



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE
NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
SWAPO PARTY 57TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

28 MAY 2017

OKAHAO DISTRICT

OMUSATI REGION

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I am delighted to have been invited to address you on this occasion of the SWAPO Party 57TH Anniversary Celebration, here in Okahao, SWAPO Party District.

For this reason, it is important to spell out at the onset that the first stage of anti-colonial resistance was led by our national heroes and heroines who inspired thousands of Namibians to follow in their footsteps in order to overthrow the white minority apartheid regime of South Africa and restore the honour and dignity of our motherland.

This we did when we hoisted our flag of freedom on the 21st March 1990 and declared to the world that Namibia is free for ever.

The white minority apartheid regime of South Africa perpetuated colonial oppression against our people. It imposed apartheid policies such as Bantustans, Bantu education and the so-called South West Africa Labour Association (SWALA) under which the indigenous Namibia workers were recruited as cheap contract labourers.

On the fateful day of 10 December 1959, the minority white colonial forces of South Africa brutally killed more than 12 innocent Namibians, including Kakurukaze Mungunda in cold blood and wounded 50 others. The Old Location Massacre signalled the turning point in the history of our National Liberation Struggle.

In the following year, on 19 April 1960, we formed SWAPO as a Liberation Movement in order to fight for our freedom and genuine independence. SWAPO mobilized under its banner and drew together various progressive forces in Namibia such as the workers, youth and churches under the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) as well as peasants and became the embodiment of their aspirations for freedom and genuine independence.

In this regard, SWAPO decided that political mobilization, as well as diplomatic and military efforts should be pursued concurrently as a three pronged strategy. Inside the country, mass political mobilization was intensified.

Following the Tanga Consultative Conference in 1970, the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) was established to mobilize the workers in order to paralyze the colonial economy.

The SWAPO Youth League was also established to mobilize the youth of Namibia in order to participate actively in the national liberation struggle.

Vibrant and fearless SWAPO Youth leaders such as Comrades Jerry Ekandjo, Joseph Kashea, Martin Kapewasha, Nashilongo Taapopi, Airah Shikwambi and others demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the white minority colonial apartheid regime of South Africa from Namibia.

On the diplomatic front, SWAPO successfully mobilized the international community through the United Nations (UN), the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which is the forerunner of AU, the Frontline States and Nigeria as well as the Non-Aligned Movement to isolate the white minority colonial apartheid regime of South Africa.

In 1971, UN General Assembly recognized SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people and declared the presence of the white minority colonial apartheid regime of South Africa in Namibia illegal.

SWAPO gained friends and allies from all over the world who rendered political, diplomatic and material support to SWAPO. We, thus, have a duty to extend the same support to various nations battling to establish peace and stability in their countries.

Similarly, we should continue to work together with all peace loving nations of the world through the UN and other multilateral agencies to promote the maintenance of world peace and security and ensure that human kind will live in peace without the threat of war.

On the military front, brave and heroic combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing, carried out successful military operations against the enemy forces inside Namibia, inflicting heavy casualties on the troops of the white minority colonial apartheid regime of South Africa.

The racist troops of South Africa were finally and decisively defeated at the historic Battle of Cuito Cuanavale by the combined forces of Angolan national army-FAPLA, Cuban Internationalist Forces and SWAPO PLAN Combatants.

This led to the white minority colonial apartheid regime of South Africa signing the ceasefire agreement with SWAPO and accepting the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 that paved the way for the genuine independence of Namibia.

Against this background, our youth should always pay tribute and respect the tested and outstanding gallant PLAN commanders, political commissars and combatants who fought for the freedom and genuine independence that we enjoy today in Namibia. Some died during the Old Location Massacre in 1959, while others died at the Battle of Omugulu-Gwombashe and at other battles in foreign lands.

Among them are Commanders Tobias Hainyeko, Peter Eneas Nanyemba, Jason Hamutenya Ndadi Wanehepo, Greenwell Matongo, Hanganee Katjipuka Kavezeri, Helao Nafidi, Wilbard Tashiya Nakada, David Mbango, Isack Shikongo Pondo, John Hamukoto, Augustus Nghaamwa McNamara, Jonas Haiduwa, Penny Hashoongo, Peter Manyuka Mbereshu, Brendan Simbwaye and many others.

Their exemplary deeds will continue to serve as a permanent source of inspiration in our second phase of the struggle for economic independence as their blood waters our freedom.

Equally, we must continue to pay homage to our national leaders and Comrades who contributed immensely to our country's freedom, independence and nation building. They are Comrades Anton Lubowski, Immanuel Shifidi, Moses Garoeb, Peter Mweshihange, Patrick Iyambo Lungada, Axel Johannes, Johny ya Otto and Eliaser Tuhadeleni Kaxumba ka Ndola.

Others include the late Comrades Dimo Hamaambo, David Meroro, Getrude Kandanga Hilukilua, Maxton Joseph Mutongolome, Mose Tjitendero, David Uushona, Richard Kapelwa Kabajani, John Pandeni, Rev. Hendrik Witbooi, to mention but a few.

Comrades;

As you are all aware, the achievement of freedom and independence of our country was only a critical point of departure but not the destination. Political freedom will remain meaningless unless it is accompanied by genuine economic independence.

Therefore, the youth should become active participants in the socio-economic development of our country in order to take our country to the advanced level of development and eradicate poverty, diseases, ignorance and under-development.

The SWAPO Party Government has made tangible successes over the past twenty seven years by implementing various projects such as the development of physical and communication infrastructures as well as the provision of potable water, rural electrification and many other services in all the fourteen regions of our country.

These basic services and amenities were long denied to our people by the white minority colonial apartheid regime of South Africa.

Education and training remain critical to our youth who are the future leaders of our country. I therefore would like to encourage our youth to study mathematics and science subjects so that they can become agriculturalists, medical doctors, engineers, geologists, architects, marine biologists, economists and scientists who will be able to implement Vision 2030.

As members of the SWAPO Party, we must re-dedicate ourselves to the ideals of national unity and patriotism so that we can defend our hard-won Freedom and Independence.

Although the enemy was defeated politically, he has not given up. As Namibians, and as Africans, we must therefore be on the full alert and remain vigilant against deceptive attempts by opportunists and unpatriotic elements that attempt to divide us.

As the future leaders of our country, our youth should act with dedication and commitment to always promote the interests of the SWAPO Party and the national interests before their own.

The people of Namibia look at the SWAPO Party to provide leadership and direction, because SWAPO Party has the capacity to deliver and show the way forward. We must therefore guard against the negative vices of tribalism, regionalism and individualism which do not only have the potential to disrupt peace in our country but can lead to confrontation and bloodshed.

Against this background, we owe it to those who sacrificed their precious lives for the liberation of our country to never and never again allow ourselves to be divided along tribal lines, regionalism and ethnicity.

Similarly, we owe it to succeeding generations who will carry on from where we shall leave in order for the SWAPO Party to grow from strength to strength and continue to rule Namibia for many years to come.

Remember, *a united people, 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.