

NAMIBIA VOTES 2024

GENERAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (GRV)

03 JUNE - 01 AUGUST 2024

“All eligible Namibian citizens will be required to register irrespective of whether you have registered before or not.”

Electoral Commission of Namibia

Scan the QR code to access the registration points

TODAY | FEWER NAMIBIANS SATISFIED WITH DEMOCRACY - AFROBAROMETER - P4

Namibian

Sun

Tells it all

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Oshakati hospital serves 1.2m patients

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NamWater, Chinese company sign N\$123m water treatment deal

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First esports schools' competition hosted this weekend

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THURSDAY

25 JULY 2024

EDITION 17 | NUMBER 143
N\$7 9 771997 487600

WINDHOEK



4 ° | 28 °

OSHAKATI



7 ° | 32 °

SWAKOPMUND



7 ° | 18 °

KEETMANSHOOP



2 ° | 28 °

Jail has no facilities for inmates' sex - Hamunyela

STAFF REPORTER WINDHOEK

Namibia Correctional Service (NCS) Commissioner-General Raphael Hamunyela says the



Rape-accused former magistrate Jaco Kennedy. PHOTO: THE NAMIBIAN

country's jails do not have facilities where conjugal rights could be enjoyed by inmates and their



Murder convict Kevan Townsend PHOTO: FILE

spouses, after two incarcerated men dragged prison authorities to court to demand conjugal visits.

Convicted American murderer Kevan Townsend and former magistrate Jaco Kennedy, who is awaiting trial, dragged NCS to court, demanding conjugal visits, among other things. Speaking to *Namibian Sun* yesterday, Hamunyela said there is no legal provision for conjugal visits to the country's prisons, let alone facilities where any sexual activity may take place. He said the NCS strictly adheres to the law, and if one is passed to legalise conjugal visits, they will abide by it.

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TODAY'S SUPPLEMENTS

24 Pages content

DIAMOND SALES ALLEGEDLY STAGNANT

Employees want Namdia CEO out

In a stinging letter, Namdia workers in the bargaining unit claim that the company has degenerated under the incumbent CEO's tenure.

KENYA KAMBOWE ENGOYI

Namibia Desert Diamonds (Namdia) CEO Alisa Amupolo is facing internal resistance - halfway through her tenure - after several employees called for her removal due to alleged incompetence, which has allegedly cost the company over N\$230 million in lost revenue.

Namibian Sun understands the workers wrote to the company's board, claiming that Amupolo is not fit to lead the organisation and that diamond sales and international relationships with global diamantaires have been eroded.

Amupolo, who hails from a media background, is said to be struggling to



IN THE CROSSFIRE: Namdia CEO Alisa Amupolo. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

find her feet in the highly competitive and somewhat fragmented global diamond arena, with claims that she lacks an understanding of the industry and

the necessary expertise. She previously worked as CEO for ICT infrastructure company PowerCom, a subsidiary of Telecom Namibia.

Namdia yesterday defended Amupolo, saying she is a transparent leader under whose tutelage the company managed to record a profit, despite the unstable diamond market.

'Hand-to-mouth operation'

In the vote-of-no-confidence letter sent to the board a week ago, workers in the bargaining unit, which is represented by the Mineworkers Union of Namibia (MUN), said Amupolo's actions resulted in the company's financial fortunes changing from a flourishing position to the point where it cannot afford to purchase diamonds to sell on to its global clientele.

They said: "In one and a half years, the company has degraded from a billion-dollar entity to a 'hand-to-mouth' operation, clearly indicating mismanagement that could lead to the company's closure".

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Presidential debates 'may spark voting appetite'



IRENE-MARI VAN DER WALT WINDHOEK

Presidential debates are, according to Professor Johan Coetzee of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), a solution to voter apathy in Namibia.

He said this during a panel discussion in the run-up to the end of voter registration for the presidential and National Assembly elections in November. "Reluctance to participate in debates is a symptom of the voter apathy problem. We have to host presidential debates and we have to wonder what candidates are afraid of if they are not willing to participate," he said.

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EDITORIAL

Toivo Ndjebela

This month, Cosafa wrestled the under-17 men's championship away from Namibia and handed it to Mozambique because we do not have fitting facilities to even host a kiddies' tournament.

Full column on page 2

GET YOUR



IN TODAY'S PAPER

Presidential debates 'may spark voting appetite'



IRÈNE-MARI VAN DER WALT
WINDHOEK

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make an informed choice at the polls.

Amid global trends that young people do not participate in elections, he believes this group in particular must identify problems in their communities and list them in order of priority. After that, they must take the initiative to approach politicians to explain to them how they intend to address these issues at the local level, he said. "You don't have to wait for them, let them tell you what they're going to do."

Lack of voter education

Natalie Russman, a representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, said they noticed good morale among voters, but pointed out that there is still a lack of voter education.

She explained that young voters are hesitant to vote because they don't know who to vote for.

Meanwhile, Namibia Institute for Democracy spokesperson Ginola Nauseb said many voters believe that

Presidential debates

Continued from page 1

Last week, Swapo Party Youth League (SPYL) secretary Ephraim Nekongo said the ruling party will never participate in presidential debates.

He said Swapo has its own platforms through which to spread its policies and development ideas to the voting masses.

Youth under-represented

Coetzee also chastised the youth for their reluctance to participate in the upcoming elections. "Only 8% of youth are represented in parliament - why do you allow them to get away with it at every election?"

Despite his reluctance to strengthen government policy on the matter, he believes intervention by the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) to set a deadline for the various political parties' manifestos may help voters make an informed choice at

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Meanwhile, Namibia Institute for Democracy spokesperson Ginola Nauseb said many voters believe that nothing will change if they vote. He explained that voters feel that their votes should put bread and butter on the table.

According to Kristine Shetunyenga from Social Enabled Education Namibia, this view is fuelled by voters' desperation. "The reason so many people see this as a deal is because they are desperate. We have more than 80 000 people who are in critical need of food," she said.

Shetunyenga also warned young voters to be realistic to avoid being led astray by politicians.

Finelda Khuruses, a voter education officer for the ECN in the Khomas Region, said the electoral commission cannot yet disclose any data on voter registration, as this process will continue until 1 August.