



Dr. Bernd Althusmann Resident Representative

EDITION 1 NOVEMBER 2014

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KAS NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA

Welcome Note

Ladies and Gentleman, it gives me great honour and delight, as the Resident Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation responsible for Namibia and Angola, to introduce the first edition of our newsletter to the entire Namibian and Angolan readers.

Upcoming Events

Panel Discussion: The fall of the Berlin Wall: 25 years on - 12 November 2014

Prof. Diescho of NIPAM and Hon. Huckmann, German Ambassador shared a platform to discuss the relevance and significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall 25 years on to Namibia, as well as the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Workshop: From Incarceration to Reintegration 17-18 November 2014

The workshop brought 40 stakeholders and experts together to discuss critical issues involved in the process of reintegrating previous offenders back into society.

Windhoek Dialogue – February 2015

The Windhoek dialogue is steered by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Namibia and Angola office. It aims to bring together members of the "Union of African Parties for Democracy and Development" (UPADD) from the several African countries, such as Angola, Malawi, Senegal, Uganda, Mozambique and the European Union MP's.

Previous Events

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY CO-SPONSORED BY KAS



On 14-15 April 2014, Konrad Adenauer Foundation co-hosted a two-day conference for the promotion of Renewable Energy (RE), and took place in the National Assembly. The goal was to elaborate on the status quo of RE in Namibia as well as to consider problems and possible ways to overcome these problems in order to promote the use of RE in Namibia.



KAS INVITES CHURCH LEADERS TO DISCUSS THEIR ROLE IN THE NAMIBIAN SOCIETY

In May 2014, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation held a breakfast meeting with several church leaders of different faiths in Namibia on the topic "What keeps society together?". This meeting was organized to discuss the role of the church in society, especially in view of the challenges the country faces, such as, gender-based violence, drugs and alcohol abuse, rape and high unemployment rate.



KAS INVITES THE PRESS TO DISCUSS 'FREEDOM OF PRESS IN NAMIBIA'

On 30 May 2014, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation invited journalists and Media Houses to discuss the freedom of press in Namibia. Given that information is a pillar of a democratic society what enables citizens to make informed decisions, such a platform was necessary. Namibia was ranked 19th country with highest press freedom in the world by Reporters Without Borders in 2013. Participants agreed that such ranking are not accurate and can be misleading. Access to information and training in investigative journalism were identified, among others, as areas needing more attention. The meeting ended positively.

As a follow-up on this meeting, on 25 June, KAS invited the press to a presentation on the KAS MEDIA Programme at Safari Hotel. The KAS Media Programme is based in Johannesburg and offers the following opportunities: Scholarships, training, networking and offer expertise on media issues.



KAS with party leaders, June 2014

KAS INVITES PARTY LEADERS TO DEBATE ABOUT NAMIBIA'S FUTURE

In March and June 2014, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation organized - for the first time in Namibia's history - two public debates with representatives of Namibia's parties. In the first edition, 6 parties joined the discussion and discussed topics that included Namibia's economic performance after 25 years of independence, reconciliation among Namibians, distribution of land, corruption. The party leaders also offered possible solutions to the problems confronting the country.

In the second debate, 7 parties took part and the focus was on the "recent South African Elections: Lessons for Namibia". The party leaders were invited to lay out their agenda for the country after the national polls if their party were to (re-)gain power after the elections on 28 November 2014. The debate was informative, educational and proved very popular among the participants. The reports of the two debates are available on our website at: www.kas.de/namibia



KAS with party representatives at a workshop outside Windhoek, July 2014

KAS HELD SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP WITH VARIOUS PARTIES

From 23rd until 25th June, KAS hosted a Social Media workshop with expert Christian Echle from the KAS Media Programme in Johannesburg, at the Safari Hotel. For two days members of DTA and RDP learnt more about the use of social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, in electoral campaigns. Another issue was the implementation of a web TV channel for the parties. Finally a concept for the new website of the DTA was discussed. The participants were exposed to modern challenges and opportunities offered by the social media and how to capitalise on them. The expert also conducted practical training in order to test and adopt the newly gained theoretical skills. The three days social media workshop offered interesting ideas and stimulation. The participants are now challenged to implement what they have learned.



Mr. Christian Echle, KAS Media Director contacting social media workshop. Seated : Dr. Althusmann

PANEL DISCUSSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

On 7 June, at Goethe Institute, KAS hosted a panel discussion with the Chairman of Law Reform and Development Commission (LRDC), Mr. Sacky Shanghala. The discussion titled "Constitutional Amendments: Challenge for Namibia? What is proposed and what do they mean?" attracted a lot of public attention and interests. The discussion was rich, informative, technical as well as controversial with people expressing their protest for not being properly consulted. In the meantime, a new movement under the umbrella "My constitution, My Decision" consisting mainly of NGO's had been set up campaigning for the withdrawal of the Amendment Bill. On Wednesday, 27 August 2014, Parliament passed the constitutional amendments. The amendments were gazetted on Monday, 13 October 2014.



Participants at Social Media Workshop Safari Hotel, June 2014

WORKSHOP: SACU: TAKING STOCK AND CONSIDERING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

On 5 September 2014, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC) jointly organized a workshop of experts to look at developments within the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). The workshop benefitted from the expertise of Trudi Harzenberg, Executive Director, TRALAC, Paul Kalenga, TRALAC Associate and Prof. Gerhard Erasmus, TRALAC Associate and professor of Law at Stellenbosch University. Presenters critically analysed the 2002 SACU agreement and the status quo, the issues and challenges confronting SACU and what the future holds. A lively discussion ensued from the participants on broad range of issues confronting the world oldest customs union. Participants came from the private sectors, government departments, civil society organisations, the diplomatic community and the SACU Secretariat based in Windhoek. The workshop was a resounding success and participants greatly thanked the organizers for the initiative. A short report is available on request.

WORKSHOP IN ANGOLA: 29-30 SEPTEMBER - LUANDA

In keeping with modern trends and development in the political arena is necessary, therefore it becomes important for political parties to keep in touch with the voters. This workshop allowed KAS partner parties to learn more about social media, communication strategies and effective campaign techniques. The workshop attended by 40 participants from various political parties was a success.



Mr Sacky Shanghala addressing the audience at the panel discussion on constitutional amendments



KAS NEWS: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE



Audience welcoming Honourable Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo at the Public Lecture hosted by KAS in his Honour in Windhoek

NEFF: NEW KID ON THE BLOCK



In June 2014, a new political party called the Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF) was launched. The party is headed by Epafraas Mukwilongo, a former Swapo and COD member who referred to himself as "Commander in Chief". The party stand for the following values: It is against homosexuality and foreign exploitation of the country's natural resources, and proposes that the country's natural resources should be owned by the indigenous people. The party has registered with the ECN and is taking part in the upcoming General and Presidential Elections scheduled for 28 November 2014.



Dr. Althusmann welcoming the public to the Public Lecture in honour of Toivo Ya Toivo, September 2014

NEW LEADERSHIP AT NUDO



Following the death of its president Hon. Kuaima Riruako in June 2014, NUDO has announced its new leadership following the National Executive meeting held recently. The party has elected Mr. Asser Mbai, vice president to replace Hon. Riruako as president of the party. The party resolved to send Mr. Addy Riruako, who was next on its 2009 National Assembly list of candidates to Parliament. In the meantime, Mr. Josef Kauandenge has rejoined NUDO.

RP ENDORSES DR. HAGE GEINGOB AS ITS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



Following its elective Congress held on 12 July 2014, the Republican Party (RP) announced that it will support Swapo's presidential candidate, Dr. Geingob during the upcoming National Elections in November 2014. However, Mr. Mudge, the re-elected party's president, insisted on making clear that the support was entirely to Dr. Geingob as a person and not to SWAPO and should SWAPO decide to change its candidate, they would reconsider their endorsement. Mr. Mudge said "We are not supporting a Swapo candidate. We are supporting Hage. If for any reason he is not the presidential candidate, we will withdraw our support, Mudge told the Namibian Sun". Mr. Mudge has made a u-turn and withdrew his endorsement of Hage. He is now standing as a presidential candidate for his party.



Honourable Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo addressing the audience at a lecture in his honour

SWAPO 'POT' OUTCOME REVEAL SURPRISES



The Swapo party held its electoral college on 30 August 2014 in Windhoek. The Electoral College is a meeting where the party draws up the list of candidates expected to represent it in the National Assembly. The announcement of the party's parliamentary list contains surprises with many of the so called 'trusted cadres' not making it high on the list. This has caused concern and unhappiness within the party as widely reported in the media. However, the party maintained that it was satisfied with the 'pot' outcome.



Honourable Isak Katali, Minister of Mines and Energy addressing the conference on Energy Security organised by KAS September 2014

PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION: DATES ANNOUNCED

The Electoral Commission of Namibia has publicly announced that the up coming General and Presidential Elections date is on 28 November 2014. The day has been declared a public holiday by the President.

KAS PROJECTS UPDATE:

EU-KAS-WAD PROJECT CONCLUDES

The EU-KAS sponsored project implemented by Women's Action for Development (WAD) called "My Rights as a Women and Namibian Citizen! Gender and Human Rights Awareness Raising" has successfully concluded on 31 July 2014. The project launched 3 years ago with an estimated budget of N\$6 million, had as its main goal to contribute to a gender sensitive Namibian society where human rights are respected and women enjoy equal opportunities. The project trained more than 20 000 Namibians in all 14 regions. It received support from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW), the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) and UNAM Law Faculty.



Honourable Ben Amadhila, (MP) addressing the audience on Energy Security 2014.



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

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WAD CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF EXISTENCE



On Friday, 18 July, Women's Action for Development (WAD), KAS long standing partner, celebrated 20 years with a gala dinner at Windhoek Country Club. The event was graced by the Head of State, President Hifikepunye Pohamba and First Lady Penehupifo Pohamba, and the who's who in the Namibian political and business circles. "WAD has positively transformed the lives of thousands of people. Trainees from WAD became chefs at hotels, business people, professional bakers, PA's for ministers, civil servants, CEO's, regional councillors and even parliamentarians," Veronica de Klerk, the Executive Director of WAD, said. Mrs. de Klerk has since retired and was replaced by Mr. Salathiel Shinedima as Executive Director.



EU-KAS Parliamentary Support Programme



Parliamentary Support Programme



L. R. Dr. W. Maier, KAS Deputy Department Head, European and International Co-operation, Mrs. V de Klerk former WAD Executive Director (ret), Dr. B. Althusmann (KAS) at WAD 20 years celebration.

The EU sponsored Parliamentary Support Programme (PSP) commenced operations on 1 June 2012. The mandate of the PSP is to strengthen the contribution of Namibia's bi-cameral Parliament to the poverty reduction agenda by enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness via:

- Improving institutional capacity, structures and processes for poverty reduction through the relevant Standing Committees and support structures;
- Enhanced domestic accountability; and
- Strengthening the Secretariat.



KAS Outreach Programme to the Region donating books to a school in Khorixas



MPs and staff at Parliamentary Oversight of Development Aid Workshop (February 2014)

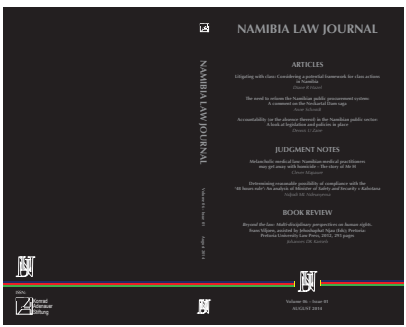
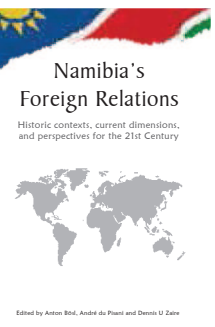


Ms. Carola Engelbrecht (seated left), trainer, with participants at the workshop on Election Observers in Keetmanshoop in September 2014

To date the PSP's Technical Assistance Team (TAT) has initiated all 15 mandated activities and continuing to implement. The project is implemented by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the National Planning Commission and the Transtec Project Management.

Publications Update

- Foreign Relations Launched: March 2014
- Namibia Law Journal: August 2014



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Next edition of our Newsletter is coming out in 2015

KAS wishes all our partners, friends and colleagues a Happy Festive Season.