany, Britain and America do not allow electronic voting. He ignored the widespread boycott of voting. It is estimated that less than 20% of registered voters voted although the Indian EVM's or the 'verifiers' of the results (Indians technicians and SWAPO officials) increased the percentage to 38%. This is not true.

His commentaries were shallow and calculated.

### Typical Example of Vote rigging in Namibia.

Okahandja Constituency is one of the many places where vote rigging took place during the 2015 local authority elections. At some polling stations some voters had to vote in the dark where there was no electricity.

It is also alleged by some party agents that the Swapo candidate Steve Biko Boois has

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voted at at least three polling stations.

### **Opposition parties submitted the following protest to the ECN's Prof. Isaak who contemptuously ignored it.**

We, all signatories of the letter, want to lodge our complaints.

#### **The Electronic Voting Machines and equipment:**

The machines at Veddersdal were out of operation from the beginning till 10 o'clock and from then the machines were unreliable.

The scanner at the old Age Home was out of operation from the start for at least 1 to 2 hours.

At the Smarties community center it was necessary to repair the machine twice and that took us to 10 o'clock.

There were no printers at various polling stations.

#### **Behaviour of Officials:**

Mr. Eiseb took people from the SWAPO party in his car (ECN car) from the Smarties Polling Station.

At Five Dollar and various polling stations total votes cast were made available to party agents. These were verified as people came in. From 12 o'clock Mr. Nanuseb visited various polling stations and Swapo agents were taken out of the hall for approximately 40 minutes and then from time to time availability of results were stopped. This made it difficult to follow the transparency of the entire electoral process. ECN Polling officials at the Town Hall stopped several people to vote for the local authority. Mr. Blaauw was stopped and his vote was refused although he was registered to vote. Mr. Kleynhans was stopped during his voting the moment he vote for ORPA and the official told him he is not supposed to vote.

#### **General:**

Many voters were turned away apparently due to their cards that could not be verified by the ECN scanner machine.

It is also alleged by some party agents that candidate Steve Biko Boois has voted at more than two polling stations.

Attached please find sworn declarations to that effect.

At some polling stations some voters had to vote in the dark apparently there were no electricity.

Some candidates standing for local authority elections were allowed to take part as polling agents at various polling stations, we believe that their presence there has directly or indirectly influence canvassing of votes as they were observed calling and or greeting voters known to them as they entered the polling stations.

At various polling stations the ECN officials removed the election materials from the polling stations apparently for printing purposes. This was done however in the absence of the party agents as they were commanded to be at the polling stations until they return. Party agents has continuously insisted for the results to be made available to them, seal the boxes before they are removed but this request was turned down by the presiding officers who consequently left the polling stations in the dark night nobody knows where to.

Additional information with these gross irregularities that has occurred at Okahandja Constituency can be made available when and if need be. We have been forced, under the circumstances to approach your office sir, because there were no election tribunal court set up in the Constituency of Okahandja as it was the case in November 2014 for the National and Presidential elections.

In terms of the electoral Act it is required that after the voting process is completed the counting should start immediately at the respective polling stations. The results should then be pasted and all machines should be secured before transporting it to the main counting place where verifications should take

place. This was not the case at various polling stations.

These observations were documented to support our feeling that elections at Okahandja was not free and fair and we reject and condemn the outcome of the results with the contempt it deserves.

We hereby request your honoured office that the results be set aside and subjected to review by a competent independent body. If need be a re-voting with ballot papers be allowed.

We wait patiently for the announcement of the final credible results, our rightful amount of votes accorded to us by the electorate of Okahandja.

Independent Candidate; DTA of Namibia; RDP; UPM; ORPA; NUDO

### **WRP's demand for a proper Namibian Electoral System.**

WRP demands the introduction of the manual voting system with measures to stop vote rigging.

The following article appeared in the Namibian of 3 December 2015

### **ECN's credibility questioned**

by Ndanki Kahiurika

**A GROUP of people supporting four opposition parties yesterday questioned the credibility of the just-concluded elections, after the Electoral Commission of Namibia's refusal to receive their petition.** The group was made up of Rally for Democracy and Progress, Workers Revolutionary Party, DTA of Namibia and Okahandja Rate Payers Association (ORDP).

On Sunday, the same group had petitioned the ECN but the director of elections Paul Isaak declined to receive the petition saying the group had not followed the correct procedures in presenting the document. The petition sought that the recent regional and local authority election results for Okahandja be set aside and be reviewed by an independent body or for there to be a re-election.

This was due to a number of irregularities raised by the people including claims that Swapo candidate Steve Boois, who won the local authority elections with more than 3 000 votes, voted multiple times. Similarly, they also claimed machines were out of operation at Veddersdal Old-Age home and Smarties community centre at Okahandja.

WRP's Hewat Beukes reiterated that people do not know where their votes go when using the electronic voting machines. He said that people have a right to know, as it is one of their fundamental constitutional rights.

"Democracy is built on principles, principles of accountability and that of the right to know which is of utmost importance. The moment people do not know what is going on, then the system is corrupt. Namibia is not in control of its own electoral system, it is in the hands of Indians," said Beukes, adding that this is a soft dictatorship.

Information Technology consultant Klaus Weichhaus said it is very easy to tamper with the EVMs as it can be done with a cellphone.

He said EVMs can be manipulated to increase votes.

Using the scandal of German car-maker Volkswagen as an example, he said it is very simple to programme the machines to give extra votes to Swapo party.

"I am very surprised that this country, the Land of the Brave, is caught up in such a trap," he said.

In the same vein, Mike Kavekatora of the RDP said if the allegations are true, it brings the credibility of the electoral commission into question.

"If the ECN is truly an independent body, why is it not attending to the genuine concerns of the people? Why is it turning a blind eye? We are facing a serious challenge of democracy," he said.

DTA secretary general Elma Dienda, who spoke on the sidelines, said she will be visiting Isaak concerning the petition today.

"There is finally proof of what we have been saying all these years. Proof that Swapo and ECN are rigging elections. This time we cannot let it go and as the Bible says, the truth will be revealed and it will set us free," said Dienda.

## Editorial

The attack by the SWAPO regime under apparent instruction from the imperialists against the Namibian working class have come from every angle against the WRP, their party.

The ECN, the Speaker, the media all have worked together to try and concoct a crisis in the party creating a 'faction' of lumpen elements, and then use them to assault the dignity and sovereignty of the party.

This begun with the connivance of Paul Isaak's with elements outside the party even before the 2014 elections to usurp the registration of the party. In November 2014 the WRP wrote to Isaak to stop these secret meetings and to comply with the law to deal only with the authorized representative of the party. He ignored this and by own admission of his clients had regular meetings. He then started to select his own candidate for the WRP who was not a member of the party. He refused to back down until the party exposed his questionable history with SWAPO.

After the elections this connivance continued with the Secretary who held meetings with parties and individuals on the WRP. Again we wrote letters warning the then deputy Secretary Harker to stop when it came to our knowledge that he was advising them to initiate a court case against WRP which will take the best part of 5 years at least to resolve. By that time he reportedly advised the 5 year period of parliament would be at an end.

The Speaker Katjavivi then contrived a faction in the WRP consisting of non-members and refused to release funds, kept a parliamentarian on the payroll despite that he was no longer a member of the party.

They first tried to coax the WRP into a court case, but eventually they took the case to Court which is now pending and on which the Worker will regularly report in its Court reports.

The intensity of the onslaught is not surprising. A section of the Workers International has been accepted by the Namibian working class as the party which they wish to build. It is a fact of life.

This section will face the attacks head-on.

This is the struggle of the classes.

The Workers Revolutionary Party has its roots planted in the union movement and the workers movement in general to rebuild the basic organisations of the class. It is embedded in the War Reparations of the Herero and Nama peoples. It is embedded in the struggles of the miners, the former PLAN and SWATF fighters, the homeless, the landless, the teachers, the fuel workers, etc.

It does not underestimate the difficulties and the enormity of the task ahead. Nothing can undo the legacy of the Workers Revolutionary Party of Namibia, a Section of the Workers International.

## Workers Revolutionary taken to Court by Agent Provocateurs

On 1 October this year Benson Kaapala and one August Maletzky launched a summons against leaders of the WRP in the High Court of Namibia. They asked the Court for the following:

“(a) An order directing the first defendant (Hewat Beukes), the second defendant (Erica Beukes) and the third defendant (Salomon Fleermuys) to accept the constitution of the second plaintiff (the WRP) as lawful and legitimate.

(b) Directing the fourth and fifth defendants to accept the legitimacy of the new constitution of the second plaintiff (WRP).

(c) Ordering the first, second and third defendants to not call meetings in the name of the second plaintiff.

...” The rest of the claims are similar to force the parties to accept their authority.

The reason for their claims were given as purported agreements between the Communist Party of Mr Attie Beukes and the WRP and by the purported joinder of the WRP by one Willem Beukes and Benson Kaapala together with former soldiers under various 'conditions' such as including them in the Central Committee.

Both the Communist Party and Willem Beukes are neither plaintiffs nor cited as parties to the case.

Maletzky who reportedly drafted the summons claimed in Court that he held an LLB and B.Com degrees from the University of South Africa.

As is clear, the summons is not something a true court can give the slightest attention to. It is incompetent. The relief which they asked from the Court is what a court have no legal power to order. Furthermore, the Communist Party and Willem Beukes who purportedly conducted and concluded agreements with the WRP were not joined. Thirdly, the Electoral Commission and the Court in terms of the Electoral Act of 2014 may only deal with registered parties and alliances between registered parties. They have no power to deal with an alliance between a registered and unregistered party.

From the outset problems arose in the case. Hewat Beukes wrote to the judge on 9 October,

**FIRST DEFENDANT** notes that Rule 23 of the Rules of the High Court provides that the judge shall hold a case management **conference** (sic) on a joint case plan proposed by the parties.

**FIRST DEFENDANT** notes with serious concern that the judge intends to consider the joint case plan and draft case plan Court Order in chambers and should he approve these would be made into an order of court.

The very meaning of 'conference' as stipulated by the rules requires "discussion" and "consultation" by all parties. The said order to one-sided consideration, contempla

## COURT CASE

*tion and decision therefore precludes audi alteram partem (The right to be heard) and is outside the legal power of the Court.*

*This matter involves a registered party with parliamentary seats, an elected part of the Legislature, with a constituency and a membership. They all have public and personal legal interest to hear every aspect of this matter. The said order is a direct denial of the right of the party, its electorate and the Legislature to witness the proper and just proceedings of this case.*

The judge made the first hearing on 19 November 2015 in open court. He indicated that he would postpone the matter to 11 February 2016. Erica Beukes objected against the postponement on the grounds that the so-called plaintiffs had no standing, they were not members of the WRP who brought a very obviously farcical case to court. She argued that the matter should be concluded immediately. Hewat Beukes reminded the judge that Maletzky for months had used the public media to verbally abuse Petrus Damaseb, the Judge President, and accused him having stolen 3,5 million rand from FIFA and the NFA. He referred the judge to article 78 of the Constitution which defines the High Court as "a Judge President and such additional judges" as may be appointed from time to time. This meant he said that if the Court does not act to resolve this issue the common law principle applies that silence is an admission of guilt.

He pointed out that this left them in two problems: If Maletzky can publicly incriminate the Court with impunity then the two defendants will be fatally prejudiced as Maletzky would enjoy immunity; if the Court accepts by silence Maletzky's accusations then they will be heard by a rogue Court which is not acceptable.

Beukes then reminded the judge that Maletzky falsely claimed that he held LLB and B.Com degrees from the University of South Africa. He stated that Maletzky had no such qualifications and was not an admitted lawyer, yet he represent a plaintiff which he calls the Workers Revolutionary Party.

The judge pronounced that he understood Beukes's concerns and ordered that the defendants should bring all their concerns to a case management conference on 11 February 2015.

[The Worker intends to publish the transcript of the hearing in our separate Court update which will be printed alongside the developments in Court.]

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## WORKERS THE MAIN TARGET OF INDIAN-CONTROLLED ELECTIONS

The Workers Revolutionary Party was the main target of the 27 November 2015 rigged elections.

Angry workers at the Eros Pick & Pay Supermarket asked cd Ben Serogwe what had happened to their votes at the Eros Polling Booth where the WRP received 0 votes. Likewise domestic workers in Goreangab wanted to know what happened to their votes.

In the whole of Okahandja the WRP received 14 votes.

At Smarties Community Centre where a number of people voted for the WRP no votes were registered. This echoed the 2009 elections in which peoples' votes for the CP were not registered including the votes of the leaders of the WRP.

In 2009 there was clear evidence of massive rigging and it was estimated that SWAPO had obtained only about 44% of the vote in terms of preliminary results. The outcome was eventually more than 75%.

Then came the EVM's and they topped 80% in 2014 with Geingob at 88%. Now in 2015 a year later they improved it to 90%.

In 2014 it was initially not an option for the WRP to participate in EVM elections and we notified the ECN as to the reasons why. However, former SWATF soldiers pleaded with us a day before nominations closed to stand. We did so without any expectations for the only reason to draw in the soldiers in the political struggle. We again in 2014 went into the 2015 local authority elections to draw in local working communities. Branches were established in 11 towns. This was a success, but we expected the present result but not to such a ludicrous level. We presumed that they would want to conceal much of the rigging. They did not.

Of course there was disappointment, but the working class is taking their own struggles forward in all localities. The gist of the attacks of the Capitalist sponsored State is to prevent the working class to exercise any democratic rights in their overall struggle for real power.

**THE MARCH FOR WORKERS POWER IS UNSTOPPABLE!!!**



A WRP march in Windhoek on 5 October