

ELECTIONS 2024



Parties and Promises

Political party manifestos should spell out what the various competing party positions are on the most critical socio-economic issues facing the country

With the Presidential and National Assembly elections days away, following are the positions of the political parties for which manifestos are accessible on arguably the four (4) most critical socio-economic issues affecting Namibians. These

issues are: Unemployment, education, gender-based violence and access to land.

This supplement presents what the political party manifestos for the 2024 elections have to say on these important issues. The content for this supplement was compiled by *Namibia Fact Check* as an output of the Election Fact Checking Coalition, in which *The Namibian* is a partner. The Election Fact Checking Coalition project is supported by *Africa Check*.

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18:00 – 19:00 / THE SPORTS CHAT

19:00 – 21:00 / OLWEENDO MOMBUWA



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95.3 FM

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& Ongwediva

KAVANGO REGIONS
107.2 FM

Rundu & Mashare



EDUCATION

What are political parties saying about addressing education?

Swapo Party of Namibia



Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

- Fast-track the full integration of pre-primary (PP) and early childhood development (ECD) into the mainstream education system and formulate a framework to guide and regulate the delivery of ECD for a strong foundation.
- Upgrade and renovate school infrastructure by building additional special schools, classrooms, toilets, laboratories, hostels and sport facilities in areas with urgent needs to deliver high-quality education.
- Review and strictly regulate the requirements for accreditation of educational training institutions and national curriculum and occupational standards

- so as to ensure access to quality education and training.
- Enhance educational outcomes by equipping schools with advanced technology infrastructure and high-speed internet and making provisions for basic teaching aids such as textbooks, stationery and equipment.
- Critically review the operations of the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) to enhance service delivery and increase funding for post-graduate students, including



- provision for students with special needs.
- Ensure provision of special facilities and resources for pupils and teachers with special needs and those from marginalised communities.
- Provide and improve teacher benefits, including accommodation and transport allowances, to attract skilled personnel to peri-urban and rural areas.
- Accelerate the establishment of the regulatory body for the teaching profession across the country and ensure quality education for all.

- Strengthen research, innovation and development activities to support our industrialisation drive.
- Expand the offering of pre-vocational subjects at school level; critically review the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system to provide trades at appropriate levels and establish technikon for the purpose of articulation from vocational training centres (VTCs).
- Expand individual prior-skill certification through the National Training Authority (NTA) to enable non-tertiary skilled individuals to be remunerated accordingly.

Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)

- Implement strong financial, human resource and infrastructural investments at early childhood and pre-primary level that will lay a strong foundation for all pupils.
- Endeavour to achieve equity in school education by running double school intake programmes with morning and afternoon classes, with further emphasis on quality of learning.
- Identify learning outcomes for all classes, ensuring priority will be to ensure that children achieve these learning outcomes.
- Focus on teacher training and capacity building as key factors in achieving the required learning outcomes. Teacher continuous professional development will also be implemented.
- Consider it our duty to provide a conducive environment for talented children in our country to encourage them to unleash their talents. For this, we will initiate a national student exchange programme to bring together such children for a certain period in a year in one place from all over the country and provide them with facilities and resources to allow them to excel. This would instil a culture of lateral thinking and innovation among them.
- Establish national institutes of teachers' training. These institutes would provide four-year integrated courses that would set the standards for quality teachers in our schools.
- Cascade this to regions to replicate this model as it is our firm belief that quality teachers lay the foundation of quality learning.
- Use technology in classrooms and in impacting education. We will move ahead to provide small classes for pupils. To begin with, we will initiate this process in secondary school classrooms.
- Make investments in school infrastructure a priority to ensure that all schools that offer science subjects have well-equipped laboratories and libraries for every school in Namibia.
- Ensure the inclusive sustainability of NSFAF through the allocation of a substantive fishing quota to the fund.
- Enhance the pivotal role of teachers by reworking



McHenry Venaani



- the work culture of teacher training institutions with steps to ensure accountability for institutions of higher learning.
- Raise the standard of education and research, so that Namibian universities become on par with the top global universities and find their place in the global league.
- Restore the credibility of the regulatory bodies to prevent the mushrooming of private tertiary institutions of higher learning and the duplication of courses.
- Ensure that the appointment procedures to senior positions will be made transparent; merit and ability will be the sole criteria.
- Ascertain legislating the Apprenticeship Act to facilitate our youth to earn while they learn.
- Implement policies and strategies to allow for the effective running of the NSFAF and to ensure that funding is done in a sustainable manner.
- Review the cut-off point for parental incomes to ensure that students who receive funding are indeed 'needy' students and therefore cannot

- rely on the little their parents make.
- Strengthen loan recovery mechanisms to ensure that students who are in a position to pay back the loans do so accordingly.
- Set up massive open online courses and distance learning teaching classrooms to make it convenient for working people and housewives to further their education.
- Correspondence courses will be started in new domains for self-employment, such as family-run businesses, entrepreneurship and innovation, and these courses will be provided for free to women.
- Run short-term courses in the evenings, focusing on employable skills.
- Set up centres of excellence in various sectors in partnership with the various industries.
- Ensure industry responsive manpower; we will bring together industries, universities and the government.
- Promote vocational training on a massive scale. Rigid segregation of formal education and skills development will be broken; a mechanism will be established to give vocational qualifications academic equivalence.
- Create institutional mechanisms to refresh and upgrade abilities through continuing education to make them employable.
- Focus on need-based skills development and employability, thus making our youth employable even in the most sophisticated jobs.
- Ensure greater practical and research training encouraging real world experience through internships and apprenticeships.
- Increase the salary and benefits payable to teachers informed by economic indicators.
- Fundamentally transform the living conditions of teachers at teacher homes through investment in teacher homes.
- Increase the bush allowance for student teachers

- to maximise teaching talent in rural areas.
- Review and revise the education system, the salary structures associated with teaching staff and most importantly, address the shortfall of faculty and related issues in the country.
- Make the system people-friendly and restore the credibility of the system.
- Increase public spending on education and involve the private sector to further enhance this.
- Introduce a policy performance audit to provide real time information.
- Strengthen and expand literacy programmes to eradicate illiteracy entirely.
- Universalise secondary school education and skills development through functional schools with particular focus on rural and marginalised communities.
- Provide free tertiary education and vocational teaching.
- Provide girls with all possible help like providing free sanitary pads, to enable them to continue and complete their education.
- Provide every pupil with a solar laptop to prepare committed and performing teachers.
- Optimise the utilisation of physical and manpower resources.
- Institute a mechanism for close interaction between industry, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), academia and the community.
- Do a needs assessment to identify future needs across sectors, and then use this to develop appropriate courses for higher education to ensure the economy gets the required human resources.
- Build more schools to make education accessible to many disadvantaged pupils, especially in rural and remote areas.
- Ensure every pupil has a textbook, and drastically reduce the teacher-to-pupil ratio to 1:35 in primary schools and 1:30 in secondary schools.
- Ensure all schools have access to electricity, water and decent sanitation facilities.
- Implement a comprehensive school feeding programme in all primary and secondary schools.

National Unity Democratic Organisation (Nudo)

- Reform the education sector through a collaborative approach of all key stakeholders, including teachers' and students' unions, parents and development partners towards a more inclusive, teacher-centred approach and market-oriented education system.
- Make Grade 12 compulsory again for all pupils as the key to tertiary institutions.
- Expand access and inclusion using technology-related teaching platforms.
- Develop requisite infrastructure and facilities to cater for more schools across the country to prevent teaching under trees and in tents that poses health risks and an unconducive environment for pupils to prosper in.
- Streamline technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in the curriculum at junior and senior secondary level through



Esther Muinjangu



- the integration of vocational subjects that will realign with the needs of the economy, and positioning TVET as a preferred educational pathway for our youth.
- Prioritise digitisation through the provision of equipment, e-content and capacity building for schools, pupil and teachers.
- Provide adequate capacity building for school boards to strengthen their linkage as a catalyst for the promotion of the three-legged pot approach that includes teachers, pupils and parents.
- Increase funding to the NSFAF and elevate this support in the form of grants to provide for more students entering tertiary institutions

- and lower the criteria to ensure all students in need are catered for.
- Ensure that NSFAF funding to students covers registration fees and abolish the system of students requiring to pay up for their registration.
- Increase funding per pupil as allocated to schools to provide adequate resources for pupils' support and ensure that the burden to parents towards schools' development funds is reduced.
- Ensure each school has a library to cultivate a culture of reading and research by pupils from junior primary to senior secondary level.
- Ensure that vocational centres are constructed in regions which currently do not have any, and create conducive environments for private entities to complement government efforts in TVET development.

EDUCATION

Landless People's Movement (LPM)



Bernadus Swartbooi

- Overhaul education by integrating various educational streams into one curriculum.
- Reform the educational system to

integrate vocational, technical, academic, arts, sport and recreational streams into the curriculum to exploit the full potential of the Namibian child and do away with the so-called school dropouts.



education are implemented for children from early age to equip them for careers in technology driven sectors.

• The LPM-led government will focus on infrastructure investment to improve digital and internet access and to support technological advancements.

- Adopting a national education and management information framework similar to the Botswana system, the LPM-led government will reform Namibia's education system through the effective management of data and information dissemination.
- The LPM-led government will activate regional education forums throughout all the regions, to ensure that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (Stem)

- Implement a national educational management and information framework (Nemif) to ensure equity in enrolment, placement and funding.
- Increase university enrolment from 8% to 15% within the next five years by rolling out educational infrastructure development.
- The LPM-led government will support innovation, research and

development to enhance education in support of diversification of the economy.

- Merge the education ministries to ensure proper management and administration of the education sector.
- Provide accessible, universal, affordable, reliable, modern and high-quality levels of ICT equipment, facilities and services in the education sector.
- The LPM-led government will ensure that education in Namibia shall be free up to tertiary level.
- The focus of the LPM-led government includes children with special needs, such as those who are deaf or blind, those with autism, and those with Down's syndrome and physical challenges. Support children with academic differentiation, including Braille.
- Regarding artificial intelligence (AI), the LPM-led government

will provide targeted investment in education to build a workforce appropriately skilled in AI activities.

- Regarding cybersecurity, the LPM-led government will regularly update incident response plans to effectively manage and mitigate cyber incidents.
- The LPM will deliberately expand the capacity development of teachers. This includes expanding in-service training, enhancing salaries and wages, expanding housing and vehicle allowance, and protecting teachers' rights and conditions of work. The LPM also believes teachers must have a greater say in the development of the curriculum and that being overloaded with administrative tasks should be reduced. We will also introduce a recognition system to encourage, preserve and acknowledge the good work done by teachers.

Swanu of Namibia (Swanu)

- The objective of the Namibian education system should be grounded in an indigenous system with a work-oriented curriculum in that:
 - (i) The indigenous system's way of teaching can be achieved whereby the tertiary education system's research and development are aligned with the old way of living; for example, medication to treat smallpox or coughing can be derived from goat manure, or blindness can be overcome with products of urinary derivatives.
 - (ii) With a work-oriented curriculum the system should strive to solve everyday problems. For example, at both primary and secondary levels, pupils should be taught trades like:
 - a) carpentry skills to be able to fix desks;
 - b) basic welding to be able to produce items for land cultivation;
 - c) needlework for fashion design, etc.
- Swanu proposes two education systems for Namibia – the Zimbabwe education system and the Botswana education system. It is a no-brainer to say the education systems of these two countries have been highly effective. Thus, Namibia must first take stock of the current education system and then see what can be learned from the systems of Botswana and Zimbabwe.



Evalistus Kaaronda

Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)



Epafraas Mukwiilongo

- The NEFF government will offer free, quality education for all Namibians from early childhood development up to post-graduate level.
- All student debt owed to institutions of higher learning will be cancelled by the NEFF government.
- Education and training will be directly linked to community service and industry, preparing graduates to contribute to local development and the national economy.
- A programme to provide libraries, internet, laboratories and computer labs, particularly at rural and semi-urban schools, will be implemented.
- Religious education, such as biblical studies and Namibian history, will be introduced into the school curriculum.
- Universal early childhood development (ECD) programmes will be introduced, making it compulsory for children aged three and above to participate.
- The NEFF government will improve the remuneration and working conditions of academic staff to retain them in teaching and research roles, preventing administrative shifts in both public and private sectors.

- Professional bodies for chartered accountants, engineers, architects, and other professions will be transformed to fast-track the accreditation of previously disadvantaged individuals.
- Proper accommodation will be provided for all tertiary students.
- Arts, craft and technology subjects will be introduced as part of the curriculum to promote inclusive education for all children, including those with learning difficulties.
- The English Language Proficiency Programme (ELPP) will be fully implemented to benefit all Namibians.
- The NEFF government views English as a medium of instruction, but will ensure it does not hinder further study or entry into the job market.

Republican Party (RP)

- To involve all stakeholders in creating a more advanced Namibian education system.
- The current system is resulting in inferior degrees, diplomas and certificates.
- To ensure that the curriculum will educate pupils on moral values and understanding they have to accept their responsibilities as per the Constitution, which includes self-reliance, self-confidence, curiosity, creativity and empowerment.
- To convince the authorities that more emphasis must be put on the teaching of mathematics, science, languages and history.
- To have more technical schools established throughout the country for a more practically orientated education rather than a purely academic one.
- To make pre-primary education free of charge and fully subsidised by the government.
- To fully subsidise school materials and books.
- To encourage the appointment of competent, well-trained,



Henk Mudge

- qualified and responsible school principals and teachers that are well remunerated, and able to manage their respective schools responsibly.
- To employ Namibia's own qualified and experienced teachers and other experts in education to draw up syllabi and avoid using costly foreign consultants.
- To propose incentives that will encourage teachers to further their studies and obtain higher qualifications.
- To provide decent and affordable housing to teachers in rural areas.

- To ensure that none of the Namibian education institutions discriminate against any Namibian child wanting to attend pre-primary, primary, secondary, vocational, polytechnic and university education for whatever reason.

Body of Christ Party (BCP)

- Investing in quality education to empower the youth with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.



Festus Thomas



EDUCATION

Affirmative Repositioning (AR)



Job Amupanda



the next 10 years.

- Management of enrolment and graduation figures: Instead of budget allocation and officiating graduation ceremonies, the AR government will ensure that the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation is actively involved in the gathering of data pertaining to enrolment, and graduation at all institutions of higher learning through a national student record management system.
- Compulsory work-integrated learning: Through the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA) and the National Council for Higher Educa-

tion (NCHE), the AR government will ensure all institutions of higher learning implement work-integrated learning modules in all their degree programmes.

- Research centres and research chairs: The AR government will seek to establish research centres within public universities across various disciplines. Relatedly, through the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), the AR government will ensure that research chairs are established nationally and the researchers' rating and reward systems are introduced.
- Free tertiary education: For Namibian students enrolled at public institutions of higher learning, the AR government will provide free, quality and decolonised education for the first degree.
- Expansion of recognition of prior learning: The AR government will maintain and expand current efforts by the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) to implement the recognition of prior learning focusing in areas

that have been overlooked particularly amongst woodcarvers and other craftsmen.

- Vocational trading enterprises: The AR government will ensure the establishment of trading enterprises owned by NTA to participate in various trades and provide internship/attachments/work-integrated learning to students enrolled at various vocational training centres.
- Discipline in schools: Discipline in schools has become a serious concern. Through an act of parliament, the AR government will define corporal punishment and discipline enforcement in schools, filling the current vacuum where teachers are basically powerless and unable to enforce discipline.
- Working conditions of teachers and remuneration: The AR government will work hard to improve teachers' working conditions including ensuring that the government takes responsibility in ensuring that the budget is timeously made available to schools. The AR government will introduce a position of senior teacher

at grade 7 remuneration.

- Construction of schools: The AR government will undertake a study to determine the needs for schools against a set formula that takes into consideration factors such as distance, radius, populations and geographic demarcation. A 20-year school infrastructural plan will be developed, using these factors and population projections, to guide government interventions.
- Review the new curriculum: The new curriculum has brought several challenges and shocks to the basic education system. The AR government will undertake a review process of the new curriculum, considering both positive and negative outcomes, with a view to effect the necessary changes where needed.
- Constitutional and civic education in schools: With the reduction of voting age to 16 years, it is important that the AR government incorporate basic constitutional and civic education in secondary schools, from grades 8 to 12.

National Democratic Party (NDP)



Martin Lukato Lukato



on a full-time basis, with full pay and pension contribution by the government.

- The NDP government will train an additional 40 000 ECD practitioners by 2028, with a minimum of 50% being women and the youth.

Basic education

- The NDP government will increase the use of information and communication technology for teaching with the aim of achieving universal coverage in computer literacy by 2026.
- Under the NDP, each pupil will receive a tablet loaded with all the necessary study material, tutorials, and educational videos.
- The NDP government will prioritise indigenous ways of teaching, learning and development.
- 'One education system, one country' – Under the NDP government, all pupils will fall under one school system, and all matric pupils will write the same examinations. The Independent Examination Board (IEB) will be abolished.
- The NDP will provide transport for all pupils who stay more than two kilometres from their school and prioritise local taxi associations in the procurement process.
- The NDP will build hostels where transport for pupils is not practical and too costly.
- The NDP government will establish specialised schools for children with autism, fully equipped with tailored educational resources and trained staff, to provide inclusive and supportive learning environments for children with autism.
- The NDP government will electrify all schools everywhere in Namibia by 2026.
- The NDP government will provide two nutritious meals a day to all pupils in all schools by 2025 and will prioritise local small businesses and farmers in the area.

- The NDP government will ensure there is clean water in every school by 2026.
- The NDP government will provide security and fencing in all schools.
- The NDP government will encourage all pupils to study mathematics and robotics. Under the NDP government, all schools will have remedial teachers.
- The NDP government will build new schools with technology integration in the classroom, sport facilities and computer labs to reduce the teacher-to-pupil ratio to 1:30 for primary schools and 1:25 for secondary schools.
- The NDP will build high-technology teacher training colleges to equip educators of the future with adequate technological skills to impart to pupils.
- The NDP government will introduce peer review evaluation for teachers that focuses on development.
- The NDP government will launch a #ReturnToSchool# campaign in 2025 for all those who have dropped out of school, including domestic

workers, sex workers and girls who have left school.

- The NDP government will employ at least two physical education trainers in each school by 2026.

Higher education

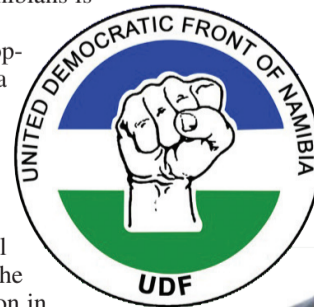
- The NDP government will introduce free, decolonised education for all, advancing issues of indigenous knowledge, sovereignty and economic freedom in education.
- The NDP government will increase the use of information and communication technology for teaching.
- The NDP government will pass a law that will zero-rate all educational apps and content on all gadgets, such as computers, laptops, tablets and phones.
- The NDP government will make it compulsory for all pupils to pursue post-secondary education and training at universities, universities of technology, and TVET colleges. This will be made possible through state assistance and massive expansion of vocational training and education.
- The NDP government will cancel

all student debt, reintegrate all students who were excluded on the basis of fees, and give certificates, diplomas and degrees to all students who passed and were denied their qualifications because of outstanding fees.

- The NDP government will establish a centralised higher education registration system so that students are not required to fill in their details and register more than once.
- The NDP government will provide free higher education until a first degree for all and will provide scholarships.
- The NDP government will introduce an annual scholarship to take 10 000 students to go and study at the best universities in the world, including scholarships to study towards post-graduate qualifications.
- The NDP government will provide free accommodation for students at institutions of higher learning and will quadruple the number of rooms available by 2026, including the use of dilapidated government buildings.

United Democratic Front (UDF)

- Address the current challenges of education and ensure universally accessible quality free education to all Namibians is provided up to PhD level.
- Ensure that every Namibian gets an equal opportunity to obtain an education in Namibia that will guarantee them job opportunities, entrepreneurship and a better life for the future.
- Address the shortage of teachers by providing attractive packages as remuneration to teachers to enhance and increase the total number of teachers countrywide, while at the same time increase the standard of education in Namibia.
- Tailor-make education, especially at vocational training level, according to the needs of the different regions.
- Address the technical and vocational skills shortage in Namibia.
- Increase the spending of vocational training centres, because vocational training centres produce artisans on an annual basis and those artisans are addressing the unemployment challenge through the employment of four to five employees per artisan.
- Focus on greater practical and research training by encouraging our students to gain much-needed experience through internships and apprenticeships.
- Provide full funding for students who are studying indigenous languages at tertiary level. This will ensure that cultural diversity, our heritage and our identity are maintained.



Hendrik Gaobaeb

Early childhood development

- The NDP government will make universal provision for early childhood development (ECD) programmes and will make it compulsory for children from the ages of three years and upwards to be enrolled in an ECD centre for free.
- The NDP will develop a common ECD curriculum focusing on nutrition programmes, book reading, storytelling and land-based activities to enhance children's understanding of their surrounding environment.
- Under the NDP government, all ECD practitioners will be employed

EDUCATION

National Empowerment Fighting Corruption (NEFC)



Kenneth Lilonga



ensure quality control.

• **Primary education**

Every child of primary school age will be given compulsory access to education through the use of indigenous languages at this level of education. The number of school dropouts from this level of education will be minimised and the formation of parent-teacher associations will be encouraged.

• **Secondary education**

Education at this level will be made comprehensive. School dropouts will be prepared for vocational training. Strengthen the school inspectorate service to ensure the maintenance of prescribed minimum standards in facilities, equipment, curriculum, staffing and educational management.

• **Technical education**

Encourage technical education for technological development. The need for partnerships with industries will be stressed. To this end, industries will be encouraged through incentives to participate in the development of technical and vocational education

• **Higher education**

This level of education will be further developed to be responsive to the needs of the labour market. Parents, the community and the industrial sector will be encouraged

to actively participate in the funding of higher education. These issues of university autonomy, improved funding and better conditions of service for all categories of staff will be carefully reviewed and resolved to restore stability and high standards to the nation's higher education system. The NEFC party government supports education and research to develop and process our national resources.

• **Teacher education**

Teacher education will be promoted through staff development fellowships, which will be supported by the government. Improved facilities for the further training of teachers.

• **Non-formal education**

The goal is the eradication of illiteracy to wipe out ignorance and disease. Accordingly, adult, vocational and special literacy programmes will be set up for adults, school dropouts and other citizens

who are not able to take advantage of formal education.

• **Funding education**

The funding of education will be made a joint venture between the government and the industrial sector. The NEFC party in government will encourage and create more opportunities for the active participation of the organised private sector in the funding of education. Relevant industries will be encouraged to fund research and development activities at universities and aid other tertiary institutions.

• **In-service training**

For a modern, wealth-creating industry, we need a well-trained workforce. Namibian industries are hardly involved in any form of training of their workforce. The NEFC party will therefore establish a national training programme to bring about a major improvement in the spread and standard of skills.



Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)



- Increase the tertiary education enrolment rate from 24% to 40% within six years.
- Achieve a 95% literacy rate across all age groups within a decade.
- Improve Namibia's ranking on global education indices by 20 positions within five years.
- Ensure that 80% of graduates find employment or start businesses within one year of completing their education.

JOB

What are parties saying about creating jobs?



Swapo Party of Namibia

- Encourage the setting up of new factories and manufacturing plants and companies for job creation.
- Expand opportunities for internships across the public and private sectors, including through the Youth Internship Tax Incentive Programme and National Apprenticeship Programme under the National Training Authority (NTA) to provide work-integrated learning for the purpose of exposure and accrual of experience necessary for employment.
- Review legislation relating to the registration and admission to different professional bodies to facilitate employment of the youth.
- Ensure that Namibia utilises its quota on establishments at regional and international organisations such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu), the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), and all UN agencies.
- Gradually absorb graduates in each professional sector and other trades.
- Increase the quota of the uptake of National Youth Service recruits into the Namibian Defence Force, Namibian Police, and the Namibian Correctional Service.
- Allocate a budget of approximately N\$85.7 billion over five years to priority projects that would create mass employment opportunities, leading to the absorption of unemployed graduates and other Namibians looking for jobs.

Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)



- The NEFF government will pursue massive, protected and sustainable industrial development and diversification to create thousands of decent jobs between 2025 and 2029. This will be achieved through state-led industrialisation, protection of infant industries, subsidies, increased tariffs and state-aided marketing of Namibian products within and beyond the continent.
- The NEFF will ensure that Namibian mineral resources are benefited locally to foster job creation and industrialisation.
- A massive programme to ensure local production and processing of food for domestic consumption will be established.



JOBS



Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)

- As part of our decisive policy interventions to decrease unemployment to 11% by 2029, the PDM government will establish at least one manufacturing or processing industry in all 121 constituencies in Namibia as growth poles that would accelerate the development of those areas and create jobs for our youth.
- The PDM government will designate all 13 regions outside the Khomas region as special economic zones. Investors in these zones will receive benefits such as tax incentives and government subsidies, provided they can create and sustain a minimum of 100 jobs per business.
- To boost local industries, the PDM government will mandate that at least 80% of goods and services procured by the state come from local manufacturers. This policy will create a sustainable market for local goods, protect emerging domestic industries and generate jobs.
- The PDM government will require that up to 50% of all natural resources undergo local value addition. This will stimulate the development of secondary and tertiary industries across all 14 regions, creating thousands of jobs and benefiting the youth and rural communities.
- The PDM government will promote agro-fishing joint ventures in coastal areas by granting fishing rights to youth-led businesses. This initiative aims to provide these communities with a reliable source of income and livelihoods.
- The PDM government will ensure that all materials used in state construction projects are locally produced, except in cases where local production is not feasible. This policy will support local industries and create jobs.
- The PDM government will provide state support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to foster their growth and economic contribution.
- The PDM government will amend the Procurement Act of Namibia to mandate that at least 80% of all agricultural goods procured by the state be produced locally. This reform will stimulate growth in the agricultural sector, Namibia's second-largest employer.
- The PDM government will amend the Procurement Act to ensure that 100% of the food procured by the state for schools, hospitals, prisons and other institutions is locally sourced from previously disadvantaged farmers. Additionally, a minimum of 50% of this procurement will be from women and youth farmers.



National Unity Democratic Organisation (Nudo)

- Nurture, develop, and harness artistic talent among the youth to produce a pool of competent creative artists who can grow Namibia's creative and cultural industries and bring economic prosperity.
- Protect the intellectual property rights of artists and ensure they are duly rewarded for their work.
- Set up state-of-the-art high-performance centres at various towns across the country aimed at optimising the performance of our athletes.
- Invest in modern sport infrastructure, including stadiums, training facilities and recreational centres in urban and rural areas.
- Continuously invest in skills development and training of athletes, coaches and sport administrators.
- Establish a youth empowerment and business fund to capacitate young people through training and mentorship, provide financial, material and equipment support to viable youth-initiated small businesses.
- Make provision for business incubation centres in all regions to provide a conducive environment for young people to start small businesses for self-employment.
- Create a broad-focused placement or in-service employment programme for qualified youth in the different segments of our economy to gain relevant experience and expertise to maximise their chances at employment opportunities, thus contributing to a reduction of at least 20% in the country's unemployment rate.

Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)

- Radically reform the business climate to ensure Namibia moves from ranked in the bottom half of the world to the top 25% of nations by 2030 through a red-tape cutting committee with an evergreen mandate to continuously reduce and remove unnecessary regulations and restrictions, and to improve efficiency in implementing required regulations and restrictions.
- Implement significant pro-employment tax reforms, focusing on small and new businesses, including a progressive non-mining corporate income tax rate.
- Radically reform and remove barriers to the utilisation of Namibia's northern rivers and surrounding land for commercial agricultural activity.
- Roll out a public/private development plan for agricultural development at Namibia's underutilised dams, specifically the Neckartal Dam.
- Fully democratise the utilisation of seawater for agricultural activities, meaning a complete removal of restrictions on seawater abstraction and desalination for agricultural activities, subject

- to environmental clearance.
- Implement a comprehensive integrated digitisation roll-out for 'paperless' government services, with progress and status tracking, dashboards and accountable persons.
- Reform the Development Bank of Namibia to ensure it is adequately capacitated and resourced to provide meaningful finance to fulfil its mandate of "[contributing] to the development of Namibia and the socio-economic well-being of its citizens" through a change in efficiency, culture and products.
- Introduce legislation to enable full tax-deductibility for equity angel and venture investors into registered venture and angel investment vehicles, thus incentivising private risk capital into unlisted equity.
- Expand the infrastructure funding base to include development finance, green funding, pension fund savings and others to allow for a material increase in funds available for the rapid expansion of bulk infrastructure, including water, energy, rail, ports and others, at globally competitive rates.



Landless People's Movement (LPM)

- The LPM will ensure 70% local beneficiation from immediate to medium-term of all natural resources to create industries and much-needed employment. We will reach 100% in the long term.
- Introduce collateral free loans for livestock and crop farming from Agribank.
- Enter into irrigated crop production, ensure local production of fruits, vegetables, maize, grain, wheat, millet and lucern, thereby creating jobs, fight drought, hunger and malnutrition.
- Establish state-led industries in technology, renewable energy and biotechnology to counteract Namibia's neocolonial economic structure, reduce dependency on extractive sectors and emancipate productive forces trapped in low-value activities.
- Build timber factories in the Kavango regions to transform rural labour into productive, wage-based employment and retain value locally.
- Transform Ramatex into a garment production hub to manufacture uniforms for state agencies.
- Mandate 50% local procurement by retailers to dismantle monopolies and support domestic producers.
- Direct all small and medium enterprise (SME) and development programmes to benefit women, the youth, and workers to dismantle class and gender oppression.
- Allocate 20% of mining revenue to a fund dedicated to the youth and women, alongside an 80% employment quota for the youth in new projects, and 40% of tourism concession rights.
- Enforce an 80% airtime quota for Namibian music on local radio, increasing revenue for young artists and enhancing the creative economy.
- Support high-export sectors like seafood, indigenous crafts and renewable energy en-

- suring private investment aligns with social equity and worker protection.
- Invest in renewable energy, ensuring local control job creation and energy independence across Africa.
- The LPM-led government will invest in infrastructure, marketing, training and community-based tourism to increase employment and revenue through the participation of women and youth enterprises.
- Promote entrepreneurship in agribusinesses in food processing and packaging.
- Ensure Namibian citizens and enterprises participate in the oil, gas and hydrogen industry.
- We will invest N\$8.9 billion annually (comprehensive African agriculture initiative) in agriculture development to curb hunger and malnutrition, create jobs, create value chains of production and sale and to diversify the economy.





JOBS

National Democratic Party of Namibia (NDP)

- The NDP will establish and strengthen state-owned housing and roads construction companies that will deal with the social housing and roads infrastructure backlog. In the short to medium term, this will result in nearly 500 000 jobs.
- The NDP will establish a state-owned security company that will in-source all security personnel working in government facilities. This will immediately create more than 500 000 sustainable and quality jobs without departing from the existing government budget expenditure.
- The NDP will establish a state-owned cleaning, horticulture and landscaping company that will provide these services to state and public facilities that will lead to over 500 000 sustainable jobs.
- The NDP government will declare multiple special economic zones in various regions of Namibia, clearly emphasising that each investor will gain special economic zone benefits such as tax incentives and factory building allowances if they each employ and sustain a minimum of 2 000 jobs per factory.
- The NDP government will ensure that a minimum of 80% of the goods and services procured by the state at all levels and at all state companies are domestically produced.
- The NDP government will ensure that a minimum of 50% of all Namibia's mineral resources are locally benefited, processed and value added to create millions of jobs and new cities.
- The NDP government will build sustainable food processing zones that will supply food items to other parts of the world, particularly the rest of Africa, China, Latin America and India. This will lead to the creation of millions of jobs across the entire food chain.
- The NDP government will help communities in the coastal areas to start agro-fishing corporates and businesses, which will be their main source of income and livelihoods.
- The NDP government will ensure all products and goods that contribute to state construction projects are locally produced, barring exceptional cases where there is no capacity to produce locally.
- The NDP government will ensure that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are given strategic support and that legislation is passed to ensure that key industrial inputs and services to big corporates and companies are provided by SMEs.



Affirmative Repositioning (AR)

- The AR government will register all unemployed graduates for purposes of job creation through a graduate intervention programme.
- For unskilled labour, the AR government will introduce a series of public works that do not require skilled labour. This will particularly be introduced in rural areas and informal settlements where the majority of unskilled labourers reside.



United Democratic Front of Namibia (UDF)

- UDF pledges to initiate SME start-up funding programmes to assist the youth to create new ventures and to make a meaningful contribution to Namibia's economic growth.
- Agricultural grants will be made available to the youth. Namibia's food security is very important.
- Under a UDF-led Namibia, new industries will be given the necessary assistance to absorb more graduates into the job market.
- Promote tourism as a career choice and facilitate skills development to ensure the industry has access to human resources.

National Empowerment Fighting Corruption (NEFC)

- The NEFC party will implement policies to help create more small businesses at the forefront of our economic agenda for change. Financing more SMEs and Namibians to run and own their own businesses, and in turn employ others, is key.



Swanu of Namibia (Swanu)

- The agricultural sector offers the greatest potential for alleviating unemployment in Namibia, improved agricultural production is the bedrock of self-employment under the Swanu-led government. Increases in farm-level productivity are key to job creation and economic transformation in Namibia. However, this can only be achieved if local farmers are protected by encouraging greater production of grain products to meet its food security goals.
- The Swanu-led government will design programmes which will address youth unemployment in rural areas focusing on the structural constraints to job creation, namely on-farm productivity, as well as self-employment in the informal sector.



Republican Party (RP)

- To have the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation include an employment creation and poverty reduction unit, with employment creation units at all major towns across Namibia.
- To initiate, support and subsidise sustainable, labour-intensive development projects throughout the country.
- To ensure preference be given to the least-developed and poorest regions regarding development projects, infrastructure development and the provision of basic services.
- To ensure that preference be given to local companies in the awarding of government tenders and contracts.
- To encourage outside expertise to transfer skills to Namibians.
- To regulate the uncontrolled influx of Chinese and other foreigners not contributing to skills transfer and capacity building of Namibians.
- To introduce financial incentives for private entities and farmers to encourage them to employ more workers.
- To ensure the government provides labour-intensive projects.
- To have land and processing facilities provided in the areas where informal enterprises could contribute to urban agriculture.

LAND

What are parties saying on land matters?

NAMIBIA ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (NEFF)

- The NEFF will pass legislation to place all land under the custodianship of the state, which will then equitably redistribute land to Namibians to address and correct the apartheid-era colonial land distribution, which has persisted for 34 years.
- The NEFF government will abolish all forms of foreign land ownership.
- The NEFF government will support small-scale agriculture by providing access to agricultural implements, bulk irrigation schemes, bulk stock feeding programmes and medication to produce quality agricultural products.
- The NEFF's ideological, political and programmatic approach to rural development is based on the principle that when the state takes over land occupied by a family for sustainable developmental purposes, the family must receive fair compensation that ensures a decent living, equivalent to their relocation and future livelihood.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)

- The NDP will foster equitable land redistribution.
- The NDP will ensure through a motion in parliament that a "Land Policy" shall be passed which will make it possible that stolen land is given back to its rightful owners.
- Ownership of land shall be a priority for ALL Namibians, and foreign nationals will have to seek approval to acquire land from a national land provision committee.
- Communal land will fall under the powers of traditional leaders, and the Land Act shall be amended to empower traditional leaders to regulate the allocation, use and preservation of communal land.
- The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to foster conditions which enable citizens to gain access to land on an equitable basis.
- A person or community whose tenure of land is legally insecure due to past racially discriminatory laws or practices is entitled, to the extent provided by an act of parliament, either to tenure which is legally secure or to comparable redress.

POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM)

- The PDM will provide policies that protect land rights and tenure security for smallholder farmers, promote equitable access to land resources and foster long-term agricultural investments.
- Under its plan to deal with the urban housing crisis, PDM plans to establish an urban land resettlement scheme to address urban land hunger by providing serviced land for resettlement purposes thus reducing the number of informal settlements.
- The 'One Namibian, One Plot' policy is to provide one plot for every informal settlement dweller over the age of 21, earning less than N\$4 500. PDM will provide the urban poor with free erven through the 'One Namibian, One Plot' policy.
- PDM plans to empower women by implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes to promote women's access to land, resources and agricultural training opportunities.
- PDM will implement sustainable land use practices that balance agricultural development with environmental conservation and biodiversity protection, by promoting agroforestry and sustainable land rehabilitation programmes to combat desertification, soil erosion and land degradation.
- PDM also plans to develop virgin land with fencing and water infrastructure, resettle the urban poor and create more farmers by offering a 15-year leasehold for commercial farming to develop.
- PDM seeks to enhance land productivity by including regular audits of resettlement farms, implementing loans, providing incentives and moving from a leasehold to a freehold land tenure system to secure equitable land ownership.
- PDM supports land expropriation with just compensation at local authority level for housing development and land distribution for the 'One Namibian, One Plot' policy. It also supports land expropriation with just compensation for the furtherance of its commercial land resettlement programme.
- PDM will initiate a commercial farmland resettlement programme by allocating unused state land to assist potential farmers, finalising outstanding land claims and opening windows for other applications and placing a moratorium on the sale of agricultural land to foreigners.



NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FIGHTING CORRUPTION (NEFC)

- The NEFC Party regards land as a birthright for all Namibians and that it is a prerequisite for all Namibians to own land with an option to pay for it after receiving the land. Namibians are, however, only allowed to sell the land acquired from the government after 25 years as the aim is economic development and wealth creation for citizens.
- The party will make it a priority to provide landless Namibians with land, particularly those living in shacks and makeshift accommodation.
- The party will formulate, validate and approve a national land policy.
- The NEFC will conduct a nationwide land audit with various stakeholders and traditional councils for land development.
- The NEFC will conduct a referendum on a land reform policy.
- The party will see to it that land servicing in all regions is accelerated to provide land to landless Namibians.
- Land allocation will primarily benefit all landless Namibians.
- More land will be made available for allocation to women and the youth, with a particular bias towards persons with disabilities.
- The required age for the youth to acquire land is 18 years of age.
- The Land Development Programme through municipalities will continue, with a bias to establishing resettlement areas for vulnerable groups.
- A Land Court, as a division of the High Court, will be established to decentralise the handling of land disputes.
- Integrated land-use planning will be completed in 2025 and will involve related ministries to effectively allocate, manage and utilise land;
- The land audit is to be completed within two years.
- An accurate and reliable national system will be produced by 2025 and will be introduced for national land management by 2026.

SWAPO PARTY OF NAMIBIA

- Ensure responsible land management and promote sustainable mining practices through stringent mining operations and responsible closures of mines.
- Commitment under housing and sanitation to implement mass land servicing and low-cost housing with a N\$17.5 billion budget over five years.
- Commitment to accelerated land redistribution, addressing housing challenges and improving sanitation.
- Continue implementing the recommendations of the 2nd Land Conference and accelerate promulgation and implementation of the Land Act, specifically to ensure that leaseholders in communal areas have access to finance.
- Hasten the land allocation process under the land reform

programme for agricultural activities, with support from Agribank and the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), with special focus on the youth and women.

- Acquire farmlands that border towns, to extend local authority boundaries within the ambit of applicable laws.
- Address the plight of people living in corridors as a matter of urgency.
- Accelerate the availability of land in urban areas through subsidising local authorities to facilitate the speedy implementation of the 2024 National Housing Policy.
- Implement comprehensive and participatory upgrading programmes for informal settlements, focusing on servicing land to ensure security of tenure and provide access to basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity.
- Focus public expenditure proportionally on priority target groups and realign state-supported housing provision mechanisms to provide access to adequate housing.
- Establish mechanisms for allocating unoccupied land in urban areas to promote efficient land use and access to housing.
- Service at least 10 000 plots annually for the construction of low and medium-cost houses by strengthening the Build Together Programme and supporting the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia.

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF NAMIBIA (UDF)

- State-owned land is to be released in communal areas immediately for reform purposes.
- Inhabitants must receive land titles that enable them to claim land ownership rights on the land that they live on and farm.
- Initiate and fund collaborative models such as joint ventures, contract farming and farm equity schemes.
- Initiate and empower landowners through training and support schemes in all regions.
- Apply the principle of "willing seller, willing buyer" and make sure that the court remains the final arbiter in determining prices when land is expropriated in the public interest.
- Unoccupied land should be placed in the custodianship of the state, thus equitable redistribution of the land will be made possible.
- UDF will review resettlement policies that benefit only certain categories of Namibians and ensure that the ancestral land reform policy is implemented with urgency.
- Provide adequate funding to the local authorities for the servicing of land, on condition that they utilise vocational training centre students to save costs and also to provide them with the opportunity to do their practical training with the local authorities under the supervision of technical experts from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.



LAND

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA (RP)

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform will include Lands Resettlement under its mandate.
- To assist in rectifying the current failed Land Reform Policy of the government. The RP will introduce a new and comprehensive Land Reform Policy which will begin with public consultation with all stakeholders, including farm workers and farmers, as per the official viewpoint on agriculture of the RP as set out in our policies.
- To ensure that the land reform strategy is coherent, consistent and is done strictly in terms of the provisions/stipulations of the Namibian Constitution. In all instances, it must be in the public's interest, which according to our understanding means that it must benefit all Namibians economically.
- To encourage the government to have the damage done by resettled farmers restored as a priority and to treat that land as a non-renewable natural resource.
- To ensure that market-related prices are paid for the land.
- To encourage commercial farmers in possession of excess land to sell it to the government.
- To develop feeding scheme programmes on commercial and communal land that will be given preference in supplying food to Namibian schools, hostels and government departments, such as the military.

SWANU OF NAMIBIA

- Return stolen land to the indigenous people.
- The government must aggressively acquire land and compensation should only be for improvements made to the land and nothing else.
- A third land conference must be called to address Namibia's skewed land distribution and thereafter distribute the land appropriately. The indigenous people must get preference in land ownership.

BODY OF CHRIST PARTY

- Address historical injustices and ensure equitable access to land for all Namibians.

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION (NUDO)

- Return ancestral land rights to those Namibians who lost land because of colonial dispossession and genocide.
- Abolish foreign land ownership.
- Put all land under the custodianship of the state for equitable redistribution.
- Prohibit the selling of farmland either publicly or privately above its productive value.
- Set a capped price for land prices in Namibia at agricultural productive value.
- Establish an ancestral land restitution commission that will ensure a fair and transparent process for ancestral land claims.
- Include criteria in the resettlement policy favouring communities who lost land due to genocide.
- Ensure that once farmland is bought by the government, the resettlement process is fast-tracked to prevent vandalism of the farm and to allow for an efficient and transparent handover with a full support package to enable productive farming to resume immediately.
- Provide a six-month induction capacity-building programme for newly resettled farmers in farm management, rangeland management and financial and income diversification to maximise the farm's full production potential.
- Monitor and evaluate resettled farmers' performance based on a five-year production plan and make provision for further support.
- Allocate fishing quotas to regional councils and local authorities for land servicing and low-cost housing.
- Foster partnerships between local authorities and the private sector for servicing land at municipal, town, village and settlement levels to fast-track the provision of land for housing and businesses.

INDEPENDENT PATRIOTS FOR CHANGE (IPC)

- Develop a detailed and transparent natural resource management plan to extract maximum long-term sustainable benefit for the broad Namibian population from national resources, including mineral resources, land, national parks, timber and forests, marine stocks and water resources.
- Remove the responsibility for land servicing from local authorities and introduce competitive bidding for bulk land servicing across Namibia.
- Secure zero-cost arrangements with commercial banking institutions to administer a government-funded revolving small-loan scheme for subsidised serviced land purchases.
- Radically reform and remove barriers to the utilisation of Namibia's northern rivers and surrounding land for commercial agricultural activity.



LANDLESS PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT (LPM)

- Implement comprehensive legal reforms for local authorities to expand their jurisdiction over land administration.
- The agricultural sector will be restructured through extensive land redistribution and investments in agro-industrial development, ensuring that local production meets domestic needs before targeting international markets.
- Require private companies operating in national parks to grant local communities a 30% equity share to ensure revenue benefits for park or near-park residents with historic and cultural ties to parks and the land.
- Regulate land and housing prices to ensure affordability.
- Disband the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) and mandate local authorities, as the providers of land, to build houses. Local authorities will also become aggregate job creators, and revive local economic activities.
- Empower traditional authorities to have a greater say in the management of communal lands and natural resources within their jurisdiction, through land boards and conservancies, with particular bearing on genetic resources associated with traditional knowledge.
- Amend the Minerals Act to allow the communities where resources are found, to have a veto right over the use of their land, thus they can block any mining development and be empowered to demand appropriate shareholding in their resources.
- Identify land close to bulk service infrastructure to provide erven for low-income residents.
- The LPM will introduce a radical land and agrarian reform programme designed to cater to subsistence and SME farmers, ensuring both food sufficiency and food security. The LPM will fast-track agriculture-led industrialisation to build a robust food production system, concomitant with a strong manufacturing sector, to ensure that Namibian products can compete in the lucrative international markets.
- An LPM-led government will implement strategies to halt the de-agrarianisation of the agricultural sector in rural areas, where livelihoods are becoming increasingly detached from the land, leading to a growing dependence on farm incomes.
- A comprehensive agrarian investment strategy will prioritise the northern communal areas and other communal regions, such as Kunene, //Kharas and Otjozondjupa, by opening the Eiseb and Ohangwena aquifers to ensure water security for agriculture and unlock vast tracts of currently unproductive land, increase crop yields and open up African markets for Namibian agricultural products.
- The post-settlement support funding for resettled farmers will be increased to N\$1 million, providing necessary financial assistance for farm inputs, capacity-building and infrastructure development, thereby fostering the long-term success and self-sufficiency of resettled farmers.
- Soft loans through Agribank will be made available to facilitate investments on resettled and communal land.
- Expropriate foreign-owned farmland with just compensation.
- Prohibit foreign sales unless they are benefiting Namibians.
- Expropriate idle foreign-held land without compensation in the public interest.
- Redistribute land equitably, considering historical injustices.
- Provide programmes aimed at empowering women, with a specific focus on prioritising them in land redistribution efforts.
- Recognising the state as the largest landowner, the LPM government will actively promote the establishment of additional farming units in the Kavango, Zambezi, Kunene and Omaheke regions. These historically marginalised areas will receive targeted support through the provision of adequate water resources for sustainable agricultural practices.
- The LPM government will consider on a case-by-case basis land restitution claims as it relates to ancestral land claims. An ancestral land claims unit will be opened in the ministry of land reform, to deal with the ancestral land question.
- A ruling by the High / Supreme Court will be sought on the ancestral land issue.

- An ancestral land value determination mechanism will be promulgated through the valuer general's office, to issue state restitution pay-outs to affected community members who show sufficient cause and historic title.
- An act of parliament shall be passed that will protect generational farmworkers and their families. This category of people fall victim to land sales transactions, even when the state is the buyer of land and are left landless.
- Absentee landlords will be issued formal expropriation notices within the first 30 days of an LPM government's tenure, clearly outlining the state's intention to reclaim underutilised or neglected land that have remained in the hands of owners with minimal or no presence in Namibia.
- A policy will establish a structured framework for determining just compensation. The compensation formula will consider not only market value, but also the extent to which the absentee landholding has contributed or failed to contribute to the national imperative of rural empowerment and economic growth.
- Establish a clear and transparent legal framework governing the expropriation of land (there is existing case law on expropriation), ensuring that the process is fair, equitable, and just.
- Priority will be given to those individuals who have demonstrated commitment to a land-based lifestyle and are working the land through horticulture and keeping livestock.
- Beneficiary selection shall be a demand-driven process whereby citizens are encouraged and supported to articulate their land demands.
- The LPM government will create a law to create an office of the land protector for oversight and to investigate allegations of corruption and illegal fencing in communal land and refer such cases for prosecution to relevant authorities. The office will also prosecute land disputes in the Land Tribunal and will also have criminal prosecutorial and civil authority.
- The LPM Youth Command Element insists that mining operations be tied to environmental rehabilitation programmes and social accountability frameworks, ensuring that companies are responsible for restoring the land and contributing to the sustainable development of local communities.
- Establish a framework for identifying lands that were dispossessed during colonial rule, prioritising their return to the original communities.
- Implement community land trusts that allow local communities to collectively manage and cultivate land, ensuring that benefits from agricultural production are reinvested in the community.

AFFIRMATIVE REPOSITIONING (AR)

- The AR government will ensure that the bill it has written and submitted to parliament is passed to prohibit and regulate the ownership of land by foreign nationals. In terms of this law, no foreigner will be allowed to own communal land by any means. Foreigners will only be allowed to lease agricultural land following a determination as laid down in the law. Foreigners who already own commercial agricultural land, will not be allowed to sell this land to other foreign nationals.
- The AR government will specifically target more than 200 farms owned by foreigners and absentee landlords for expropriation and redistribution to Namibians or for agricultural production by the state.
- The AR government will introduce a law in parliament that will clearly define the meaning of "just compensation" which will not mean "market-related".
- The AR government will also discontinue the current failed 'willing buyer, willing seller' system.
- The AR government will task an agricultural support and mechanisation agency, a public enterprise that will be established, to undertake research and subsequently implement a programme whereby communal farmers can use their land for agricultural production outside the rainy and cultivation season.



GBV

What are parties saying about addressing gender-based violence (GBV)?

ACCORDING to statistics provided by the Namibian Police in May 2024, there were 17 669 reported cases of gender-based violence (GBV), between January 2020 and December 2023 with 14 349 of the victims being women.

The police also revealed that 81.2% of cases reported involved female victims, while 18.78% were male victims. According to the statistics, the majority of the cases arose from common assault, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and malicious damage to property.

Additionally, recent police reports indicate that 666 rape cases were recorded nationwide from 1 January to June 30 2024, though actual figures

may be higher due to underreporting. Despite the severity of these statistics, none of the eight government-owned GBV shelters across the country are currently operational, leaving victims without essential support and protection.

The prevalence of GBV in Namibia highlights its urgency as a national issue that demands attention from both citizens and political leaders. Political parties, in particular, have a significant role to play in addressing GBV through their manifestos, which serve as guiding documents on policy priorities. As such, we will delve into the approaches taken by various political parties in addressing GBV within their manifestos.



POLITICAL PARTIES ON GBV

THE SWAPO PARTY

- Reduce the prevalence of GBV and increase protection for women and girls by strengthening GBV awareness and prevention through public campaigns, protection centres, and specialised police units to render multi-sectoral and integrated service delivery.

POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PDM)

- Create specialised courts and police units to deal with sexual and gender-based violence.

LANDLESS PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT (LPM)

- An LPM government is aware that there is insufficient information as to the root causes of the violence generated in our country. In particular, GBV and child afflicting violence, including child rape, are all matters that require in-depth studies and redress to be sought. The focus should be on the boy-child, who these days is left behind, and society is already witnessing the sad state of the boy child in Namibia.
- Even at tertiary education levels, young men have fallen behind in the graduating numbers. This should be of concern. Therefore, with immediate effect, the ministry of gender would be directed to work with local scholars and institutions to do research as to what may be the particular causes of GBV. This research can derive applicable solutions that the ministry can adopt and use.

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION (NUDO)

- Pursue inclusivity through the promotion of gender equality and the eradication of disparities.
- Accelerate the implementation of policies and initiatives to end GBV and foster equal rights, fairness, representation and empowerment.
- Cultivate a future where every individual can thrive and contribute to the diversity of our nation's social, economic and political landscape.
- Institutionalise gender equality throughout the government system.
- Adhere to international gender equality best practices and promote gender equality through targeted economic empowerment initiatives.

- Promote leadership and mentorship programmes for women, girls and other vulnerable members of society.
- Design educational interventions with men and boys to support shifts in behaviours and attitudes towards women and their rights.
- Include gender equality education in the school curriculum from early on, throughout the various levels of the education system.
- Promote awareness of inheritance rights of women, girls and other vulnerable members of families and society.
- Promote inclusion through appointments that enhance women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles.

Independent Patriots for change (IPC)

- GBV not included in manifesto **SWANU**
- GBV not included in manifesto **Republican Party (RP)**
- GBV not included in manifesto **Affirmative Repositioning (AR)**
- GBV not included in manifesto **United Democratic Front (UDF)**
- GBV not included in manifesto **Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)**
- GBV not included in manifesto

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)

- The NDP recognises and acknowledges that women's struggles have worsened in the past 34 years of the democratic dispensation, with women suffering all forms of violations and brutality from all walks of life, especially from the government itself. Namibia is a deeply violent society that continues to wrestle with the impact of decades of institutionalised racism, sexism, exclusion, structural violence and other factors that have continued to undermine human development and positive social cohesion.
- Women, particularly black women, disproportionately bear the burden of poverty, limiting their ability to escape abusive situations, pursue education and achieve financial independence. As the NDP, we assert that addressing economic disparities and poverty is pivotal in breaking the cycle of violence and fostering a society where all individuals can thrive.
- The NDP believes in the complete emancipation of women and will strive to realise women's liberation through a variety of interventions, with the starting point being to prioritise women in economic emancipation benefits.

- Women's recognition and empowerment in the workplace is of utmost importance; thus, the NDP government will enact legislation that will ensure fair and just labour laws for women in workplaces.
- The NDP believes that GBV and related antisocial activities are reinforced and even sustained by the deplorable general conditions of our people; therefore, a key to female emancipation is the emancipation of all.
- The NDP will emphasise transforming the lives of our people in the ghettos from one of generalised structural violence as a mechanism to end all violence, including violence against women.
- The NDP government will ensure that the following key interventions are made: (a) 50% women representation in all spheres representing economic benefits, political participation, managerial and leadership responsibility; (b) compulsory gender education and training for all; (c) education of the police on gender justice and the establishment of specialised law enforcement units to deal with women-related crimes; (d) strengthening education of men on patriarchy, sexism and misogyny; and, (e) engaging custodians of tradition, faith leaders and other cultural practitioners to collectively find the means to combat the oppression of women.
- Developing effective, accessible and responsive child maintenance court systems.
- Establishment of a unit within the police to efficiently respond to GBV cases, especially decentralising all family violence, child protection, and sexual offences units (FCS) to every police station.
- The NDP government will implement a new mechanism for reporting GBV. This approach will include home or place of safety visits by police officers who have received appropriate training.
- The NDP government will develop proactive policies that will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- The NDP government will develop prevention strategies which will address the root causes of violence against women.
- The NDP government will create more employment opportunities for women, as they remain underrepresented in the labour market across all age groups.
- The NDP government will develop policies that will enforce a 50% gender representation, targeted at closing the gender gap in all sectors, public and private.
- The NDP government will improve government support for early childhood development centres to allow women to return to work.

- The NDP government will provide incentives to businesses and industries that provide childcare at work, a service accessible for both mothers and fathers.
- The NDP government will promote greater involvement of men in care work, which is necessary to achieve gender equality.
- The NDP government will provide incentives for care work by paying and protecting those in the care economy more.
- The NDP government will promote accountability in the Namibian Police with respect to rape investigations and intimate partner violence cases.
- The NDP government will adopt strategies aimed at capacitating the police, ensuring that the police are equipped with both technical and tactical response resources.
- The NDP government will empower community-based crime prevention and policing forums to curb the scourge of GBV and femicide.
- The NDP government will establish a unit within the police that will work with social development and, to some extent, include justice, to provide a safe space for victims and to pursue justice without fearing for their lives. This will include a seamless process of accessing the services of protection orders for victims in the same safe space without hassle.
- The NDP government will employ and empower more police officers and decentralise all FCS units to be allocated in each police station for direct consultation, investigation and arrests of perpetrators to ensure successful prosecution and secure the harshest sentence for each GBV crime.
- The NDP government will strengthen and resource forensic laboratories for the provision of quicker and more efficient DNA testing for GBV crimes and empower FCS units to obtain any DNA evidence that will lead to securing successful prosecution and imprisonment of perpetrators.

NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FIGHTING CORRUPTION (NEFC)

- Living against a backdrop of crime is a daily reality for Namibians: violent crime, property crime, gender-based crime and all the many variances in between. According to the Namibian Police, Namibia's overall crime rate is alarming and a great concern of security for the nation. Murder and gender violence rates have increased significantly and people are being robbed day and night on the streets and our security forces are nowhere to be found.
- We will emphasise the safety of women and men and set new standards for tackling domestic and sexual violence.

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