

Election manifesto for Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters

1. Introduction

The election Manifesto of the NEFF is set against the backdrop of a contemporary Namibia which is trapped in a cycle of massive economic and social inequalities, high level of unemployment, poverty and importantly under employment of large section of the economically active population. Therefore the manifesto proclaims that:

- Now is the time for economic freedom.
- Now is the real time to make the promise of democracy
- Now is the time to rescue Namibia, Namibians' from the deep level of inequalities, poverty, starvation, unemployment and under employment.
- Now is the time to share equally in Namibia's wealth.
- Now is the time to be counted in the world as a developing nation with developing productive forces.
- Now is the time to bury corruption and self enrichment employed by the political elite.

The NEFF election Manifesto, unlike others, does not present promises; it offers commitments that will be implemented. The Manifesto represents the aspirations of the working class and the poor and provides an alternative vision and is the solution for total radical economic freedom for Namibians.

The NEFF is a mass based organization which aspires to free the working class and poor of Namibia from poverty, unemployment and inequality. It is a non discriminatory organization which subscribes to anti capitalism, anti imperialism and is non racist. In so doing it is the core aim of NEFF to defeat all traces of imperialism and neo colonialist opportunism.

NEFF Government goals

The essences of NEFF government are the following key goals

1. Re-order Namibia's considerable and inherent/intrinsic wealth for the benefit of all Namibians

2. Lead sustainable industrial development to expand the Namibian economy to provide enough for all who live in it and elevate the country's economic standing within the broader global context.
3. Create and advance quality, sustainable jobs to achieve full employment between 2015 and 2020.
4. Increase minimum wages in order to close the huge wage gap that exist in all work places and address the crisis of the working poor (under-employment).
5. Provide quality free education, skills, and training for the poor until first post-secondary qualification.
6. Provide free accessible and quality healthcare for all.
7. Provide quality housing and sanitation for all.
8. Ensure that all Namibians have a fair and equitable opportunity to make maximum progress in their life time.
9. Increase social grants and welfare to alleviate extreme level of poverty.
10. Transform the state into a people's driven state and government accessible for all people.
11. Ensure that public representatives are advocates and active users of public services.
12. Guarantee safety and security for all Namibians with particular focus on women and children.
13. Build and expand public infrastructure, particularly railway, quality roads and sporting amenities.
14. Build new cities through and sustainable support of special economic zones.
15. Run an accountable, corrupt free government which will inter-act with citizens on a regular and.
16. Build state and government capacity to implement, fulfill and achieve its own programmers and activities.
17. Build the quality and respectability of all the public servants.
18. Deliver food security by increasing agricultural productivity to feed all the people of Namibia without reliance on imported food and agricultural products.
19. Build sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with the people of the world, with the intention of consolidating on African agenda which will realize true economic justice.

20. Ensure that the management of tenders will be open, transparent, accountably awarded and thus promoting local businesses.
21. Build state ability to eventually abolish the tender system.

“Now is the time for economic freedom”

To achieve these objectives, the NEFF government will do the following.

A) Land and agrarian reform

- I. The NEFF government will pass legislation to take all land into the custodianship of the state. The state shall redistribute land equitably to Namibians. This will ensure the defeat of apartheid colonial land distribution which has continued for 24 years.
- II. The NEFF government will abolish all form of foreign land ownership.
- III. The NEFF government will help small scale agriculture with agricultural implements, bulk irrigation scheme, bulk stock feeding schemes and medication to produce quality agricultural products.
- IV. The NEFF government will help small scale agriculture to gain sustainable access to market through increasing state consumption of food and agricultural products locally and opening African and world markets.
- V. NEFF government ideological, politically and programmatic approach to rural development is inspired by the fact that a land is occupied by a given family and they are using it for living, when is taken over by the state for sustainable developmental purposes, there must be a fair compensation that is dissent living and equivalent for re-location and further livelihood.

B) Nationalization of Mines

- I. The NEFF government approach to nationalization is that, it should result in democratic and socialized ownership and control of the means of production by the workers and the Namibian people as a whole to avoid a situation where the

state will exclusively own the means of production and suppress workers interests and aspirations.

- II. NEFF government will nationalize all mines in models of our own style that will be suitable for the continued productivity of the mines and mining in Namibia.
- III. The money and profits generated from mining will be invested in the provision of free quality education, housing, sanitation, health care and good infrastructures for all.
- IV. The money and profits generated from nationalized mines will mean that, private and individual tax payers' pay less tax and have access to quality public services.

C) Massive labour-Absorptive sustainable industrial development

- I. The NEFF government will ensure massive and protected sustainable industrial development and diversification to create thousands of decent jobs between 2015 and 2020. This will happen through state-led industrialization, industrial diversification, protection of infant and existing industries through subsidies, increase of tariffs and state aided marketing and promotion of Namibian products internally, across the continent and worldwide with a focus on key most beneficial trading partners.
- II. Ensure that Namibian mineral resources' are locally beneficiated to promote job creation and industrialization.
- III. Ensure that massive production of all food for local consumption to produced and processed in Namibia.

D) Wages and labor brokers'

- I. The NEFF government shall abolish labor brokers and protect the working class.
- II. NEFF government will abolish contract labor system.
- III. NEFF government will ensure there is equal pay for equal work irrespective of gender, race and place of origin. The principle of equal work, equal pay will apply to all jobs.
- IV. All workers to get same rights as set out in labor law irrespective of their immigration status. This will ensure the unity of working class and combat xenophobia.

E) Black Economic Empowerment and Affirmative Action

- I. The NEFF government will radically review black Economic Empowerment and develop mechanism to limit and ultimately curb the recurrent enrichment of few individuals who benefited from empowerment charters.
- II. The NEFF government will put mechanism in place to control private equities from foreign domination.

F) Education and Training

- I. NEFF government will offer free quality education for Namibians from early childhood development to the achievement of a post graduate qualification.
- II. The NEFF government will cancel all debts of all students who owe institutions of higher learning money for academic purposes.
- III. The NEFF government will ensure that all education and training is directly linked to community service and industries in order to prepare human resources to contribute to the development of our communities and economy.
- IV. The NEFF government will embark on a program of providing libraries, internet, laboratories and computer labs, particularly to rural schools and semi-urban areas.
- V. The NEFF government will introduce Religious education, eg biblical study and the history in school curriculum.
- VI. The NEFF government will ensure that there is a universal provision for early child development ECD programs and make it compulsory for children of age of three years and above to be part of the ECD.
- VII. The NEFF government will improve the remuneration and working conditions of academics and encourage them to continue with teaching and research and not take up administrative post in both private and public institutions.
- VIII. The NEFF government will lead the transformation of professional's bodies for chartered Accountants, Engineers, Architects and all professions to uphold the need for speedier transformation which will result in more previously disadvantaged individuals being accredited professionals.
- IX. The NEFF government will ensure that there will be proper accommodation for students at tertiary education.

- X. The NEFF government will introduce Arts and Craft and Technology in schools as promotional subject so that learners with learning difficulties may not be sent to special schools as all children can learn and also to promote inclusive education.
- XI. The NEFF government will ensure the full implementation of the English Language Proficiency Program (ELPP) to include all Namibians.

G) Healthcare

- I. The NEFF government will provide free medical care for unemployed, underemployed and people with disabilities.
- II. The NEFF government priority among priorities is to ensure massive trainings of professionals and community healthcare practitioners in this sector.
- III. The NEFF government will build a state Pharmaceutical Company to produce medicines and distribute them to hospitals and clinics.
- IV. The NEFF government will speed up the implementation of National Health Insurance.
- V. The NEFF government will bring into being and distribute free sanitary towels to poor women.
- VI. The NEFF government will ensure that proper accommodation near hospitals is in place for the women in maternity and patient caretakers.

H) Safety and Security

- I. The NEFF government will make sure that our people are safe by increasing police visibility and making the criminal justice system more professional.
- II. The NEFF government will provide permanent jobs to all police reservist (Women and Men network) and make sure that they are visible in all communities
- III. The NEFF government will guarantee the right of communities to assemble and protest, with no intimidation from the police.
- IV. The NEFF government will completely ban life ammunitions during protests.

I) Roads, Transport, Housing and Sanitation

- I. The NEFF government will expand the railway lines from Oshikango through Eenhana, Okongo via Rundu to Zambezi Region.
- II. The NEFF government will review the current traffic fines (Tickets issued on traffic offences).
- III. The NEFF government will improve the taxi ranks and roads to improve and enhance transportation for all Namibians.
- IV. The NEFF government will promote and protect the taxi and bus service industry.
- V. The NEFF government will ensure a labor-absorptive construction of quality roads for all communities through employing people in communities to ensure the sustainability of the roads.
- VI. The NEFF government will provide quality sanitation for all meaning that, all people will have decent toilet by 2020.
- VII. The NEFF government will financially subsidize the middle income earners and put legislature in place for surety purposes.
- VIII. The NEFF government will provide quality, spacious house to all the people, which will be within sustainable human settlements with basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation, schools, sports and recreation grounds and parks.

J) Youth Empowerment

- I. Youth development cuts across all aspects of the NEFF manifesto, because the jobs the NEFF government will create, for the most part will benefit the youth.
- II. The government will mainstream youth development in all sectors of government and pursue active programs to professionalize youth work.
- III. The NEFF government will pass legislation that will ensure that all government departments, public and private institutions employ a minimum of 50% youth in their workforce.

K) Social Grants

- I. Social grants are an important aspect of bringing the poorest of the poor into some level of economic participation, and the NEFF government will introduce a system which will link social grants to development.
- II. The NEFF government will create sustainable jobs and open educational and training opportunities for women who receive child support grants, so that child bearing is not seen as a basis to receive social grants.
- III. Within this framework and commitment, the NEFF government will increase social grants as follows:
 - a) Grants for elderly and disabilities: Increase from N\$ 600,00 to N\$ 1 200,00 per month
 - b) War veterans grants: Increase from N\$ 2 200,00 to N\$ 4 400,00 per month
 - c) Child support grants: Increase from N\$ 250,00 to N\$ 500,00 per month

L) Fighting Corruption

- I. The NEFF government will ensure that corruption is exposed and that whistleblowers will be protected.
- II. The NEFF government will protect the independence of the Public Prosecutor, the Auditor General and corruption watch institutions to independently oversee government programs.
- III. The NEFF government will illegalize all public representative and public servants from doing any form of business with public institutions.

M) Adequate salaries and Working condition of public servants

- I. The NEFF government will provide dignity of public servants by ensuring that, there is a market related salaries increase of all public servants, particularly teachers, nurses, police, cleaners and all government employees.
- II. The NEFF government will narrow the gap between the higher paid workers and lower paid.
- III. The NEFF government will work toward filling 100% vacancies in all public service institutions.

N) Conclusion

The NEFF Election Manifesto takes account of the reality that there is enough wealth for everybody in Namibia. Currently this wealth is spread in a deeply unequal manner, due to the greediness of the ruling elite. Those who own the lion share of Namibian wealth today acquired it by the selection of the selfish political elite.

These are genuine commitments which will bring about real economic transformation.

These are commitment which will lift Namibia and its people to an elevated position in the world. These are commitments which will leave a long lasting, positive and meaningful legacy for generations to come. These are commitments which will inspire the entire Africa continent and Nations across the world to pursue and implement real economic emancipation.

Now is the time for Economic Freedom!