**United People's
Movement**

Press Release

OFFICE UPM, REHOBOTH, CHURCH STREET

Over the past years, we had to witness how many of our people were neglected and they withdrew themselves from the democratic process in Namibia. It would be wrong to say that those who decided not to be part of the democratic process had only themselves to blame. Party politics and those who saw themselves bigger then the electorate are to be blamed in the first place. A lack of commitment to serve the people and a drive to self-enrichment has become a habit on most levels of government, whether it is on National, Regional or Local Authority level. Government's efforts to eliminate such practices had failed and the taxpayer is the one who suffers most.

Over the years we have heard about corrupt practices and some of us had even been victims to such practices, however since you

are served by a system that does not take you or your problem as serious, nothing positive has happened. Political and community leaders could do little or nothing to change the situation as they were divided and therefore could not make an impact.

Divided opposition parties with their unrealistic expectations also failed the electorate and therefore the United People's Movement (UPM) was formed on 30 October 2009 not to only work towards uniting the divided opposition but to ensure that those who were left behind are given the opportunity to air their voices and to make an impact. The Movement believes in minority rights and respect traditions, culture and religion and will strive towards the empowerment of such groups.

The Movement further supports effective participation in all levels of Government, with women taking their rightful place.

The increasing number of cases of violence against children and women and the weak effort to stop it is also a major concern. Alcohol and drug abuse, the lack of adequate health facilities and medication in our part of the country, the high number of grade 10 and 12 dropouts is also a great concern.

The United people's Movement further wants to see a change in the Management of Local Authorities across the country to ensure that the tax payer is served, and that the development of infrastructure takes place.

The UPM is committed to provide a meaningful solution to the critical challenges facing government in the delivery of permanent, decent but affordable housing as well as other buildings specifically in the affordable and low cost sector.

The UPM is committed to ensure that housing construction is done in compliance with the stringent international norms and standard requirements and will address various barriers that exist in the sustainable delivery of houses in the region ie.:

➢ Inadequate land requirements;

➢ High demographical growth and urbanization;

➢ Financial and budget constraints;

➢ Ineffective housing sector;

➢ Lack in delivery of appropriate and acceptable aesthetical designed homes,

➢ Failure to providing comfortable and dignified living;

➢ Construction of poor quality houses;

➢ Slow supply of houses with little monitoring;

➢ Complex and lengthy planning process; and

➢ The lengthy time-scale of actual construction.

All these critical factor results in slower urban development while the need for housing is relentlessly rising.

The result is that the lower building cost frees up resources required to improve other aspects of community development and basic services: water sanitation; electricity network; health

and education services; public spaces; economic opportunities; safety and security; and public transport. This improves the overall life quality of a social housing development and community spirit.

The Leadership of the UPM has taken specific note of the Namibian Government's honourable and dignified manifesto that housing is one of Namibia's priority areas for delivery. The shortage of housing and the quality of houses that have been provided are being challenged.

The UPM will take part in the upcoming Regional and local Authority elections in November and the Movement will in certain Regions and Towns negotiate with other opposition parties to ensure that the opposition increase its representation in Regional and Local Authorities. The UPM will also contest local authority elections in Okahandja and has on 14 October 2010 opend a branch in Okahandja. The candidates for the Okahandja local authority are as follows.

1) Andries Bezuidenhoudt

2) Johannes Diergaardt

3) Jakobus Cloete

4) Antonia Mbaindjikua

5) Thomas Morao

6) Prieska Nquvengengua

7) Wilhelmina Louw

The UPM also finalized it candidate list for the Rehoboth Local Authority Elections.

1. Martin G. Dentlinger

2. Jan J. van Wyk

3. Katrina W. Benz

4. Zeino Theron

5. Emma A Farmer

6. Bernhard Buys

7. Lorraine Mouton

Requests from Walvisbay and Mariental residents to the UPM to spread its wings to these town could not materialized due to time constrains.

Mr. Bismarck van Wyk, President and Mr. Piet Junius Vice-President of the UPM also requested the UPM to also oppose the amendment the Regional councils Act, which would allow the Head of state to appoint Governors in future. The UPM is convinced that this amendment will not support the decentralization process, neither will it benefit the electorate as such move once again creates an opportunity the waist taxpayers money by appointing ``comrades``. Mr. Junius indicated that the UPM would support opposition parties in their efforts not to get this said amend through.

Important dates that the Movement would like emphasize are the following:

1. A road show on 29 October 2010, at 11;00 in Rehoboth where after a petition will be handed to the Rehoboth Town Council followed by a rally on.

2. 31st October 2010,15:00 at the ``Kaptein Hermanus van Wyk Gedenksaal`` in Rehoboth where it will introduce its candidates to the Rehoboth Community.