



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER
OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWAPO PARTY ELECTION
CAMPAIGN DISTRICT RALLY

THEME: INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND SHARED PROSPERITY

26 OCTOBER, 2019

OTJIWARONGO

OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

Private Bag 13220, Windhoek, Namibia, Tel: +264 61 377700, Fax: +264 61 253098, Email: jnauta@iway.na, website: www.samnujomafoundation.org

Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma
Board of Trustees: Hon. Nahas Angula (Chairperson), Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana,
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(Reg No 8208)

Directors of Proceedings;
Comrade Hilma Nikanor, Deputy Minister of Veteran Affairs and Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and Secretary for Mobilization of the SWAPO Party;
Comrade Mukwaita Shanyengana, SWAPO Party's Secretary for Elders Council and Chairperson of the SWAPO Party National Leaders Assigned to Otjozondjupa Region;
All SWAPO Party's National Leaders Assigned to Otjozondjupa Region;
Comrade Susan Hikopua, SWAPO Party's Regional Coordinator for Otjozondjupa Region;
Comrades Members of the SWAPO Party's Regional Executive Leadership;
Comrade Otto Ipinge, Governor of Otjozondjupa Region;
Comrade SWAPO Party's District Coordinator and all Members of the SWAPO Party's District, Branches and Sections Leadership;
Your Worship the Mayor of the Town of Otjiwarongo, Comrade Bennes Haimbodi;
Comrades Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;
Distinguished Leaders of Traditional Authorities present;
The SWAPO Party Rank and File;
Members of the Media;
Comrades and Friends;

Today, 26 October 2019, will go down in the annals of history as a day on which we took yet another leap forward in the mobilization process of our mighty SWAPO Party in order to prepare for yet another landslide victory in the forthcoming Presidential and National Assembly Elections, which will take place on the 27th of November this year.

This is a moment for all SWAPO Party's rank and file to unite and speak with one voice and map the way forward for both the Party and the country.

When we engaged in a protracted National Liberation Struggle, as the SWAPO collective leadership, we adopted a three-pronged Strategy of Mass Political Mobilization of our people; increasing the pressure of the world opinion to isolate the apartheid regime of South Africa; as well as the Launching of the armed liberation struggle, as the only effective way to dislodge the white minority regime of South Africa from our country.

We attained our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990, following in the footsteps of our forefathers and mothers. These were Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi, Kaptein Jacob Marenga, Chief Kahimemuah Nguvauva, Chief Samuel Maharero, Chief Nehale Iya Mpingana, Chief Mandume ya Ndemufayo, Chief Iipumbu ya Tshilongo, Hompa Nyangana Wa Mukuve, Hompa Kandjimi Hawanga, Chief Hosea Kutako, Comrade Brendon Simbwaye, Mama Kakurukaze Mungunda, among others.

Indeed, someone explained that "*Men do not make their own history, as they please, but under circumstances existing already; under circumstances given and transmitted from the past...*" In this regard, it is obvious to all of us that one can only build by taking into account the reality inherited.

Mindful of the aforesaid, as leaders of the SWAPO Party, we need a deep understanding of current conditions in our country, a clear vision of the future, and the ability to consider issues and act strategically.

As leaders, we must also be both politically vigilant and economically informed in order to address the aspirations and the needs of all Namibians.

As I have mentioned on numerous occasions, some people do not appreciate the peace and stability that all Namibians enjoy today. They will always try to cause division and disunity in order to reverse the gains of our hard-won Freedom and Independence.

I therefore appeal to the members of the SWAPO Party to strive to constantly explain the aims and objectives, policies and the political programs of the SWAPO Party to all the Namibian people and promote unity of purpose and action.

In this regard, I appeal to all peace-loving Namibians to campaign peacefully because elections are about ideas and a vision for the future and not about insulting and fighting each other but capture the hearts of voters to vote for you.

It is obvious that our National leaders assigned to Otjozondjupa region as well as all the Regional, Districts, Branches and Sections' leadership are ready for the task on hand; That is to make sure that our people in Otjozondjupa region are well informed to go and vote for the SWAPO Party as the only Vanguard Movement of our people that can address the challenges in our country.

Comrades and Friends;

The freedom we enjoy today was achieved through determination and great sacrifice by the brave sons and daughters of Namibia. Despite challenges and setbacks, we attained our freedom and genuine independence by working together through unity of purpose and action.

Over the past 29 years, the lives of the people of Namibia have improved. Many of our people have houses, electricity and access to clean drinking water. Children in Namibia have access to free education and can study up to University level.

Over thousands of our most vulnerable citizens receive social grants. We advanced the cause and rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain. A National Minimum Wage came into effect, improving the lives of over thousands of our workers.

Although much has been achieved, we could have moved faster and the quality of services could have been much better. For this reason, the SWAPO Party is ready to write the next chapter in our country's history. A chapter of new hope in the fight to eradicate unemployment, poverty and inequality and a chapter that pursues inclusive development and shared prosperity for all.

Similarly, over the past 29 years, the dignity of our people has been restored. The lives of many Namibians have improved. We promoted nation-building, social cohesion and celebrated our diversity as a nation. We pursued world peace and advanced an agenda for a better Africa and a better world.

Against this background, the SWAPO Party will never waver to emancipate the Namibian people from economic hardships. We knew from the beginning that although we gained our political independence, we will enter into the second phase of the struggle for economic independence.

This phase is the most difficult one because it does not require guns but innovative ways to overcome the current challenges in our country, namely; high unemployment rate and lack of decent houses, especially among our youth, water shortage due to recurrent drought caused by climate change, gender based violence, to mention but a few.

I have not doubts in my mind that the ruling SWAPO Party will succeed in this endeavor just as we have been successful in building our roads network and the extension of the railway line from Tsumeb to Oshikango, including the expansion of the Harbour of Walvisbay which has become the port of entry for the entire SADC region, among many other projects.

Comrades and Compatriots;

The town of Otjiwarongo is strategically located as it connects the coastal towns with the Northern and Eastern parts of Namibia. I am therefore happy to note that visible development is taking place in Otjozondjupa.

I am reliably informed that the decentralized Build Together Program, targeting both urban and rural low income groups, has been revived and the Directorate of Agricultural Production provides a program for dryland crop production.

In addition, farmers are also being trained in animal husbandry and horticulture production as critical skills that are needed by our people in order to be self-reliant and achieve food sufficiency. Thus, SWAPO remains the only progressive party that unites all races, ethnic groups, religions, and cultures in our country. It is the party that fights for equality of all genders and better education and training opportunities for all our people.

Moreover, the SWAPO Party is prepared to fight against the current economic headwinds, gender-based violence, tribalism, unemployment, and address the water crisis in our country by building plants to desalinate the seawater in order to mitigate the impact of drought and address the shortage of water caused by erratic rainfalls due to climate change.

Against this background, I am urging you, come November 27, to go out in big numbers and vote in the upcoming Presidential and National Assembly Elections for the SWAPO Party and its Presidential Candidate.

Let us vote for Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob **for inclusive development and shared prosperity for all!** Let us vote for peace and stability and above all, let us vote for continuity in order to consolidate the gains our country has made during the past 29 years.

In conclusion, let us unite because it is only through unity of purpose and action that we will achieve a resounding victory in the upcoming Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

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!