



DTA OF NAMIBIA

ELECTION

MANIFESTO

2009

Mission

The DTA of Namibia is a political party which arises from and is rooted in the cultural multiplicity of the people of Namibia, with the fundamental aim to advance and maintain peace and prosperity and to achieve national unity based on a multi-party democracy.

Vision

The DTA of Namibia has served and continues to serve all the people of Namibia. If elected to government it will actively address the situation in which our young people find themselves ineffective education and unemployment that leads to growing poverty and a lack of hope for the future. The DTA will put in place workable policies and plans to create jobs throughout the country, fight crime and corruption by fighting poverty and unemployment, and provide education that will equip young people for the real working world.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF POLICY

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability encompasses two primary intentions: Firstly: All elected representatives, Municipal Councilors and Members of the Regional Council but especially the Members of Parliament and the National Council, must demonstrate publicly that they exercise their powers and discharge their duties properly within the letter and spirit of the Constitution. Secondly: Government is answerable to Parliament. It must explain and justify its policies and may ultimately even be repudiated by Parliament. Any delegation of power in a democratic state must carry with it the requirement to report on how that power is exercised. Attempts to evade accountability or to undermine its effectiveness are adjudged a violation of the Constitution. The most important prerequisite for effective accountability is a free press. The DTA of Namibia will accordingly ensure maximum accountability by all Ministries, government institutions and government funded organisations with the view to assure the principles of Democracy, acting both as Opposition and as Government. The DTA of Namibia will, moreover, encourage to the best of its ability, all individuals and State Institutions, in particular the Ombudsman, to respect and ceaselessly protect the principle of accountability and will respect and defend the freedom of the media without compromise. The DTA of Namibia is committed to the prevention and ultimate total elimination of all forms of corruption and nepotism in politics, public administration and private enterprise, and to the promotion and support of an effective and competent Civil Service

ETHNICITY

The ethnic and linguistic multiplicity of the citizens of Namibia are an asset to the country and a special characteristic of the Nation. The DTA of Namibia will accordingly encourage and support the cultivation and maintenance of the various languages and cultures of Namibia as a positive contribution to the richness of the national fabric.

FREEDOM

Independence and sovereignty alone are not enough to secure true freedom. Independence does indeed deliver from foreign domination and brings about national freedom, but such freedom must be augmented by the civil liberties, which include freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of speech and freedom of religious practice. The DTA of Namibia accordingly pledges unwavering pursuit of political, social and economic freedom within the limitations specified by the Constitution.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The DTA of Namibia proposes an aggressive investment policy to procure foreign investment in support of the promotion, growth, support and development of the economy of Namibia and the concurrent creation of employment opportunities, subject merely to the constraints imposed by the Constitution and sound business practice and policies. The DTA of Namibia will offer tangible financial incentives (such as tax relief) which are competitive with those which may be offered by neighbouring countries (see also "Commerce and Industry" elsewhere).

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is indispensable for national unity and peace. Since its inception, the DTA of Namibia has endeavoured to unite different groups in Namibia and to break down intolerance, prejudice, discord and friction between ethnic, religious and language groups, between the affluent and the poor, and to promote understanding, goodwill and co-operation between all in the pursuance of national unity and peace. The DTA of Namibia pledges to pursue this objective relentlessly.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The DTA of Namibia is alarmed about the progressive deterioration of the environment and notes with concern problems of nation-wide environmental degradation such as bush encroachment, deforestation, decertification, pollution and related issues, caused by a variety of factors, including *inter alia* population pressure, underdevelopment, land resource management practices and others. The DTA of Namibia is committed to a holistic, long-term approach to the conservation of nature and the renewal of all natural resources with the participation by the people and involvement of communities in the decision-making processes. It rejects short term "fix-it" actions. It will promote and support education and training on all matters relating to Namibia's natural environment, in particular the establishment and maintenance of environmental education centres and research institutions, support environmentally oriented Non-Governmental Organisations, combat all forms of pollution and over-exploitation and promulgate appropriate legislation aimed at achieving the objectives enunciated in the Constitution.

GENDER ISSUES

The DTA of Namibia is committed to the total elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and their complete recognition in all spheres of society and recognises the central role played by women in the domestic, economic and political spheres of Namibian life. In particular, the DTA of Namibia will actively pursue equal rights for women before the law.

The DTA of Namibia recognises the leading and stabilising role of the women of Namibia in society and will support their cause in all walks of life.

REGIONAL and LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The DTA of Namibia supports a decentralised unitary state with the accompanying devolution of power to Regional Councils and Local Authorities as determined by the Constitution so as to bring the government to the inhabitants of Namibia and to serve local interests. It is the objective of the DTA of Namibia to achieve comprehensive and far-reaching devolution of power in order to enable the people of all regions to participate directly, actively and effectively in Government. In effect this means that Regional Councils will be equipped with the power to control regional government. The DTA of Namibia supports a system for municipal and regional elections which will ensure balanced representation of the citizens in these bodies. Local authorities will enjoy the widest possible delegation of powers to ensure streamlined and effective administration. Municipalities will be entitled to develop and implement effective policies to develop self-sufficiency and will be empowered to assure an orderly rate of urbanisation.. The DTA of Namibia moreover supports an active contribution by traditional leaders and authorities.

THE OMBUDSMAN

The DTA of Namibia endorses the role of an independent and bold Ombudsman, who will expose inefficient administration without fear or favour, violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, abuse of power, unfair, harsh, insensitive or discourteous treatment of an inhabitant by an official in the employ of any organ of Government, manifest injustice, or corruption or conduct regarded as unlawful, oppressive or unfair.

POLICY

THE ECONOMY

The DTA of Namibia will pursue an overall economic policy aimed at economic growth to secure prosperity and a life of human dignity for all Namibians. Prudent investment in the development of the human resources of Namibia and the judicious implementation of the concept of affirmative action are prerequisites for the successful unfolding of its economy. The DTA of Namibia believes in the devolution of power and decentralisation of Government and will therefore concentrate on the general upliftment of the rural areas and local authorities, and specifically stimulate economic growth in those areas which have previously been neglected. The DTA of Namibia insists on the judicious exploitation of the country's natural resources such as fish, minerals and agriculture. It will concurrently and pro-actively support and further the growth of capital, knowledge and entrepreneurial expertise and enterprise in all fields of economic activity. In order to broaden the base of the Namibian economy and to achieve socio-economic development commensurate with the demands which arise from the growth of the population, the DTA of Namibia aims to secure *inter alia* foreign investments, technology and capital. The DTA of Namibia aspires to freedom of enterprise in a mixed economy, with concomitant social responsibility and will accordingly restrict interference by the State in the economy of the country. By the same token the DTA of Namibia will insist on economic viability of para-statal organisations such as the National Housing Enterprise, the Land Bank, Namibia Broadcasting Corporation and others.

MONETARY POLICY

The DTA of Namibia supports the concept of an adequately independent, competently and capably managed Central Bank to control the State's money supply, the currency and the institutions of finance. The DTA of Namibia respects the independence of this institution and will refrain from interfering with its responsibilities or meddling in its policy.

FISCAL POLICY

The tax policy of the DTA of Namibia, which is based on the principles of justice, neutrality, understandability and ease of administration will be supported by monetary and fiscal policies aimed at creating a sound macro-economic environment conducive to stability of the balance of payments and prices, to sustain economic growth, and to achieve the highest possible rate of employment and economic stability. The DTA of Namibia moreover assigns high priority to all social services with the view to effectively address social inequalities. It regards the redistribution of wealth through prudent and targeted government expenditure as an important component of its fiscal policy. It will accordingly address socio-economic problems aggressively without abandoning fiscal discipline and in such a manner as not to impair the growth potential of the economy. It will ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency of Government in general and of the Ministries which render social services in particular. The DTA of Namibia believes that the Auditor-General has a task beyond the mere control and audit of Government expenditure, but that he/she is co-responsible for the identification, prevention and elimination of all forms of corruption.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The DTA of Namibia aspires to freedom of enterprise in a mixed economy and will accordingly restrict interference by the State in the economy of the country to a minimum. It considers the private sector as the most important vehicle for the development of trade and industry in Namibia and will correspondingly promote and support all sensible private enterprise initiatives. The DTA of Namibia will assist in particular the development of both the formal and informal sectors of Commerce and Industry with a variety of practical mechanisms such as tax concessions, investment incentives, technical support, export

promotion, participation in and subsidisation of trade fairs, encouragement of foreign investments and others. It emphasises the importance of encouraging small industries and business ventures with training and financing. Share holding in larger industries and worker participation through share holding will be introduced. Although attention will be paid to affirmative action, the DTA of Namibia will not abandon normal economic principle and practise.

The DTA will encourage private enterprise as primary instruments for the constructive advancement of Namibian interests, the creation of employment opportunities and the struggle against poverty. The DTA of Namibia will also promote regional and international trade on the basis of reciprocity and will enter into bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade agreements and preferential trade protocols after careful evaluation and on a strictly selective basis. All such international protocols and agreements will be subject to regular and critical assessment. The DTA of Namibia will actively promote a Common Market of Southern African States and support the Southern African Development Conference, the Preferential Trade Agreement and other regional mechanisms. It will pursue membership and active participation in selected international fora provided that gains can reasonably be expected.

AGRICULTURE

The aim of the agricultural policy of the DTA of Namibia is to direct the optimal utilisation of natural resources by developing the agricultural industry in such a way that production factors and related functions can be applied to enable the industry to contribute towards:

- the creation of wealth in order to eliminate socio-economic disadvantages;
- introduce modern agricultural methods for crop production
- combating the dangers of unemployment;
- the development of secondary and tertiary agri-based industries.

LAND REFORM

The DTA of Namibia is convinced that in order to maintain the production capacity of land, which is a renewable resource, security of tenure and accountability which resorts with ownership, are extremely important factors. The following prerequisites must accordingly be achieved:

- A conservation strategy which will guarantee sustained use of the resource
- Incentives to ensure that productivity is optimised

The development of the existing diverse systems of land tenure must be an evolutionary process which progresses towards a leasehold system and ultimately a freehold system. The strategy will aim at

- addressing and ameliorating constraints in the subsistence sector;
- the maturing of subsistence farming into commercial production;
- populating newly developed areas with commercial farmers who are equipped with the necessary abilities to make a success of the project with reasonable certainty;
- the evaluation of prospective farmers after a probationary period before the final allocation of land;
- the settlement or resettlement of farmers on an economic basis;
- the active involvement and co-operation of the local population in planning and implementing programmes.

The DTA of Namibia believes that the questions of foreign land ownership and multiple farm ownership are strictly speaking not issues of agricultural policy but rather problems of a political nature which ought to be addressed with political and administrative strategies such as *inter alia* the imposition of rates, duties or levies, the enforcement of the principle of productivity, and measures of a similar kind. (See The DTA of Namibia's detailed Land Policy at www.dtaofnamibia.org.na)

MINING

The exploitation of irreplaceable natural resources such as minerals demand circumspect and conservative policies. The mining industry as earner of foreign currency, major contributor to the GDP and provider of employment is a very important component of the Namibian economy. The policy of the DTA of Namibia will consequently be directed at the optimum development and utilisation of the mineral resources of Namibia to the direct benefit of the inhabitants of the country. However, it will concurrently implement judicious management policies to integrate industrial development and environmental conservation and to see to it that mineral deposits are mined optimally so that the resources last as long as possible. Rights to prospecting and exploitation will be granted on a fair and equitable basis. The DTA of Namibia will implement active exploration programmes to secure continuity and offer a variety of incentives to promote foreign investment (see also Article 99 of the Constitution) and the establishment of new mines. Whilst the DTA recognises the role of expatriate experts in the mining industry it will insist on education and specialist training of Namibian citizens by the industry with the view to advance self-sufficiency. The DTA of Namibia will encourage the investigate/implement the building of a nuclear power plant to provide electricity to Namibia and add value to our uranium mining industry.

SEA FISHERIES

The objectives of the policy of the DTA of Namibia and its strategy are directed towards the recovery and maintenance of all living marine resources to optimal and sustainable utilisation to the best advantage of the people of Namibia, based on regular scientific evaluation and sound economic principles. Effective control measures against over-exploitation will be applied and recovery periods coupled to moderate exploitation will be mandatory. The living marine resources are common property, belonging to all the people of Namibia. Therefore the DTA of Namibia will create a sound economic climate for a profitable and concurrently tax generating fishing industry by:

- granting fishing rights and licences on a fair basis;
- allocating quotas based on *inter alia* viability and the economic efficiency of the recipient;
- endorsing the payment of levies on actual catches, provided such levies are used for well defined fisheries research and development oriented projects;
- considering royalties on quotas, provided such royalties are subject to analysis of viability and profitability so that economic growth is not hampered:
 - implementing effective policing of the Exclusive Economic Zone;
 - implementing efficient control of fishing activities, landings and product quality;
 - introducing penalties commensurate with the severity of the offence;
 - dealing with pirating in accordance with international and national law;
 - stimulating re-investment in the fishing industry and the Namibian economy by providing appropriate incentives;
 - giving priority to education and training to alleviate the current shortage of skilled manpower.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The foreign policy pursued by the DTA of Namibia is directed at the maintenance of the sovereignty of Namibia and the advancement of international peace and understanding within the framework of international law. The DTA of Namibia will pursue cordial relations with true democracies in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality and reciprocity. The DTA of Namibia envisages an active role for Namibia as a member of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Conference, (SADC), the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Rand Monetary Area (RMA). Membership by the Republic of Namibia of international organisations and participation in international treaties will be subject to periodic evaluation and will be terminated if they do not serve the interests of the Republic. The DTA of Namibia will facilitate to the best of its ability the settlement of internal disputes in neighbouring states in Southern Africa on a neutral and peaceful basis. In the establishment and maintenance of relations with foreign states and organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) the interests of Namibia will be the primary consideration and prudence, probity and thrift will weigh heavily in view of the limited resources of the Country.

DEFENCE, POLICE, PRISON SERVICES

The DA of Namibia advocates an Armed Force of full time soldiers commensurate with the resources of the country to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Namibia. The Armed Forces will comprise the Namibian Army, a Coast Guard of adequate size responsible for coastal defence and maritime patrol for the protection of Namibia's Exclusive Economic Zone and a small Airforce in support of the Navy.

EDUCATION

The DTA of Namibia will pursue educational policies, commensurate with the need of the people, recognising the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Nation, and providing balanced education and equal educational opportunities for all. Basic education will be free but compulsory up to the age of 16 years or Grade 7. Secondary and tertiary education will be neither compulsory nor free, but the DTA of Namibia will attempt to satisfy the demand for education by providing an adequate number of bursaries. The DTA of Namibia considers school preparedness of paramount importance in order to achieve equal educational opportunities. Pre-primary education is essential to achieve an equal start in Grade I by all children from all sections of the population and will be reintroduced as part of all primary schools. Institutions of Higher Education must cater for the real needs of the people. Vocational Schools, Polytechnics and Teachers' Training Colleges should ideally be decentralised in order to serve the various regions in the most economical fashion. Close co-operation with employers and organised Labour is essential if apprenticeship training is to be successful. Demand driven reciprocal agreements of co-operation will be entered into with the other Institutions of the Southern African Development Community so as to facilitate the provision of Higher Education at the Universities and related institutions on a regional, rational and economical basis. The DTA of Namibia believes that special attention must be given to the following issues:

- Civic education must be an integral part of education at all levels in order to strengthen the democratic values espoused in our Constitution.
- The upgrading of teachers is a cardinal prerequisite for effective education.
- Environmental education is of crucial importance for the survival of the people and will accordingly receive high priority.
- Upgrading and rationalisation of educational facilities will receive preferential consideration.
- Improving performance by teachers together with teachers' salaries

- Providing facilities to allow learners to repeat Grade 10
- Expanding vocational training as part of the fight against unemployment and poverty
- Bringing back a four term school year and also changing Namibia's time back to be in line with the rest of the SADC

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The DTA of Namibia is committed to a policy which enshrines the values of human dignity, the right to self-actualisation, popular participation, equity, basic need provision and social justice. Commensurate with the provisions of the Constitution with regard to human rights, the basic policy principle of the DTA of Namibia is the recognition that each human being has inalienable rights concerning the satisfaction of basic needs essential for the complete and active incorporation into his/her culture and society. The concept of basic needs includes a wide range of "social" goods and services which comprise the overall quality of life and includes the right to participate in one's own advancement. The DTA of Namibia acknowledges the importance of identifying persons with leadership qualities. Local participation in community development is recognised by the DTA of Namibia as an integral part of the democratic process, as a precondition for successful social change and the integration of all social groups into society. It is a certain means to achieve stability, peace, social justice, empowerment and self reliance in communities. The main areas to be addressed in Community Development are economic growth, housing, the role of women in development, rural/urban development, a fair distribution of resources to all needy sectors of community, water, sanitation and health care.

The DTA of Namibia will fight unemployment and poverty by:

- Providing skills on a broad front by introducing skills training at schools throughout the country again and linking this training to specific work schemes.
- Adding value to our natural resources before exporting them
- Employing Namibians in the building industry and enforcing the Labour Law in this regard
- Creating jobs across the country in collaboration with the private sector that must remain the engine of growth in the economy, by starting well-researched work schemes in collaboration with the private sector, both local and international such as
 - a timber industry in the North-East
 - a food producing scheme with irrigation
 - a leather industry in the south
 - a polyurethane manufacturing industry
 - building the Neckertal Dam in the south
 - creating underground reservoirs in the north to conserve the water from the efundja
 - investigating/implementing the establishment of an 'aircraft graveyard' in the south to generate income for the local people and the country.

The DTA of Namibia will address the particular problems experienced by Namibian youth by inter alia:

- Providing access to skills that can lead to self-employment
- Creating jobs through work schemes
- Providing access to tertiary education through subsidies

The DTA of Namibia will address the particular problems of the elderly living with the problems created by the HIV/AIDS pandemic by inter alia:

- Spending more money on housing for the poor
- Increasing the old-age pension to an appropriate amount

HOUSING

Adequate shelter in the form of affordable housing is the prerequisite for the enjoyment of social and cultural rights. The DTA of Namibia maintains that the primary responsibility for the provision of housing rests with the head of the family, but it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that this responsibility is understood, accepted and can be implemented. To achieve this goal, a policy of home-ownership for all will be pursued. Regional and local authorities will be expected to take the initiative in the provision of housing and will be supported in the planning process and financially. The following issues will be addressed:

- All first time home owners will receive a subsidy of not less than 5% on a property valued at less than N\$340 000.
- Research will be initiated into finding and developing cheaper building materials to provide more affordable housing.
- Serious attempts will be made to reduce the present backlog of 67 000 houses by using locally-available natural materials such as rock.
- The possibility of building flats for rent by young couples.

HEALTH

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as “a positive state of physical, psychological and social well-being,” not merely the absence of disease. The DTA of Namibia will pursue this objective with an extensive health policy embracing preventative, curative and specialised health care, within the limits set by budgetary constraints. The DTA of Namibia believes that the prerequisite for an effective and competent Health service is maximum decentralisation and delegation to regional and local authorities. This is also necessary in order to ensure appropriate solutions for the unique health problems of the different regions of Namibia. The DTA of Namibia will establish a health care system which will entail *inter alia* the following aspects:

- Spending more money on upgrading and maintaining clinics and hospitals
- Spending more money on selecting, training and motivating medical staff throughout the country
- Initiating a government Medical Aid Insurance scheme to assist low-income households
- the training of auxiliary health care workers to ease the load on the professional members of health care;
- Establishment of a Namibian-owned drug manufacturer in cooperation with a foreign pharmaceutical partner and also train 65 students in bio-chemistry as a priority

NATURE CONSERVATION AND TOURISM

The policies of the DTA of Namibia concerning the protection and conservation the Namibian ecology and wildlife are in all cases strictly in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. The development of tourism will be rigorously subject to conditions pertaining to the maintenance of wildlife, the ecology and clean environment.

The DTA of Namibia recognises the economic value of the Tourism Industry as earner of foreign exchange, major contributor to the GDP and provider of many employment opportunities and will administer it so as to realise its full potential. The DTA of Namibia will correspondingly promote all facets of the Industry.

The DTA of Namibia will promote regional and international co-operation with regard to marketing and the establishment of a tourist friendly environment *apropos* visas, aviation policies and the like, all with the view to develop national, regional and international tourism. The DTA will moreover help to maintain and expand the tourism infrastructure by *inter alia* privatising existing state owned facilities in an appropriate form and by granting entrepreneurial access to state owned tourist attractions, all subject to stringent conditions relating to the protection and conservation of the ecology.

JUSTICE

Namibia faces the challenge of reconciling a variety of cultures in the drive to build a nation. The definition and codification of norms deriving from this variety and maintaining the delicate balance to render them acceptable to all Namibians is a difficult and sensitive action. The DTA of Namibia believes, therefore, that cognisance must be taken of traditional customs and that traditional authority may not be ignored in the codification of the statutes of modern Namibia on the basis of the Constitution.

- The DTA of Namibia is distressed at the standard of justice practised in the Lower Courts and will attempt to eliminate the miscarriage of Justice by reorganizing the justice system to make it more effective and accessible.
- The DTA of Namibia will remain ever vigilant with regard to the maintenance of the independence and dignity of the Courts and will accordingly expose and see to it that those who violate this principle are penalised.
- The DTA of Namibia will spend more money on selecting, training and motivating policemen- and women so that they will have an attitude of service and protection towards the communities they serve.
- The DTA of Namibia will appoint more policemen- and women at salaries that reflect the importance and danger of their work and will provide them with the necessary equipment for effective policing.

LABOUR AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

The DTA of Namibia will provide sound guidelines for labour matters based on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) negotiated principles by legislation, but will restrict interference by the State between employees and employers to a minimum to ensure the highest possible productivity rate in the economy without any form of exploitation. The DTA of Namibia will pursue a policy of “Namibians first” in accordance with the principles of Affirmative Action as set out in the Constitution, but will simultaneously apply the principles of merit related to foreign specialised skills and ensure the transfer of know how, skills and technology to the benefit of the country as a whole.

SPORT

The DTA of Namibia recognises the importance of sport to individuals and group in both the domestic and international fields. Sport is an important component of the development and education of people as well as a bridge-builder and precipitator of the improvement of human relations. Whereas the DTA of Namibia will support all sport, it believes that sport must be initiated and developed by the community themselves. Financial support will be rendered on a fair and equitable basis, especially to schools and junior sport. However, the DTA will create the essential physical infrastructure for sport, especially in the previously neglected areas of the country. Whereas the DTA of Namibia will not tolerate any discrimination against individuals or sport codes it will not prescribe policy to sporting bodies. The DTA of Namibia believes that international relations and international competition are important contributors to the process of nation-building and will accordingly support individuals, teams and bodies to accomplish such membership and facilitate competition. The DTA of Namibia will not maintain a separate Ministry for the administration of sport.

Let us stop the rot.

Vote DTA of Namibia

because you deserve better.