



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION,  
ON THE OCCASION OF COMMEMORATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**24 MARCH 2018**

**OTAVI**

**OTJOZONDJUPA**

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Director of Ceremonies;

Cde. Loide Kasingo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and SWAPO Leader assigned to Otjozondjupa Region;  
Cde. Otto Ipinge, Governor of Otjozondjupa (In Absentia)  
Cde. Laina Nekundi, Regional Councilor of Otavi  
Cde. Martha Shipanga, Mayor of Otavi;  
Cde. Tresia Kukenge, Regional Coordinator for SWAPO Party Women's Council;  
Cde. Regina Alugodhi, Regional Coordinator for Information and Mobilisation for SWAPO Party Women's Council;  
Cde. Selma Nantinda, District Secretary for Information and Mobilization for the SWAPO Party, Otavi district and Member of the SWAPO Party Central Committee;  
Cde. Kaino K. David, District Coordinator for SWAPO Party Women's Council;  
Distinguished Members of SWAPO Party Women's Council;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Comrades and Compatriots:

I am deeply humbled and honoured, at the same time delighted to be in your midst today to celebrate the belated International Women's Day.

International Women's Day is a very important day because it is the day meant to reflect on progress made on various issues affecting women and to celebrate their role that they play in society worldwide.

Many countries including Namibia are making concerted efforts in order to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

During the struggle women contributed significantly to our victory to overthrow the unjust and discriminatory system of the minority white South African regime in our country.

Many women have fully participated in various battle fields against the enemy troops, while those who were inside the country not only provided food and shelter but also vital information on the movement and whereabouts of the enemy troops to the combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

It is therefore imperative that during the struggle of economic freedom that we are busy with now after we gained political independence we should empower our women to become strategic and equal partners in the socio-economic development of our country.

In this regard, Parliament should continue to pass legislations that promote and empower our women as well as to improve their standard of living so that they can play an equal role in society with their male counterparts.

Against this background, I commend the SWAPO Party for its decision to implement a 50/50 gender representation of men and women at all decision-making level, which will see more female comrades occupying positions of responsibility both in the SWAPO Party and the Government structures.

Therefore, I appeal to you as leaders of the SWAPO Party Women's Council that no efforts must be spared in ensuring that more women are drawn into the decision-making organs of the Party in order for them to contribute meaningfully towards the eradication of poverty, ignorance and disease.

Fellow Comrades and Compatriots;

There is a saying that "*when you educate a man, you educate an individual, but when you educate a woman, you educate the whole nation*". We must therefore ensure that all our children attend school from kindergarten to university because education is key to knowledge and power.

In addition, as parents, we must teach our children good manners and maintain discipline among them as well as encourage them to respect our cultural and traditional norms because a nation without culture is like a tree without roots.

I am disappointed to learn from the media every day that men are beating and killing women. Why are you doing this, this must come to an end because a nation cannot grow and develop without women.

Therefore we must try to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

Moreover, you must continue to promote the ideals of African Unity and permanent effective communication links with the sister organizations on the African continent such as the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO) and those in the Diaspora.

In conclusion, I urge all women especially members of the SWAPO Party Women's Council to remain united and work together because I believe that a united people, striving to achieve common good of all the members of the society, will always emerge victorious.

I thank you.