



# NAMIBIA IS ALL WE HAVE! WE MUST AND CAN SAVE IT!



**PARTY MANIFESTO**  
2021-2024





# WHO IS THE IPC?

In response to the demands of the Namibian people, the IPC was created on 2nd August 2020 as a fully-fledged political party with the election of its leadership and acceptance of its constitution. The IPC stands for grassroots participatory democracy, built on the principles of honesty, integrity, dignity, and rule of law. The IPC provides a political home for all Namibians irrespective of their cultural, tribal, ethnic, or social status, independent of any past or existing political affiliation, with a clear mandate to restore the dignity of our people. This makes the IPC the most diverse and most multi-represented party on the Namibian political landscape. After a very successful regional and local elections in November 2020, the IPC became the second largest political party in the Namibia and the “unofficial” opposition.





# BACKGROUND

**M**ore than 30 years after becoming an independent country, it is time to ask if the promises of freedom are being delivered. We need to look closely and constructively at what is good in Namibia, what is not so good and what needs to be done to meet our expectations. We cannot blame the outside world or other countries for our troubles, nor can we keep on blaming the past events such war and apartheid. We are a small country in terms of population but with large land and many resources, those resources the world needs. Some African countries with fewer resources and bigger populations are outperforming us economically. Something must be wrong with our strategies and decisions.

This Manifesto sets out what we need to do to install good governance and identifies priorities to return the benefits of our country's riches to the people. Our struggle was not intended to simply replace rich white people with rich black people or *vice versa*. It was to provide opportunities to all the people to participate in building and enjoying our country's riches. This manifesto is a result of communicating with a vast number of people over a period of time. Namibians from all walks of life, representing Namibia's demography. **It is a people's Manifesto.**





# PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

UNLEASHING A PATRIOTIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

## 1. GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Good governance means that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal. The concept of efficiency in the context of good governance also covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

### 1.1. Fighting Corruption

When a Government is not living up to its people's expectations it must be due to either the people running Government or the system of Government, or, of course, both are off-track. Namibia is plagued by a common weakness of emerging nations – a self-perpetuating elite whose initial intentions however good, however bold have been replaced with protecting their status, their wealth, and their privileges. Family surrounds them, with their cronies and with opportunists who hope to benefit from their closeness to power. Hyenas round the Lion's kill, with Jackals waiting for their chance! Our Government spends more than N\$250 million per year duplicating ministerial tasks, with a lack of coherent policies and turning a blind eye to deep-rooted corruption. The millions looted from various Government institutions need to be found, for example from GIPF, SME bank, ghost salaries, inflated tendering procedures and inefficient state-owned enterprises. Much of this drain is justified by "jobs for friend and comrades". These looted funds could be reinvested into the betterment of all our lives-access to health, education, professional training and opportunity for our youth, the cream of our Nation. We need and welcome citizens of other countries who can assist us in our ambitions and contribute to our growth, but we should not be selling or abandoning our birth right by denying similar opportunities to our own citizens. Our Land and our People are not for sale.

Reforming failing systems is not quick or easy. Apart from the obvious resistance from the beneficiaries of the current arrangements, well-embedded systems have to be dismantled and more effective and



efficient systems put in their place and constantly reviewed.

The welfare and future of our nation is in our hands. Everyone has a stake in how the nation is run. Participation in decision making by voting for our leaders is open to all. It is our fundamental right. It is important that everyone participates. For the Youth it is their future. For our women it is their defence against domestic violence and a pathway to socio-economic empowerment.

If our elected leaders fail to govern well, they are betraying us and doing a disservice to us, and generations to come. Namibia has reached a critical point in our young democracy where power has been transferred to elite who runs the country as a private business ignoring people's needs and rights to a dignified existence. It is a personal insult to all our citizens to permit this to continue. It is important that this kind of abuse of power is stopped and stopped now. The people's needs must become the only priority for Government.

Namibia has a small population, numbering less than three million inhabitants. It has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP- An international measure of productivity and wealth.) of US\$65 billion. Unfortunately, it also has a soaring national debt of about 89 billion and a deficit in budgeted funds of nearly US\$ 20 billion and increasing. A household that spends 30% more than it earns would soon be bankrupt. The current Government has led our nation, despite its rich natural resources, to this point of dearth and this cannot be allowed to continue.

The principal reason for this state of affairs is the bloated administration, top-heavy with unnecessary Ministries and officials selected for their affiliation, relationship or connection to the elite and its acolytes. We need to put in place a structure that, as far as possible, counteracts these practices.

Leaders of IPC cannot clean up corruption and maladministration on their own. The founding president of the Independent Patriots for Change

(IPC) can only identify targets and priorities and establish programmes for reform, but he will need ministerial advisers and professional managers appointed on merit, to help him execute these decisions. These ministerial civil servants and professionals must be freely chosen from grassroots democratic participation. Their advice must be impartial, but evidence based and representative of the will and needs of the people, even critical, if the desired reforms are to succeed.

An authority independent of the President must appoint an independent and impartial administration, not prone to cronyism and corruption. Such a body already exists in Namibia in the Public Service Commission. The members of the Commission should be chosen from civil society- the professions, e.g., health, education, law, journalism, as well as business, trade unions, and the arts – excluding individuals who are related to the President and Ministers or persons with a known personal agenda.

Access to posts in the administration should be based on level of education appropriate to each post, knowledge of Namibian national languages. The relevant provisions of our Constitution, especially our Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, currently illegally ignored will be a good starting point. Without such a structure there is a serious risk, over time that Government could relapse into its old ways.

Throughout our Continent we have witnessed leaders and Governments in the post-colonial era start with good intentions, freeing their nations from the worst of colonial oppression only for their efforts to be frustrated by civil wars, one – party states, dictatorships, and tribalism. We have an opportunity in Namibia to avoid such a future while we still have the benefit of free elections. In accordance with Article 1(2) of the Namibian Constitution, **‘All power shall be vested in the people of Namibia, who shall exercise their sovereignty through democratic institutions.’**

As Namibians who participated directly or indirectly or witnessed the liberation struggle for independence of our country, are distressed to observe the betrayal of our hopes and expectations by the conduct of



our leaders in both the ruling party and the State. That is our collective reason for standing as Independent Patriots for Change, to restore our faith in our people and our nation. Namibia and Patriotism is paramount than loyalty to a defunct party leadership that does not respect the rule of law.

## 1.2. Reduce the Size of Government

Our first priority is to rid us of the incompetence of an administration soaked in corruption and cronyism by a reduction in Ministries and public organisations often duplicating work or not working at all. There will be no more than a dozen, i.e., twelve, Ministers, of whom, at least four, on merit, shall be under the age of 35 years, including a Prime Minister to ensure coordination of the work of the Ministries. **Meritocracy, Pragmatism and Honesty** shall be the hallmark which dictates appointments. The Ministers will have clear duties and portfolios and measurable targets so that the public can assess their performance periodically. Independently appointed civil servants will assist them.

## 1.3. Rationalize State-owned Enterprises

In addition to reducing the number of Ministries we will merge or close some of the thirty 30, parasitic organisations living off Government funds. All existing employees will be retained until the transition is complete. Thereafter employment will be allocated on grounds of experience, knowledge, and track record. Employees over a certain age will be given the opportunity to retire early with the maximum pension they would have received if they had stayed in employment. The resources liberated from these actions will amount to nearly 50% of current expenditure. These saved resources will go towards achieving some of our priority ambitions like encouraging local entrepreneurship, empowering the youth and women, as well as restoring budget allocations for their original purposes.



#### **1.4. The Rights of People**

The most important service a Government can provide for its citizens is security and certainty in their daily lives. All Namibians are equal before the law. Arbitrary interference in the rights and liberties of Namibian citizens is contrary to both national and international law. All Namibians regardless of gender, colour or other distinguishing features are entitled to the rights and obligations guaranteed by our Constitution. We will adhere strictly to the provisions of Chapter 3, the Fundamental rights and Freedoms and the principles of Article 95 of the Constitution. We will prioritise the development and opportunities of all citizens, including access to land, for especially the youth, women and veterans, development of enterprise and free access to health and education services. For example, we will ensure that resources intended for free health care are not used to fund the private sector.

#### **1.5. Use Local Labour**

Industry and large businesses will be obliged to hire Namibian staff and offer apprenticeships and training to Namibian citizens if they wish to operate on Namibian territory. This would apply to all foreign industries and businesses currently operating under licences or permits. While the contribution of such companies is welcome to develop our economy the



expertise and skills required must eventually be transferred to our own citizens. Other measures will be needed to ensure that the majority of benefits, financial and technological, arising from the exploitation of our resources, remain in Namibia.

In our economically polarised society, where the gulf between the rich and the poor is ever widening, any change is difficult to achieve, but we believe that working together, irrespective of political affiliation, we can achieve the changes we need. It will take time. There is an urgency to leave behind party loyalty and rally behind the nationalism of an independent patriotism to rescue Namibia from becoming a failed State. There will be fierce resistance, particularly from the beneficiaries of the present unhealthy system but such resistance will not triumph over united Namibians.

However, we do not go blindly into this challenge. Let us highlight in more detail IPC's vision for government.





## 2. THE ECONOMY

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The heartbeat of any economy is undeniably, **Energy, Water, Finance, Health and Education**. These are the fundamental features necessary to build a strong economy.

Our economy is in serious danger given its contraction over the past four years and repeated downgrading. What is however much more worrying is our current account? Unemployment amongst our youth is nearing 50%, with several businesses going under and workers being redundant.

As mentioned before, the way the country is run at present does not permit enough resources to be distributed to those who need it. Change will require new mechanisms and new objectives. It requires a review of all the major sectors – **mining, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and the services** sector. It will require investment in infrastructure - roads, electricity, access to digital services, appreciating the Fourth and subsequent Industrial Revolution and above all housing for our people, on their land, with water, sanitation, and electricity in adherence to the rights as promised by the Namibian constitution.

We have the benefit of being able to see the results of previous experiments with economic systems. It is no longer revolutionary to observe that an economy entirely in private hands run via a market mechanism is doomed to failure. The market is an excellent teacher, but it is a bad master. It cannot provide support to sectors of the



economy that are not governed by profit. The pursuit of profit at all costs inevitably creates the circumstances for its own downfall. The recent world economic meltdown was not a blip in the system it was inherent in the pursuit of wealth from non-productive activities. Advocates for a free-market economy quote Adam Smith, the father of free trade, but he advocated that some activities must be reserved to the State, e.g., defence. They also overlook that Adam Smith was writing BEFORE the industrial revolution, i.e., for an essentially agricultural economy. It was Karl Marx who identified the iniquities of industrial capitalism. Free marketers also forget that free trade depends on free access and free exit from any given market, a condition impossible to respect in today's internationalised high - tech economy. There is not and never has been an economy run on free trade principles, even the U.S.A. subsidises large parts of its economy through state intervention.

Equally, economies entirely managed as State owned or State controlled companies have failed. The collapse of the Soviet Union and its followers and China's 21<sup>st</sup> century expansion is sufficient testimony to that. A mix of private and public enterprise is the way forward. Finding the right mix is the challenge. In Namibia there should be a place for private entrepreneurs, community enterprises, cooperatives, companies with shareholder capital and international companies. Large companies should be obliged to have partnerships with the State and worker representation on their boards. There are successful international examples of the latter in both industrialised western economies and developing economies.

Namibia is best served by a mixed economy open to innovation and entrepreneurial skills while benefitting from the experience and knowledge that must accompany successful large companies. To achieve this balance the Government must provide a regulatory environment, which allows our people to be the beneficiaries of our economic success. This means schemes for skills transfer to Namibian workers and direct participation in the wealth generated by Namibian industry.

### 3. THE YOUTH

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The youth make up the majority of our population and while it has the potential to be the biggest contributor of our economic activities, it is unfortunate that this segment of our population is the worst hit by high unemployment characterized by inequality, inadequate skills for job market and discrimination in the job market.

This is aggravated by the fact that no specific tools and capacity have been cultivated to address this. Much of a greater problem is that those who claim to care for the youth under the guise of youthfulness representation do not have the slightest idea of what the youth wants. Nobody in the current political dispensation dared to ask, what is it that the youth want, how the youth want it done and when the youth want it done? Further, the fact that youth unemployment, and other socio-economic dilemmas is not adequately addressed is the challenge that the democracies need deepening as youth participation in decision making process in the policy cycle is low, especially when it comes to agenda setting.

**The following are key and specific targets to practically empower the youth:**

- I. The youth will occupy 40 percent of the cabinet.
- II. Key decision-making positions in all government structures and entities should have at least a 40 percent youth.
- III. Non-discriminatory funding of development cooperative projects for youth development countrywide, within the ambit of the law and policies.
- IV. Non-discriminatory education funding for eligible students to tertiary institutions including vocational institutions.
- V. Youth development programmes in the area of agriculture, forestry and conservation, tourism, fisheries, manufacturing and

value addition shall be prioritized.

- VI. Micro and macro lending schemes shall be prioritized and expedite to cultivate entrepreneurial participation of youth, consequently moulding the youth to be key players in the mainstream economy.

We shall conduct surveys and mass consultations with the youth countrywide to draft a scientific evidenced blueprint specific for youth empowerment. This will allow for the youth to determine the destiny of this country of which they are the rightful successors.

## **4. INFRASTRUCTURE**

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All societies need a solid infrastructure upon which their organisation and functioning is based. In Namibia we need more investment in roads to bring people and communities together and to facilitate trade and the exchange of ideas. We need housing with running water, sanitation, and electricity for our citizens. We need access to digital media via investment in digital economy linking remote regions to the cities and outside world.

### **4.1. Housing**

Building infrastructure is expensive. It is not cheap, and it is not quick. However, we must start. Consequently, as a priority the IPC intends to launch a major house building programme to accelerate the housing security of our people. We will allocate a piece of land on which to construct a house to all citizens who are homeless or without shelter. We may borrow from the experience of other nations who have faced similar problems by using, as necessary, prefabricated housing and deploying the security forces to assist in construction. This should also help us to build up a skill set among construction workers so that this sector does not become problematic in future years.

The N\$1,000 dual option direct Government housing scheme, designed specifically to provide shelter and improve the standard of accommodation for our people in the so-called informal settlements, especially the youth,





shall, simultaneously, provide employment instantly to many of our youths irrespective of their professions, but especially those emerging from relevant VTC's courses such as bricklaying, electrician, and plumbing. In addition, the unemployed citizenry shall be able to participate in the scheme appropriately remunerated.

## **4.2. Road and Rail**

In general, comparatively we have excellent roads. However, many of our roads, especially to rural communities and our resorts such as Sossusvlei, are in desperate need of maintenance and new roads need to be built, especially in the south (//Karas) and east (Omaheke). While our tourism industry attracts foreign tourists to our “unspoilt” landscape and fascinating wildlife, getting about comfortably is difficult. With a few exceptions, we do not need large motorways and dual carriageways. We do need roads that are safe to drive on for motorists and comfortable to drive on for passengers. Once more we may have to call on the security services to provide the expertise to carry out the planning and building.

It is the rail and road that moves commodities. We shall endeavour to invest in a Rundu-Katima Railway network, to access the interior of the continent from our ports.

## **4.3. Electricity**

Our electricity network needs upgrading and expansion, as do telephone and internet connections. Although mobile telephones are the obvious way forward, we will have to install the masts and communication technologies to service them. The experience exists to overcome inherent problems of this kind and we should use it.

While our towns and cities are served with electricity other regions in the countryside are not so well served. Again, the Government must intervene to create the conditions for an expanded network. Private enterprise cannot do it alone, but it can be done in partnership. The possibilities of exploiting solar energy may be one way forward.



#### **4.4. Water**

As a desert country that experiences frequent periods of water shortages and droughts, we face a major challenge of ensuring water supplies to our towns and cities, let alone to farms and residents in rural areas. It affects residential properties, businesses, and industrial production alike. We can sit back and accept that we must live with this natural phenomenon or seek ways to alleviate the worst effects. The IPC believe we should do the latter. In reality there is no chronic shortage of water that cannot be tackled using existing possibilities. We should negotiate with our neighbours to share freshwater resources from, e.g., the Zambezi, the Kavango or the Orange. Learn from the development of desalination plants in other countries and plan an infrastructure to utilise efficiently the current resources from dams, boreholes, and canals. We need to drill for water rather than drill for oil!

### **5. INDUSTRY**

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The most prominent industrial sectors include mining, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, and entrepreneurship.

#### **5.1. Creating Regional Hubs**

It is often overlooked that workers in the industrial sector are not all engaged in manufacturing or extractive activities. There are supervisory posts, management, secretaries, sales - people and others. Such jobs should also as far as possibly benefit from the coordinated opportunities for regional employment. With this in mind we intend to set up regional hubs to assist the local communities to benefit from the local activities.





## 5.2. Mining

If mining is to benefit the Namibian people through its contribution to the Namibian economy, it will require to be regulated at national level. The implementation and monitoring of the mining charter are critical. State participation in the rewards that companies generate from Namibian mining, i.e., retaining a percentage of profits derived from mining activities is essential. Skill transfer from international companies to Namibian employees, through training programmes and apprenticeships will be obligatory.

Communities in regions where mining takes place should share directly in the Central Government's receipts from mining activities. They should also benefit from training in all aspects of the business including management and marketing. Encouragement should be given to local entrepreneurs and innovators to develop ancillary businesses. Licences and permits, though issued nationally, should be subject to local approval.



### 5.3. Tourism

Tourism is a major earner of foreign currency. It is essential to retain and develop its international popularity. It is foreign currencies that permit us to buy and enjoy goods and services we cannot produce for ourselves. To ensure tourism at least continues at its present level and preferably to increase it, it needs investment in transport infrastructure, better roads and better air access, maintenance of parks and wildlife protection, training of staff for the support sector – hotels, camps, restaurants, safaris, and the multitude of tasks that make up the tourism industry. A mixture of public support and private initiative is the way forward. What we do not need are more committees or organisations led by corrupt leaders and convicted criminals, to do this work. What we do need is the involvement of local communities on how and where the tourist experience can be improved.



## 5.4. Agriculture

With such a small population living in such an expanse of land it is incomprehensible that so few Namibians own so little of our land. Our traditions are based on our occupation and use of our land. A balance between big farms and smallholdings needs to be established. Attempts by some of our neighbours to solve the problems associated with land distribution have had a marked detrimental effect on agricultural production and hence food supply.

We cannot afford to go down that road. Land use must be determined by its contribution to the nation's prosperity. A smallholder feeding his family from the produce of his land makes as useful a contribution as a commercial farm selling its production on the market. Big farms that are not contributing to the nation's prosperity from, e.g., food production or tourism will be expected to change their behaviour.



It would be futile to attempt to make Namibia self-sufficient in food production because it would divert resources away from efficient use of land. We must try to be self-reliant balancing exports with imports. This means concentrating on crops that are economical to produce where we have a natural advantage and seeking reliable markets.

We should simultaneously empower our traditional crop producers in the rural areas supported by the academia, in conjunction with a new Peoples' oriented markets in various towns, to receive farmers produce which can especially be accessed by the elders through a new nutrition smart scheme, designed to keep our people healthy. This will be facilitated by a novel biometric smart card for the pensioners, directly linked to Government financial resources.





## 5.5. Fisheries

Despite the threat from phosphate mining, which we as a nation should never allow to happen in our marine ecology if we are to be true to Article 95 of the Namibia Constitution and sustainable development, Fisheries are a good example of “natural advantage”. We have waters, currently teeming with fish that other countries want. We have chosen to exploit this resource through fishery agreements, permits and licences. All good means of earning foreign currency. But where are the accounts of the sums received? Where have these earnings been spent for the benefit of coastal communities? What has been done to train and educate our own citizens to exploit this resource? Why are fish caught in Namibian waters and shipped abroad without ever being landed on Namibian soil, just to be re-imported for supermarket stores. Why do we have to import our own fish from our neighbours to feed our own people? A fish diet is nutritionally more beneficial than a meat diet and our most vulnerable population are excluded by the high price of fish.

Fish quotas, which had been allocated to a few connected individuals, shall be revised to allow for the entire public in all regions to benefit from this natural resource through regional quota allocations. This will lead to employment creation through the establishment of regional fish product factories.

A fishery policy, which sells our natural wealth to foreigners without any accountability for the receipts, or a policy to extract national benefit from this bounty is not just a disgrace - it is a political crime that no amount of

self-satisfaction from the governing elite, whose years of power have led to this, can justify.

## 5.6. Entrepreneurship

If we were to read the business press in the developed industrial world, we would be led to believe that their economies revolved on the activities of large multinational companies. In fact, companies employing more than 250 people make up less than 5% of all businesses. 95% employ less than ten people. Small businesses matter. They are the wheels that keep the economy running. Cooperatives make up 6% of national businesses in both the EU and the USA.

Both the EU, and the USA have policies designed to support small business. Free trade capitalism is a political fiction and not a strategy suitable for Namibia. There is plenty of room for entrepreneurship in a country like Namibia, be it in the retail trade, servicing larger sectors, e.g., garages and transport, or domestic services like plumbing, or interior decorators. However, the opportunity for opening up niche markets or exploiting new ideas must not be overlooked. The historical and reasonable distrust of Capitalism must not blind us to the need for non-capitalistic enterprises relying on the efforts and ingenuity of individuals who are often as many victims of unbridled capitalism as the rest of society.

We derive considerable revenue from SMEs run by indigenous Namibians. The protection of unskilled service delivery, such as those men and women in the hair and nail industry, traditional products and *Kapana* industry, the taxi drivers and other minor but critical SMEs, shall be enhanced to allow for this industry to be restricted to Namibian citizens only, through a specific regulation.

Furthermore, traditional crafts and their sale, including premises allocation, shall be restricted to Namibian citizens. All nationality-based entity retail shops shall be confined to specific areas and stricter revenue



evaluation rules applied, controlling imports and revenue accrument.  
This would avoid enhancing local competition and choice.



## 6. SOCIAL SERVICES

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The IPC identify **health, education, and welfare** as social services to which all citizens are entitled and to which all citizens should have free and READY access.

### 6.1. Health

An efficient health service should be free at point of delivery and available to all. This is a difficult target to achieve. It is made more difficult when we realise that about 80% of funds allocated to free health care are transferred to the private sector. Private medicine may be a part of our overall health environment, but those who choose it in preference to publicly funded health care should pay the full costs. Every penny paid by public funds to private health care is stolen from those who cannot afford to pay. Why the present Government permits this is incomprehensible?

We have had extremely valuable support in establishing a National Health Service from our international friends for which we are grateful. It is now time to accelerate the development of our own health professionals through education and training. We shall seek to develop links with other institutions with reliable reputations in training health professionals to assist us in our ambitions. We are beginning to benefit from Namibian trained doctors and nurses graduating from Namibian Institutions, but we need to provide postgraduate training and specialization in Namibia.

We should not forget that workers in the health sector are-not-only

doctors, dentists, or nurses. There are many other specialties such as physiotherapists not to mention the people who maintain the equipment and cleaners. All people working in the health sector need specific training in appropriate skills and patient safety. We also need to improve the maintenance and safety of our hospitals and clinics. We cannot provide safe health care in an unhealthy environment.

We need to examine how we can better provide care in rural areas where travel to health centres is difficult.

## **6.2. Education**

Education is an essential tool in building a self-reliant nation. It is not just about literacy. An ability to read and understand the wider world through reading is, of course, important, but education must go beyond this. Different people have different capacities to learn. Some learn quickly, some slowly; some have extreme difficulty or natural constraints. An education system that is not flexible enough to cope with this, is excluding people from achieving their potential, and this is detrimental to us all. Early introduction of subjects such as agriculture from at least Grade 5 to 12 and identification of potential professional orientation of pupils shall be made compulsory in all curricula. Further the impact of religious studies from an early age, notwithstanding our secularity shall be considered in the best interest of the safety and security of our people.

As we all know education is provided at different ages and with different content. To help pupils and students to reach their full potential they must be offered opportunities for skill training as well as academic learning throughout their education. Some pupils may excel at sports, or music or artistic skills. They must be offered the opportunity to develop their talents. Some pupils may be more skilled with their hands than with academic skills. Training for non-academic individuals so they benefit themselves and their community from their talents must be made available. We must study successful education systems in other countries to find the most appropriate system for us. Recognising that





education can never be based on a belief that one system fits all should be our guiding principle. It must also be given priority in public funding to ensure all future generations benefit from investment we make now.

### **6.3. Social Welfare**

None of us are exempt from experiencing unwanted circumstances, be it ill health or unemployment or insecurity in our own homes. It is the responsibility of the whole nation collectively to mitigate the effects of bad circumstances on individuals. We never know when it may be our turn!

No Government can legislate or plan for unforeseeable circumstances. It can set up systems designed to offset the worst effects of misfortune. It also has an obligation to its citizens to provide them with the means and opportunities so they can, as far as possible, protect themselves.

Free access to health and education are obvious mechanisms to achieve this. We also need to provide for those who are unable to support themselves. We must provide equitable pensions for those beyond working age, care for our fellow citizens who are incapacitated from age or illness, care for the young who lack support from a family. There are many reasons for needing assistance when individuals cannot provide for themselves. There is only one reason for us to provide that assistance – it could be us. The foundation of all human societies and religions is compassion. If a herd of elephants can show it in their daily lives, so can we. It is devastating to see expecting mothers awaiting delivery of the future generation living in squalid conditions next to hospitals, such as Outapi and Engela. The despicable scenes of children playing in unhygienic disease-prone environments in informal settlements, is not conducive to a dignified standard of living for our people as stated in Article 95 of our Constitution. Neither are the devastating loss of lives through fires and floods in these informal settlements. We shall re-dedicate ourselves to the implementation of Article 95, The Principles of State Policy.

# SUMMARY

from error. The defence of democracy needs constant vigilance. That is why we must respect the Rule of Law. It is not illegal to criticise the Government; it is not illegal to criticise a political party. It is a crime if the leaders of Government, or the leaders of political parties use techniques of intimidation and harassment to stop or divert criticism. Fortunately, we still have a free press and free judiciary in Namibia. It is our duty as citizens to protect these institutions against undue pressure and manipulation.

Progress and creativity inevitably involve change. This applies equally to those who hold power. New ideas, new challenges, may require new solutions. The old mantras need to be revised so new songs can be sung. The Independent Patriots for Change will have the same constraints. The limitation on the number of times a President can serve laid down in our Constitution is fundamental to our liberty. The IPC's intention as a party is to deliver to the nation a Government who shall put us on the right path to implement the necessary changes, we all have identified and to pass on the torch to a new Government when sufficient progress has been made.

Our appeal to Namibians, irrespective of your political persuasion, is to stop our slow sleepwalking into stagnation and bankruptcy by featherbedding the few. Our mission is to redistribute our wealth more equitably and insert a new dynamism into our society; to involve us all in designing this new future by increasing the participation of us all in the political process; to provide communities with the means of contributing to decisions affecting their own destiny. As IPC, we intend to make our leaders accessible to the people they represent. IPC Founding President undertakes not to reside in the Presidential State House until he has launched a nationwide house-building programme. Dr. Panduleni Itula



says he is happy to remain with his fellow patriots, neighbours, and friends in Katutura.

We appeal to all Namibian patriots, irrespective of political allegiance to recall our Nation's ambitions to serve the people and to send a message to the current leaders that their game is over and the people are taking back control. As the revolutionary anthem of workers has it – "Lift up the people's banner now trailing in the dust, a million hands are ready to guard its sacred trust." It is our banner. It is our Nation. It is our Country. It is not for sale. It is time to save it.

**NAMIBIA IS ALL WE HAVE!**

**WE MUST AND**

**CAN SAVE IT!**









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