



STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING  
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE  
SWAPO PARTY'S ELECTORAL COLLEGE

SATURDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2019

SAFARI COURT HOTEL

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

\*Check Against Delivery

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(Reg No 8208)

Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO Party;  
Honourable Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice President of the SWAPO Party;  
Honourable Comrade Sofia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;  
Honourable Comrade Marco Hausiku, Deputy Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;  
Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Second President of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO Party;  
Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;  
Right Honourable Comrade Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;  
Comrades Members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party;  
Comrades Ben Amathila and Dr. Libertina Amathila, Permanent Members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party;  
Comrades Ngarikutuke Tjiriange, Uncle Vinia Ndadi and Kanana Hishoono, Permanent Members of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party;  
Comrades Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;  
Comrades Candidates and Delegates from the Regions;  
Comrades Candidates and Delegates from the SWAPO Party Wings and Affiliate Union;  
The Entire Rank and File of the SWAPO Party;  
Comrades and Friends:

I am pleased to have been invited to the SWAPO Party's Electoral College of 2019 as one of the most important events on the SWAPO Party's Calendar. Indeed, this gathering could not have come at a very crucial and timely moment. It is a moment for all SWAPO Party's rank and file to unite and speak with one voice. A moment to look back and take stock of our achievements and setbacks and a moment to map the way forward for both the Party and the country.

However, this Electoral College gets under way against a background of unparalleled infightings between and among the Comrades all over the regions.

Similarly, the Electoral College gets under way amid growing indiscipline by the members and disregard of the party's constitution. The Electoral College also takes place amid members defying the Party's rules and abusing organisational processes.

I therefore want to caution that this has the potential to make us lose the trust of the people and will lead to the destruction of the Party, if unchecked. As such, our discussions should include self-reflexive analysis.

Currently, the party continues to earn the trust of our people and remains the vanguard political organisation for all Namibians. However, that trust and confidence must be sustained through ensuring that the SWAPO Party occupies a moral high ground at all times.

Against this background, it is important to note that it was the Namibian people who played the central role during the 1960s to help form our movement.

Furthermore, it was thanks to the collective leadership of the SWAPO Party which ensured that our vanguard movement was able to withstand any challenge the party had faced during the liberation struggle.

In this context, we have to ask ourselves the important question whether the SWAPO Party today has the same calibre of members and collective leadership that will successfully intervene to address any new challenge that threatens the Party's unity and existence?

A related question is whether the SWAPO Party has groomed enough capable youth to safeguard the legacy of the Party for generations to come?

History will answer the question unequivocally whether this generation had the courage to live up to the extraordinary legacy which our gallant sons and daughters left behind and for which they spent their youthful time and lost their precious lives!

Director of Ceremonies, Comrade Delegates;

Despite the gains of our revolution, the broader task of social and economic transformation is far from over. Against this background, the challenges still facing our country are immense but not insurmountable.

Therefore, SWAPO Party must retain and consolidate political power to foster a much more faster transformation of our country's economy.

The opposite would not only undermine and diminish the gains made, but it will fundamentally set back the agenda for economic changes required to create an equal society.

Once again, consistently winning elections depends crucially on the caliber of the cadres that are deployed to elected office.

It also depends on the integrity and commitment of the deployed cadres to serving communities with no expectation of any personal benefit, and their performance while in office.

In addition, deployed cadres must have the ability to ensure the cohesion of all our members, without distinction based on preferences of ethnic origin, economic status, gender or race.

We must therefore rigorously ensure that our candidates reflect these attributes, and deliver on the promises contained in the Party's election manifesto as informed by the Party's Political Programme.

Against this background, the importance of this gathering cannot be overemphasised because it is another opportunity for our Party to convince the electorate that it is still committed to providing tangible results of the country's national developmental targets.

These include the redistribution of land, provision of water, including by building desalination plants, render efficient health and education services, as well as build houses and create employment opportunities for our youth.

I would therefore like to once again implore all delegates at this Electoral College to elect a generational mix of cadres who have the necessary experience and capacity to move the Party and Namibia to greater heights.

Let us return to the ethos of collective and servant leadership. Let us put our personal differences aside in order to prioritize the interest of the party. And let us guard against tribalism and act as One Namibia, One Nation.

In conclusion, I am particularly disturbed by the news of violence of Africans against Africans in neighbouring South Africa.

Lest we forget, it was Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere of Tanzania who put it fittingly that Africa must unite under one government, one currency and one army in order to realize her full potentials and fight against hunger, diseases and ignorance.

In this context, I am certain that African Unity, through Pan-Africanism, must occupy a significant space on our agenda.

Finally, I urge all of us to vote for the SWAPO Party as I am confident that with appropriate policies and unity of action and purpose, a resounding victory is guaranteed in the upcoming Presidential and National Assembly Elections and beyond.

*As I always say; a people united, striving to achieve common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious!*

SWAPO UNITED;  
SWAPO VICTORIOUS;  
NOW, HARD WORK!  
I thank you.