

provisions. And critics of the new regime have been quick to note that the recent rally attracted far fewer people than has been usual in Namibia, and that a march down Windhoek's main street before the rally drew only a few hundred workers. There have even been suggestions that differences in the labour movement may have led certain factions to boycott the event.

However, Petros Ilonga, general secretary of NUNW-affiliated Namibian Public Workers' Union, denies that labour is discontented. The speculation at the time the constitution was leaked was a product of attempts by Johannesburg newspapers to discredit the federation, he insists. 'Namibian workers voted Swapo into power. We, together with other unions in the federation, submitted our proposals for the new labour code. We have an understanding of our situation and the process that has to occur and there is no unhappiness', he says.

Independent sources would seem to confirm Ilonga's perceptions. 'There might have been some discontent at the amount of consultation involved in the proceedings which produced the constitution, but I would say relations between the unions and the government are reasonably harmonious now. Labour and unemployment are the government's biggest priorities. It has promised reform and if it delivers, the good relations should continue', a well-informed Windhoek told *WIP*. But Namibia also has to attract new foreign investment if it is to alleviate unemployment and Swapo will have to walk the tightrope between the two priorities. Will it get the mix right? - *Robyn Rafel*

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