

BOTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT

2009 GENERAL ELECTIONS

MANIFESTO

THE KEY TO A QUALITY LIFE FOR ALL

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MANIFESTO FOR THE 2009 ELECTIONS

FOREWORD

The forthcoming 2009 Elections are the 10th since Botswana attained self-Government in 1965.

All nine general elections have been won by the BDP.

Their long stay in power has at best been characterised by poor performance of the agricultural sector, creation of conditions for more unemployed citizens, increase in poverty and heavy dependence on government handouts.

These elections therefore come at a crucial time in the history of Botswana.

Once again our people ponder the purpose of the general elections, as they look at their own conditions after four decades of independence.

I have no doubt they will agree with us that the time for the BNF government is long overdue.

It would not be difficult for them to consider voting for the BNF government.

Botswana know too well that despite its recent turbulent history, BNF has continued to register phenomenal growth throughout the country.

This is on account of the fact that the BNF is a true Party of the masses, especially the poor, the working class, the peasants and sections of the middle class.

For the ruling BDP the recent political developments in the party reveal incessant factional strife and decline of popular appeal.

These tendencies have become manifest particularly in the aftermath of the primary elections dubbed Bulela Ditswe.

The record number BDP members contesting as independent candidates, the flaring up internal bickering and divisions and instability in several constituencies across the country has given us the opportunity to capture some of their safe constituencies.

This has been possible before and is possible now, only if we work hard.

We have never been given a constituency on a silver plate.

We have always captured them through the collective force of the BNF.

Once again the collective force of the BNF must be unleashed to emerge victorious in these general elections.

On the socio-economic plane, Botswana has continued to register impressive growth rates but this was the kind of growth which was unable to ensure the absorption of thousands of young school leavers and university graduates who join the labour market every year.

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As a result unemployment stands at 23% and is growing by the day.

At the same time socio-economic inequality has worsened with the benefits of economic development accruing mainly to a few rich Batswana and foreigners.

The BDP Government has used revenue accruing from mineral exports to develop infrastructure - roads, schools, clinics all over the country, we appreciate this, because infrastructure is an important component of socio-economic development but not a sufficient one.

As we have pointed out in the past, the BDP Government should have used part of the mineral revenue to diversify the economy, develop the manufacturing sector, the agricultural sector, to create jobs, fight poverty and ensure balanced development of our country.

It has failed to do so with the result that the present world economic crisis has found our country much unprepared for the hard times that lie ahead.

On the political plane, the BDP Government has become arrogant, intolerant and insensitive.

The recently passed draconian Media Practitioners Act is a case in point.

This Government chose to ignore all the protests of the media practitioners and other organs of civil society and proceeded with the bill through Parliament without even allowing a full debate.

The only way to stop this arrogance is to turn out in large numbers to vote for the BNF so as to usher in an era of genuine democratic governance and a socio-economic transformation of our country for the better.

The manifesto presented here is a summary of ideas covered more comprehensively in the Social Democratic Programme, the document underpinning all our policy pronouncements.

Vote the BNF vote for a better life for all

Otsweletse Moupo
BNF PRESIDENT

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Preamble

The Botswana National Front (B.N.F.) has as its major goal service to the nation and social justice, and the building of a nation free from poverty, disease, ignorance and deprivation.

The resources of the nation will be used to eradicate these social inequalities.

BNF believes that the elimination of all these forms of social deprivation is a pre-condition for the existence of a truly proud, happy and democratic nation.

The BBP government says these social evils are natural and God given to some people.

The BNF says these social evils are not natural but man-made social relations, and can therefore be eliminated.

Further, the BNF believes that to categorise the nation of Botswana into the so-called major and minor tribes is degrading to other sections of our nation.

The BNF government will fight all discrimination based on origin, gender, religion, creed, race and class.

BNF believes that although a general election every five years is necessary for democracy, it is not in itself sufficient to guarantee democracy.

Thus the BNF is also committed to the development of a strong civil society.

The BNF government will actively encourage and support the development of institutions of civil society such as nationally oriented chambers of Commerce and Industry, strong and independent trade unions, free press, independent women's and youth organisation, and other non-governmental organisations to articulate the interests of their members.

Under the BNF government, the National Assembly will have two houses, Parliament and the House of Representatives.

Members of Parliament will be elected according to traditional one person one vote across the nation, and the House of Representatives will represent institutions of civil society such as trade unions, religious organisations, women, youth, sports organisations and traditional authorities.

Both Houses shall have the powers to initiate, amend or abrogate laws of the country.

Law will be passed by a simple majority in both Houses.

Setswana will be the official language.

This Manifesto puts forward our policy objectives on assuming political power.

By supporting BNF candidates at general and local elections, you are fighting for democracy, a strong civil society and social welfare for the underprivileged members of our society.

(1) On the Unity of the Nation (Nation-Building)

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The BNF believes that there can be unity in diversity.

The BNF also believes that true unity can only be achieved and guaranteed by a free and voluntary association of equal ethnic groups or communities on the basis of equity and equality.

The BNF Government guarantees the Unity of all Batswana, and pledges that each linguistic and cultural entity that makes an integral part of Botswana shall have every right to use its own language, and to preserve the best of its cultural heritage.

The BNF concedes the historical fact that Setswana is generally the most widespread medium of communication among the various ethnic groups but that it should not replace the languages of other communities.

Under BNF government, SETSWANA will serve the whole nation; Setswana will be the official language and taught as a subject to all ethnic groups.

In our efforts to create a genuinely democratic society, the BNF government will institute a system whereby the medium of instruction at primary school level for the various ethnic communities will be their own languages.

The present system of division of ethnic groups and communities into principal and subject communities under the BDP rule shall be abolished: For those ethnic groups that have no written language, measures will be taken to ensure that written languages are developed for them.

Discrimination on ethnic grounds and other practices calculated to imply, cultivate or perpetuate feelings of inequality and ethnic hatred shall be severely punishable by law, where necessary discriminatory practices, for example, in the case of Basarwa nationality.

The BNF will:

(i) Establish a language policy to guide the development of school curriculum, funding for research and development of ethnic languages, use of ethnic languages over the media etc.

(ii) Review the National Cultural policy to ensure that THE BEST of the cultural heritage of each group is preserved.

(iii) Review relevant laws and develop programmes aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination.

(2) Economic Policy and Employment

All BNF policies are based on its Social Democratic Programme.

This means that the BNF accepts in principle an economy based on a strong public sector and private ownership of the means of production.

The BNF recognises that the market is an important tool of modern economic management, but the BNF is also aware that the market can be a bad master.

The BNF shall therefore strive to find organic balance between a planned economy and the free enterprise system.

To this end the BNF government shall recognise the following types of ownership:

(1) Private.

(ii) Cooperative.

(iii) Parastatal.

(iv) State.

In order to facilitate economic growth and development, the BNF government shall

intervene in the economy, alongside the private sector and actively encourage and support the cooperative, parastatal and public sectors.

Publicly owned enterprises (that is, cooperative, parastatal or state-owned) shall be set up to operate essential means of production and distribution of the bases that some services and means of production are too vital to the nation to be left to the cost-benefit calculations of the private sector.

The BNF realises that the private sector is only motivated by immediate financial gains, and may not have any interests in areas where there are slow returns on their investment.

BDP says the creation of employment opportunities is the responsibility of the private sector.

The BNF says Never!

The creation of employment is also the responsibility of Government.

Private sector is mostly interested in making profits.

Employment creation will be an important item on the agenda of BNF government.

The present unemployment rate of about 23%, being mostly young people, is totally unacceptable to the BNF.

The present unemployment problem is aggravated by too much reliance on the private sector.

Unemployment is likely to increase and thereby constitute a serious threat to the stability of the country.

In order to encourage employment creation, the government will intensify development, especially in the rural areas, thus attracting investments to those areas.

The electrification of the rural areas, provision of tarred roads, water supplies and serviced land, will be accelerated.

These will attract even private sector investors to these presently neglected areas.

The BNF government shall provide work opportunities for all able-bodied citizens by developing Industry, Commerce and Agriculture.

The BNF shall assist those who wish to be self-employed to have access to finance through loan guarantee schemes, supervised credit; and acquisition of the necessary managerial skills.

(3) On Education Policy

The Botswana National Front believes that the best guarantee for basic freedom is the political education and general enlightenment of the masses.

Under the BNF government, education shall therefore be given high priority.

The BNF makes a distinction between education and instruction in the necessary skills.

Education, as contrasted with instruction, shall be community or society-oriented rather than certificate and status-oriented.

Education shall emphasize service to the community and society and not pride at the possession of certificates.

Under the BNF government, education shall encourage respect for whatever is good in the cultural heritage of our society, of other communities and other races without prejudice.

Among others, education shall inculcate into the masses self-reliance and selflessness in the service to the community and humanity at large.

Education shall fight individualism.

EDUCATION SHALL BE FREE AND COMPULSORY up to Senior Certificate level, (Form V) and free up to post secondary level.

After Junior Certificate level, opportunities in vocational training will be opened up in a variety of fields to afford young Batswana the choice of careers of their liking and abilities.

The BNF government shall embark on massive literacy campaign.

A system of technical colleges, correspondence centres, night schools, periodic, in service-training, courses and seminars shall be introduced.

Youth clubs, youth hostels and camps, youth recreation centres with sports facilities, libraries and physical education facilities shall be introduced.

In addition, the BNF government shall make the kindergartens and day-care centres an integral part of the education system so that working parents shall be relieved from extra burdens of financial and emotional stress of looking after their infants.

The guiding principle in primary, secondary, vocational and university education shall be that of EDUCATION WITH PRODUCTION.

BNF believes that it is the production process, rather than passive acquisition of knowledge that develops a human being mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

Education with production encourages human creativity, respect for labour and will reduce unemployment problem by producing self-employed artisans, tradesmen, mechanics, electricians, bricklayers etc.

In its effort to develop education policy for sustained socio-economic development, the BNF government shall institute a comprehensive, scientific, technological and cultural policy to increase the productivity and contribution of this sector to the society.

(4) On Social Security and welfare

(a) Social welfare

The Botswana National Front Government shall study all problems of social security for all communities.

The BNF Government shall introduce a comprehensive social security legislation which provides for:

- (a) old age pensions
- (b) Dependency and orphan benefit
- (c) Contributory pension and unemployment insurance
- (d) Pre-school facilities for working parents
- (b) Health

The BNF Government shall build hospitals in all major centres, and health centres in all medium sized villages, and other rural areas.

The Government shall train doctors, nurses and staff clinics, health centres and hospitals with qualified personnel.

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Furthermore, working conditions in hospitals, health centres and clinics, shall be improved to inspire and motivate health workers to serve patients with professionalism and generally to attract suitable personnel to the health profession.

Mobile medical services network shall be provided to serve all, otherwise, inaccessible areas.

The BNF shall lay emphasis on prevention rather than cure.

Health Education shall be part of primary and Junior Secondary School Curriculum.

BNF government shall emphasise quality and efficiency in the delivery of Health Service, and positive aspects of our traditional health system will be encouraged and developed.

c) Housing

The BNF pledges and undertakes that upon assumption of power it shall embark on a nation wide campaign to find a lasting solution to Botswana's housing crises. Local Authorities, Trade Unions, Cooperatives, and other employers will be encouraged to provide accommodation for their members.

BNF government shall promote citizen ownership of houses and in this regard purchasing of houses by instalment shall be promoted.

The long standing policy of the BNF that rentals shall be treated as instalment towards purchase of the house shall be implemented.

The BNF believes that access to a descent home is a right and not a privilege and it is the duty of the State to ensure that all people are properly housed.

Our motto shall be: DESCENT HOUSING AT REASONABLE RENTALS.

Upon being elected to form a government, the BNF will embark on an accelerated housing construction programme involving the state, local authorities, the private, parastatals and cooperative sectors.

Discrimination on the basis of social status in the provision of houses shall be abolished.

The existing Rent Control Act shall be revised and implemented to cover not only commercial premises but also residential houses as well.

The Act must control rentals and housing speculation and provide for tenant security.

a) The BNF adopts a broader view of national development.

This view recognises that a clean environment is an integral part of development process, and that a clean environment is essential to our tourism industry and our future as a nation.

The BNF government will adopt an integrated approach to rural and urban environmental planning and preservation of our cultural heritage.

To this end, the departments of Town and Regional Planning, Wildlife, National Parks, Land Utilisation, Museum, and Tourism, will be brought under a single administration with a comprehensive policy on environmental awareness, and education, pride and preservation of our cultural heritage.

We have to be proud of our country before we can expect foreigners to do so.

b) The BNF government shall on assumption of power exploit the tourist potential of river banks and valleys, mountain shores, fossils, caves, reefs, gorges, and other unusual landscapes by establishing tourist resorts attractions around them.

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The already existing plans to exploit the mythology of historical and other monuments and artefacts shall be implemented without delay.

Tourist motels and rest camps will be built in their vicinity to increase the tourist revenue in the economy.

(6) On the Emancipation of Women

BNF is committed to the abolition of all forms of discrimination and inequality based on sex.

BNF believes that most Batswana women suffer from various forms of sex discrimination and inequality, and that sex discrimination and inequality are a result of social relations of a male dominated society.

To end sex discrimination and inequality, the BNF government will repeal all laws that discriminate against women under whatever guise.

Special projects and programmes to facilitate women's participation in the development of the country shall be introduced; there shall be improved access of women to economic and financial resources; agricultural credit and more opportunities for women in management and other skilled jobs.

Women will be encouraged and given every facility by the BNF government to organise themselves under organisations that promote their particular interests as women.

Such a policy will instil self-confidence in women as true equals with men and motivate them to assume roles hitherto reserved for men by tradition.

(7) Youth, Sports and Recreation

Sport in Botswana is where it is today, almost forty years into our independence, because the ruling party has been frozen into the belief that sport is a mere playing process that is best left to the designs of volunteers.

The BDP government has created an impression that it is wholly committed to the development of sport but in reality, this is a mere rhetoric.

For example, where sporting facilities have been established, there is no structured management of such making them almost impossible to be utilized.

We believe that the youth of Botswana are the leaders of the future and that the future starts today.

This means that our youth must be given active leadership responsibility now.

The BNF Government shall:

7.1 Design a national service program that will assist the participants to know who they are and build themselves and their society, in other words, to develop in themselves what should set a young Botswana apart from the rest.

This can only be achieved through proper structures, qualified and competent leaders and a continuing dialogue with parents.

7.2 Commit itself to a policy that first transforms that communities' attitude towards sport.

7.3 Ensure that integrated sport facilities become a standard provision in all schools, primary and secondary.

7.4 Ensure that training of physical educators and sport administrators becomes a priority.

7.5 Ensure that the position of the Botswana National Sports Council is reviewed with a view to giving that body an enhanced independent status consistent with

their critical mandate in sports.

7.6 Ensure that adequate recreation facilities are put in place for the relaxation of the youth.

7.7 The newly created Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture will be adequately resourced and given a fair share of the budget.

7.8 Equally, the status of Botswana National Youth Council should be reviewed with a view of giving that body an enhanced independent status consistent with their critical mandate in youth affairs.

7.9 Under the BDP regime, implementation of the National Plan of Action for youth has been sidelined and the National Youth Policy has been in operation for more than 12 years without any review.

The BNF Government will promote and implement the National Plan of Action for Youth and the Youth Charter.

To cater for the ever-changing trends in youth development, the National Youth Policy will be subjected to periodic reviews with youth playing a leading role in such reviews.

7.10 The BNF Government will actively promote a National Youth Parliament whose major role will be to promote and raise the voice of the youth, to provide an advisor role to the Government of the day on youth matters, and generally to enhance and enrich our democratic process which is currently limping under the BDP regime.

Youth development and youth empowerment will be treated as 'major national investments and not mere pass times.

(8) On Labour Relations

The BNF recognises that workers are the true creators of our nation's wealth and as such the BNF recognises not only freedom to work, but most importantly the RIGHT TO WORK and the right to strike, the right to freedom of Association as well as collective bargaining.

The BNF government shall review the present Labour Laws to harmonise them with our social democratic programme.

Under a BNF government, Trade Unions will be answerable to their general membership and not to politicians as is the case under BDP government.

The so-called domestic workers, that is agricultural workers and domestic servants, will have full rights and legal protection like other workers and they will have the right to organise themselves in the trade unions.

Members of disciplined Forces, that is, the Prison Services, Botswana Police and the Army, will be allowed to democratically elect and belong to associations. However, their right to strike will be limited.

Collective bargaining in both private and public sector will be made more meaningful by making legal provisions for disclosure of information for collective bargaining.

The BNF government shall ratify all relevant International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions and see to their observance.

Every major enterprise shall be obliged by law to establish social welfare facilities for its employees, e.g. recreational facilities.

The BNF welcomes expatriate workers to work in Botswana to relieve skilled manpower shortage.

The BNF government shall, however, monitor the process of localization, to make sure that expatriate workers in State, Parastatal or Private Sector have

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Batswana counterparts, and that these local counterparts are receiving the necessary on-the-job training. A special unit to monitor and evaluate Localisation will be set up under the Ministry of labour and Social Services.

(9) Rural Development

The BNF's government starts from its basic belief of service to the nation.

BNF recognises that the majority of our people still live in the rural areas.

The BNF believes that these people must be provided with basic infrastructure to enable them to improve their standard of living.

Provision of infrastructure to the rural areas, including electrification, water reticulation, roads and serviced land will be the cornerstone of the government policy on rural development.

BNF also believes that rural development can be enhanced by empowering the people.

This entails giving more resources, that is planning and administrative capacity, finance and autonomy to local government authorities, that is district councils.

In order to enhance rural development, the Ministry of Local Government and Housing will be restructured in order to devolve and decentralise power to local government authorities.

The rural population shall be given the necessary skills, financial assistance and extension services, so that they should engage in self-employment activities.

Agriculture shall be regarded as the basis for the generation of the capital needed for other aspects of development.

Self sufficiency in basic foods like grain, beans, vegetables, poultry, meats and fish and dairy products shall be at the top of the BNF government agricultural policy.

(10) Water Development

In its endeavour to provide water for the development of the economy and the agricultural sector in particular, the BNF government shall undertake the following:

First, a vigorous policy to harness all the available surface and underground water resources shall be launched to facilitate, among other things, dam construction for irrigation.

Secondly, the BNF government shall explore economically and technically sustainable means of conveying the waters from the Chobe and Okavango areas for use by water deficit but high density population areas in the east.

The BNF government shall in addition, explore possibilities of obtaining or importing, water from friendly countries.

The BNF government, unlike the BDP views the development of water resources in a dry country like Botswana as one of its fundamental policy goals for any sustained and genuine social and economic development.

The provision of water for irrigation shall also make it possible to diversify into vegetable, citrus, and dairy farming.

(11) Sustained Agricultural Production

Agriculture shall be regarded as the basis for the generation of the capital needed for other aspects of development.

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Self sufficiency in basic foods like grain, beans, vegetables, poultry, meats and fish and dairy products shall be at the top of the BNF government agricultural policy.

Agricultural production shall be geared towards local consumption and to the satisfaction of the food processing industry to minimise the export of money needed for development.

In the agriculturally suitable areas, the Government shall encourage and promote the establishment of Agricultural Machinery and Implement Servicing Stations by private individuals, co-operatives, etc.

Such service centres shall be staffed with well qualified personnel to disseminate appropriate technology and information.

To persuade the rural community to adopt recommended skills and methods of production as well as inculcate a cooperative rather than a competitive spirit.

The BNF government shall also introduce Agricultural Credit Guarantee Schemes to promote the production of agricultural materials for the manufacturing industry.

Both producer and consumer cooperatives shall be actively encouraged and production shall be designed to cater for the home market.

First and foremost industrial and production cooperatives shall be actively encouraged to support the development of the agricultural sector.

There shall be established livestock development co-operation which in its policies and activities will recognize the need for the commercial feeding of cattle.

Feed lots will be made accessible to farmers at reasonable prices.

Artificial insemination shall be made a priority for improving quality of livestock.

The by products of the meat industry shall be processed into finished products ready for the market.

(12) Mining and Mineral Resources

Botswana is endowed with mineral resources such as diamonds, coal, nickel / copper, and a few others.

The BNF Government will ensure that the majority of Botswana benefits from this mineral endowment, by energetically pursuing a policy of processing some, if not most, of the minerals, domestically.

Mineral prospecting will be monitored and controlled to prevent speculative prospecting.

The BNF government will proceed from the premise that minerals are for all Botswana and not for an exclusive few, who already enjoy the wealth of this country.

All efforts, therefore, will be devoted towards the utilisation of excess revenue from minerals in the creation of more jobs in the productive sector of the economy.

(13) On The National Prison Services

Under the BNF government, prison services shall be modelled in accordance with the realisation that crime is a symptom and not a cause of the evil in the society and that criminals are victims of a social order.

Thus under the BNF government, prisons will whilst holding people to serve their punishment be institutions for reform and rehabilitation.

Prisons will therefore stop being places of degradation and humiliation of offenders and criminals.

(14) On the National Police Service

The BNF government shall introduce what shall be called national police service, which shall be as close to the people as possible.

As the basic ideals shall, be that of patriotism, selflessness in service and abhorrence to individualism, the basic test for admission to the police service shall not be the capacity for brutality, but realisation that crime is a symptom of the disease in the society and that criminals are victims of a social order.

The police shall be taught to be human, and that the purpose of crime detection and apprehension of offenders is not revenge, but to reform, rehabilitate and reintegrate these offenders into our society.

The police will be adequately resourced to cope with security demands.

(15) Corruption and Accountability

Although the BNF recognizes that crime and abuse of office to enrich oneself is a manifestation of the evil in society, and that offenders must be dealt with humanely, the BNF by no means condones wrong doing and abuse of office.

The BNF is concerned that over the last decade white-collar theft or acts of fraud by both public officials and private employees, have increased significantly yet at the same time standards of control and supervision are declining.

As Transparency International Botswana has observed 'in contrast to the situation prevailing in previous years, efforts to recover moneys and goods lost through negligence or improper conduct by public officials, or to take disciplinary action to surcharge or punish the offenders, have diminished or are less effective'.

Lack of openness and transparency in party funding and the BDP government's opposition to state funding of political parties leaves the country open to corruption and bribery by secret donor countries and organizations.

The BNF Government will establish an anti-corruption Standing Committee or restructure the DCEC making it an independent organization with enhanced powers to be able to detect this growing cancer in our society.

The DCEC shall be independent of government, along the lines of Auditor-General and report directly to parliament.

While claiming to espouse the principles of accountability, openness and transparency in public life the BDP regime has failed to enact a law of the Declaration of Assets by ministers, MPS and top officials, the Freedom of information Bill and it has also refused to join African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) which is a voluntary assessment of mutually agreed codes and standards of good governance, respect for human rights and transparency.

To ensure greater transparency and accountability the BNF government shall pass laws on the Freedom of information Bill and the Declaration of Assets by MPS and top officials and also join the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Only when political parties, institutions of civil society and the media are given access to information can they play their role as watchdogs of democracy.

(16) On Defense and Security

The BNF government will define the defence policy of this country, whilst leaving only the implementation and operational aspects to the professional soldiers.

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BNF believes that the BDP government has no defence policy, or rather that the defence policy has been left in the hands of security forces.

This has resulted in heavy drain on the economy.

Mapharangwane Air Base, reputed to be one of the largest airbases outside NATO, is an example of such wasteful use of scarce financial resources.

BNF accepts the principle that the citizens of Botswana have the right to live securely within the borders of their country, and that to this end a certain amount of military capability is required.

The BNF also believes that such security of borders need not be a drain on our economy.

The defence of the country can best be carried out most efficiently and less expensively by training all able bodied citizens to defend their motherland.

The present Botswana Defence

Force would only be a core of a Citizen Force which can be mobilised to full strength in less than 24 hours.

The BNF government will maintain an Air Wing for reconnaissance, air support, and troop movement and deployment, but will not establish what it sees as an expensive and financially unsustainable Air Force of jet fighter and bomber squadrons.

Instead the little resources that we have will be used to maintain an effective and efficient ground defence system and a small, but highly mobile ground forces.

In peace times, members of the BDF like engineering and medical corps will be involved in civilian work like construction work and paramedical services, especially in the rural areas.

The BNF will also take part in regional and continental engagements for the purpose of PEACE KEEPING under UN, AU and SADC.

(17) Foreign Policy

The end of the Cold war does not mean that the struggle; between capitalism and socialism is over, or that the world is now a just and peaceful place.

Around the world struggles for self determination and national independence are still going on, and international monopoly capital is adopting new methods for world domination.

The BNF government shall cooperate closely with all countries and all progressive and social democratic governments and organisations around the world.

BNF believes that even in the post-cold war era, organisations like the Non Aligned Movement and African Union are still relevant.

These organisations can still play a vital role in the struggle for new world economic and social order.

In this regard, the BNF government will persuade SADC for establishment of mechanism on existing protocols and new ones for strengthening political ties and promoting productive people to people contacts for a variety of social, cultural and economic activities.

Closer at home the BNF believes that SADC must be supported and encouraged to bring all the peoples of the Southern African sub-continent closer together, not only at the economic level, but also at political and cultural levels.