



STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY & BUILDING THE FUTURE: A NEW VISION FOR NAMIBIA

INDEPENDENT PATRIOTS FOR CHANGE
ELECTION MANIFESTO 2024

Change Starts With You!



PRESIDENTIAL & NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
27 NOVEMBER 2024



“

Every Namibian holds the power to create this future. Let us vote for the future we deserve, the one of opportunities, solidarity, and dignity for every citizen, not for the past. Together, we can make the Namibia we dream of a reality.

”

Dr. Panduleni F. B. Itula
President



BACKGROUND

Our Social Contract, or Manifesto, is a high-level outline as to our commitment to the nation over the coming five years. It builds off the foundation created by the incumbents over the past 35 years, focusing on the next stage of our nation's development, and addressing the key issues of the Namibian public in order to improve Namibian lives. We approach this with a new energy, focus and ability to deliver. We focus on the needs of our people today. We respect the work of those that came before, but also recognise that more needs to be done, and that only a new leadership group without corrupt and self-serving elements, with new ideas and new energy, will take Namibia forward.

We are not opportunists. We are not rude children promising radical reform. We are realists with a laser-focused drive to take Namibia forward.

Our commitment to you, the Namibian people, is that over the next five years, we will ensure that there are jobs, resulting in income, in every family in Namibia. We will work tirelessly to restore your dignity. We will ensure that our nation is a nation rid of corruption, and a nation which we can all be proud of.

Our core principles include:

1. Sound, evidence based, economic policy
2. Integrity and honesty – zero tolerance of corruption
3. An ability to deliver
4. Strong, open and accessible leadership

While every Namibian matters to us, we recognise that the youth are the country's future. Many of our initiatives are youth focused, or find the youth as key beneficiaries. This theme, along with others, carries through our **Social Contract**.

A group of men, likely workers or officials, are walking in a line outdoors. They are wearing white polo shirts with a circular logo on the chest and white hard hats. One man in the foreground is wearing a dark blazer over his white shirt. They are walking on a paved surface, possibly a construction site or a public area, with buildings and utility poles in the background.

Specifically, we aim to:

1. Half the youth unemployment rate within five years.
2. Ensure that 80% of educational institution graduates are gainfully employed within one year of leaving school/university.
3. Double youth entrepreneurship within five years.
4. Ensure that 90% of Namibian youth are either in education, employment, or training by 2028
5. Encourage and support young people to participate in political activity on a merit-based system, through training, exposure and development.

This document summarises some of the key initiatives we will undertake over the next five years. More details can be found in our full Social Contract.



JOBS

At the heart of our commitment to restore dignity to the Namibian people is our focus on ensuring that there are jobs in every Namibian family. We will do this through ensuring that Namibia fully embraces entrepreneurship and is friendly towards Namibians starting businesses. We will ensure that there is not excessive government interference in the process of creating jobs and opportunities for Namibians. To the contrary, we will assist and support entrepreneurs and businesses through ease of access to finance, simplified processes and modernising infrastructure. Some of our specific interventions include:

- Radically reform the business climate to ensure that 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 reform, focusing on small and new businesses, including a

progressive non-mining corporate income tax rate with:

- **An exemption for businesses with profit below N\$2 million**
 - **A ceiling at 22%**
 - **Coupled with a dividend tax to incentivise business retention of income for investment and growth; and**
 - **An increase the VAT threshold to turnover of N\$2 million.**
- Radically reform and remove barriers to 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 Neckertal.
 - Fully democratize the utilisation of sea water for agricultural activities, meaning a complete removal of restrictions on sea water 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, including but not limited to:
 - **Tax registration, payment, claims and queries**
 - **Grant applications and payments**
 - **Business licensing**
 - **Business registrations, amendments and other administrative requirements**

- Reform the Development Bank of Namibia to ensure that it is adequately capacitated and resourced to provide meaningful finance to fulfil their mandate of “[contributing] to the development of Namibia and the socioeconomic well-being of its citizens” through a change in efficiency, culture and products for:
 - Project preparation
 - Start-ups
 - Informal traders
 - Existing enterprises wishing to expand and create additional jobs
- 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 rapid expansion of bulk infrastructure, including water, energy, rail, ports and others, at globally competitive rates.



PUBLIC RESOURCES

Namibia is a resource-rich country, with substantial natural resources, as well as national assets and income. However, these are not utilised efficiently nor optimally for the benefit of all Namibians. To ensure that all Namibians have access to decent healthcare, access to quality education, housing opportunities and that we can support those in dire need through a transitional income grant, we are committed to improving the use of national and natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

Some specific interventions include:

- Remove wasteful budgetary expenditure by significantly reducing the number of Ministries, from 24 to 13, and reducing bloated political and technical structures.
- Conduct a wholesale review of national assets and implement an asset-ownership and management



policy to optimise asset use and ownership for national development, including but not limited to:

- **Physical assets (properties, houses, offices)**
- **Commercial State-Owned Enterprises**
- Utilising technology, optimise all public procurement processes to ensure that all public procurement is done in a transparent, accountable, efficient and cost-conscious manner, with a focus on ensuring maximum local impact from procurement, including multiplier effects.
- 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.
- Ensure that public revenues derived from public asset utilisation are deployed in a manner that aligns to and maximises development objectives, including but not limited to infrastructure development and sustainable job creation.

ACCESS TO HEALTH, HOUSING, EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Namibia has failed to deliver a number of basic necessities to the majority of our people. This is not because the country is poor, but because our allocation of public resources and national resources has been mis-focused. In addition, the scourge of corruption that has become prevalent in our country exhausts public resources before they reach our people. Thus, our commitment to improve public resource management is coupled with our commitment to provide basic services to the population as a whole. We commit to ensuring that:

- Every Namibian child grows up in a modern housing unit.
- The stock of formal housing within the country increases by at least 100,000 units within ten years.
- We reduce the number of informal settlements by 50% within seven years.
- Every household has a monthly cash income, and young people leave education into a thriving job market.
- Every family has access to water, electricity, sanitation, health care and education.
- The scourge of corruption and resource mismanagement are a memory of the past.

Specifically, we will:

- Introduce a general cash-income grant for vulnerable populations, managed and administered in a cost-effective manner utilising technology, electronic wallets and mobile phones.
- Build and upgrade hospitals and clinics across the



country, prioritizing underserved areas.

- Create transparency and efficiency in the provision of medicine and other medical services to public clinics and hospitals, through the use of technology and public platforms.
- Improve the quality of health services through improved training of medical practitioners, and the introduction of accountability for medical practitioners and related service providers.
- Remove responsibility for land servicing from local authorities and introduce competitive bidding for bulk land servicing across Namibia.
- Launch a national program to formalize informal settlements, providing basic services and secure tenure.

- Secure zero-cost arrangements with commercial banking institutions to administer a Government funded revolving small-loan scheme for subsidized serviced land purchases.
- Partner with financial intuitions to administer low-cost housing loans with flexible repayment profiles.
- Reform housing requirements and zoning (size and type) to allow for modern building practices and materials, densification and affordable erven.
- Develop an expedited roll-out strategy for rural and peri-urban electrification, allowing for mini-grids, off-grid solutions, and grid extension to ensure universal access within five years.
- Invest N\$5 billion of public funds, coupled with additional partner funds, over five years in modernizing school infrastructure nationwide, with a focus on rural schools with no infrastructure.
- Ensure 100% of schools have access to electricity, internet, and basic sanitation.
- Introduce an entrepreneurship and digital skills curriculum in all secondary schools.



CORRUPTION

Corruption is a virus that has permeated too much of Namibian society, and like all viruses, it will destroy us if left untreated. Corruption steals the future of our children and our country and must be brought to an immediate end through decisive action, transparency and accountability. Addressing corruption is at the core of many of our commitments, as everything we do will be focused on transparency and accountability. We will remove the opportunities for corruption that come from a lack of transparency through various digital and public information initiatives. Moreover, some specific interventions will include:

- Introduction of a corruption oversight commission to act as a check and balance on the Anti-Corruption Commission through which aggrieved parties can raise concerns as to corruption experienced during the normal course of business, including but not limited to dubious tender awards and tender processes.

- Securing support from across the Parliamentary aisle to reform ACC to improve its ability to identify, investigate and prosecute corruption, as well as to ensure greater independence and objectivity.
- Ensuring that the appointment of ACC leadership is not influenced by political interest and is done by an independent body.
- Implementation of a blockchain-based digital procurement system for all government contracts above N\$1 million, ensuring full transparency on process, award and management of tenders and contracts.
- Introduction of a “Government Performance Dashboard” providing real-time data on key national indicators and project progress.
- Publishing of all mining license and exploration applications, contracts and licenses online for public scrutiny.
- Introduce absolute transparency in all matters relating to oil and gas contracts, agreements, licenses and related matters.
- Introduction of transparency and accountability into the fishing industry in general through publication of all quota issuances, rights issues, fishing vessels active in Namibian waters, local employment and local value addition.
- Introduction of transparency and accountability in all concessions, awards and contracts pertaining to the use of Namibian resources.



