



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR SAM NUJOMA,
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE
NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
CONCLUDING SWAPO PARTY RALLY FOR THE WALVIS
BAY URBAN CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTIONS ON 15
JANUARY 2020.

SATURDAY, 11 JANUARY 2020

WALVISBAY

ERONGO REGION

*Check Against Delivery

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Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Hon. Erkki Nghimtina, Ms. Febronia Nelago Shapaka
(Reg No 8208)

Directors of Ceremonies;
Comrade Evelyne Naweses-Taye, Representing the Chairperson of the SWAPO Party's National Leaders Assigned to Erongo Region;
All SWAPO Party's National Leaders Assigned to Erongo Region present;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Comrade Daniel Uutapi Muhuura, SWAPO Party's Regional Coordinator for Erongo Region;
Comrades Members of the SWAPO Party's Regional Executive Leadership;
Comrade Governor of Erongo Region;
Comrades Members of the SWAPO Party's District, Branches and Sections Leadership;
Your Worship the Mayor of the Town of Walvis Bay;
Comrades Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;
Comrades Members of the SWAPO Party Wings and Affiliate Organ of Namibian Workers;
The SWAPO Party's Rank and File;
Distinguished Members of the Clergy;
Members of the Media;
Comrades and Friends:

First and foremost, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the invitation to attend our mighty SWAPO Party's final campaign rally for the upcoming Regional Council By-Elections, slated for the 15th of this month.

In this regard, my duty today is simple as I am here to introduce to you Comrade Sirie Kasisi Topulathana, our SWAPO Party's candidate for Walvis Bay Urban Constituency Council by-elections.

In the same vein, I am here to share with you commitments by the SWAPO Party which will be implemented under the leadership of the incoming councilor.

Indeed, Comrade Sirie is one of the most dynamic, energetic, focused and humble young leaders in our society. For the past 12 years, she has dedicated her youthful life to the service of the SWAPO Party and the Community of Walvis Bay.

She served the SWAPO Party in various structures, mostly in the SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL) and the SWAPO Party Women Council (SPWC) in Erongo Region.

Among the many responsibilities entrusted to Comrade Sirie within the Party are: SWAPO Party Youth League (SPYL) Secretary for Information, Mobilization & Publicity of Gertrude Kandanga Branch, Walvis Bay Urban. SWAPO Party Women Council (SPWC) Treasurer of Gertrude Kandanga Branch and Member of the SWAPO Party Urban District Executive Committee.

Thus, for many years, the SWAPO Party in the Erongo region has relied on Comrade Sirie, especially for the political mobilization of the residents of the region, with a view to rally them behind the Party's programs.

Comrade Sirie understands the needs and aspirations of the Walvis Bay residents and has demonstrated the ability to articulate these needs and aspirations very well.

As a youth, Comrade Sirie is well-versed with the various challenges faced by the people in the Walvis Bay Urban constituency, particularly the youth in this Constituency.

She has undertaken to prioritize youth empowerment as a key focus area during her tenure as the Regional Councilor and will promote programs and projects which can facilitate opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship in the Constituency and the region.

Similarly, Comrade Sirie will be a key contact person for the people of Walvis Bay Urban Constituency and will drive engagements with key Government departments, agencies and other key stakeholders to create a conducive atmosphere for entrepreneurship and employment creation.

Among the priority projects that Comrade Sirie will spearhead and implement is the provision of decent housing.

This has always been a priority area for the SWAPO Party and our government has been working hard through the local authority councils to meet the housing demand of our people.

In this context, I have been informed that the occupants of Twaloloka have indicated their willingness to be relocated to Farm 37 where the Municipality of Walvis Bay has provided land for back yard shack dwellers and people from Twaloloka to erect their houses.

Council has also prepared land at Farm 37 for schools, clinics and churches, as soon as services are installed.

Against this background, the incoming Councilor will continue to strengthen the existing relationship with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and assist where necessary to ensure that they also quickly build houses for their members.

Similarly, Comrade Sirie will undertake other efforts to expedite housing delivery, such as forming smart partnerships with the business corporate in Walvis Bay, such as Namport, Erongo Red, fishing companies and others in order to facilitate the acquisition of land by these companies to build houses for their employees.

In terms of education and schooling, the establishment of a maritime school in Walvis Bay by the University of Namibia is a welcome development. We thank the local authority for facilitating the allocation of land for this purpose.

The impending establishment of a nursing school in Walvis Bay is an equally plausible development and the incoming councilor is ready to assist in whatever way to expedite the opening of the envisaged nursing school.

As far as the health sector is concerned, it is commendable that the Ministry of Health and Social Services continues to take good care of the most vulnerable members of our society, by providing psycho social support and outreach programs for the elderly.

Our elderly people do not have to queue up at the hospitals for health services as dedicated nurses are send out to provide medical care for them right at the place of their living.

Our government has also the responsibility to pay special attention to the most vulnerable members of our society. It is in this spirit that the Erongo Regional Council has over the years supplied equipment such as wheelchairs, assisted in the provision of housing and facilitated employment of people with disability.

In this regard, our incoming Councilor will continue to spearhead initiatives by, among others, visiting different schools, orphanages, old age homes, and hospitals to send a message of hope to our most vulnerable people.

Equally, she will be required to inculcate the principles of unity of action and purpose through all ranks and files and implore the slogan "SWAPO IS THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE ARE SWAPO".

Director of Ceremonies, Comrades and Friends;

During her entire involvement in leadership activities within the Party, Comrade Sirie has demonstrated concern for the socio-economic development of our people.

It is against the above background that the SWAPO Party has confidence in the capabilities of Comrade Sirie to serve as the Erongo Regional Councilor for the Walvis Bay Constituency.

In her, we have a compassionate, tireless, honest, visionary and dedicated leader. I therefore urge you all to vote for Comrade Sirie Kasisi Topulathana, our SWAPO Party's candidate for Walvis Bay Urban Constituency Councilor in the upcoming by-elections slated for the 15 of January 2020.

In the same vein, I advise Comrade Sirie to be a servant leader once elected into office and listen to the plight of the community.

In this regard, I am delighted that our government has issued a directive to address the plight of our former seagoing personnel who were retrenched in 2012 and those who were dismissed in 2015.

I welcome this move by our government to ensure the prompt employment of our fishermen. I am equally happy that now a fair method of allocating fishing quotas is going to be implemented. Indeed, people must get back to work.

Let us continue combating the evils of tribalism, sexism, corruption and violence against women and children which aim to subvert our national development agenda. Let us maintain peace because without peace there is no development.

Let us continue developing the Trans-Kalahari Corridor linking the port of Walvis Bay to Botswana, Zimbabwe and allows for 48 hours' transit to Gauteng in South Africa. We also have the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor while the Trans-Cunene Corridor links the Walvis Bay's port to Southern Angola.

Similarly, let us continue our vision to become a regional leader in logistics hub in Southern Africa as part of the blue economy principle in order to ensure the transformation of the Port of Walvis Bay for the socio-economic growth and development of the country and the entire SADC region.

In conclusion, let us remain united 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.