

# SWAPO PARTY



## 6<sup>TH</sup> SWAPO PARTY CONGRESS

STATEMENT  
BY  
COMRADE DR. SAM NUJOMA,  
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
AND  
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION

23 NOVEMBER 2017

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY COMRADE DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND FATHER OF THE  
NAMIBIAN NATION, THE 6<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS SWAPO PARTY

23 NOVEMBER 2017

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia;  
Comrade Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO Party;  
Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party;  
Comrade Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Deputy Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party;  
Comrade Members of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of SWAPO Party;  
Comrade Members of the Central Committee of SWAPO Party;  
Comrade SWAPO Party Regional Coordinators;  
Comrade Heads of the SWAPO Party Wings and Affiliate Organ of the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW);  
Comrade Delegates to the 6<sup>th</sup> SWAPO Party Congress;  
Comrades from the Sister Parties/Formal Liberation Movement and Friendly Countries Present;

At the occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of our Mighty SWAPO Party, I take this opportunity to wish all delegates my warm and fraternal greetings and to wish our Party a very successful and resounding Congress.

This is indeed a historic landmark 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of our Mighty SWAPO Party and the people of Namibia as a whole, as it is tasked to map the way forward for the Party in order to make it more dynamic and stronger.

Indeed, the 6<sup>th</sup> SWAPO Party Congress could not have come at a more opportune time when the need has never been greater than it is today for all progressive forces in the country to unite and speak with one voice against the onslaught of divisive and reactionary forces of imperialism towards all the former liberation movements in the region.

For me personally, I believe that the fundamental question we must consider critically on the occasion, is whether we are upholding the original ethos, values and principles of the SWAPO Party or whether we have deviated and are busy creating our own alien values based on factional politics.

As we commence with the deliberations and subsequent elections of the SWAPO Party Top 4 leadership as well as the members of the Central Committee for the next five years, we should be mindful of the historic responsibility entrusted upon us by the broad membership of the SWAPO Party and the Namibian people at large.

I was keenly following the process of renewal of mandate and the campaigns of the two teams that ended yesterday. I am fully aware that the Politburo and the Central Committee nominated these candidates.

In my opinion, the two campaign teams demonstrated our mighty SWAPO Party's inner-party democracy as provided for in the SWAPO Party Constitution.

However, I noticed there were some shortcomings characterised by distortion of facts, black mailing, and accusation of each other and unfair access to Party delegates and distribution of resources.

Similarly, I am deeply disturbed by the numerous reports of nullifications of conferences in the regions. Never before have we seen the Party marred in court cases and with so many complaints to the extent that verification teams were appointed by the Politburo to investigate the concerns raised.

SWAPO Party Constitution should reign supreme over personal ambitions. It is only through unity, tolerance, mutual respect, collective leadership, fairness and the upholding of our constitution that we can move forward and continue to keep the peace and stability in our country.

The verdict that will be announced in the next few days will be remembered by future generations of SWAPO Party.

We owe to ourselves to ensure that future generations of Namibia including the SWAPO Party Pioneer Movement and SWAPO Party Youth League will continue to enjoy peace and stability built on the foundation that we have laid as leaders of SWAPO Party.

Thus, this Congress is not only of significance to the Namibian people, but to all progressive forces country wide and the entire SADC region.

Indeed, this Congress will send strong signals on the direction to follow as other sister parties of ANC and ZANU-PF host their conference and congress respectively next month.

At this juncture, allow me to take this opportunity to reaffirm our solidarity with the entire sister parties and friendly countries present here today and their people. In the same vein, I reaffirm our commitment to deepening relations between our Peoples and Parties.

Comrade Delegates;

As we might all know, our Mighty SWAPO Party played a decisive role in bringing about an end to apartheid colonialism and all forms of discrimination and economic exploitation, leading to the attainment of our Freedom and genuine Independence on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990.

It is thus with pride that we recollect that as Namibians we fought with vigour and determination to free ourselves from the bondage of colonial oppression and apartheid colonialism.

The yoke of colonial subjugation trampled upon our human dignity. We were denied our basic and fundamental human rights to self-determination and independence. It was for this reason that our forefathers and mothers took up arms to resist and break the chains of oppression and subjugation in the first stages of anti-colonial resistance.

Their heroic deeds inspired the following generations to follow in their footsteps in order to overthrow the unjust colonial system of apartheid and restore the honour of our motherland.

I therefore pay tribute to some of our forbearers such as Kaptain Hendrik Witbooi, Jacob Marenga, Chief Kahimemwa Nguvauva, Chief Samwel Maharero, Chief Nehale Ija

Mpingana, Chief Mandume Ya Ndemufayo, Abraham Morris, Simon Kopper, Chief Iipumbu ja Tshilongo and many others who fought the war of resistance against German colonialism and the white minority South African apartheid colonial regime.

These brave heroes and heroines' mantle was taken over by those who petitioned the United Nations to place the then South West Africa under the UN Trusteeship System with the clear purpose of assisting the Namibian people towards self-determination and Independence by people such as Chief Hosea Kutako, Chief Samwel Witbooi, Reverend Theofelus Hamtumbangela, Mburumba Kerina, Andimba Herman Toivo ya Toivo, to mention but a few.

This generation was followed by our martyrs who took the first steps in a long and protracted armed liberation struggle under the banner of the Mighty SWAPO as a National Liberation Movement which I was honoured to lead together with the heroic sons and daughters of Namibia such as Comrades Brendan Simbwaye, Tobias Hainyeko, Moses //Garob, Putuse Apollus, David Meroro, Kaxumba Kandola, Simon Mzee Kaukungwa to mention but a few.

Similarly, I must mention here the Late Comrades Peter Mweshihange, Peter Nanyemba, John Otto Nankudhu, Hanganee Katjipuka, Milner Thlabanello, Anton Lubowski, John Ya Otto, Dimo Hamaambo, Reverend Hendrik Witbooi, Daniel Tjongarero, Getrude Kandanga and many others who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for the liberation of our motherland.

In our midst, we still have the living legends and Veterans of our liberation Struggle such as Comrades Hifikepunye Pohamba, Vinia Ndadi, Hage Gotfried Geingob, Ben Amathila, Ngarikutuke Tjiriange, Nickey Iyambo, Theo Ben Gurirab, Libertine Amathila, Peter Katjavivi, Nahas Angula, Jerry Ekandjo, Marco Hausiku, Nangolo Mbumba, Helmut Angula and many other heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle.

It is also worth recalling here that in the aftermath of the Portuguese coup of 1974 and the violence after the boycotted Ovamboland Bantustan elections of 1973, a large number of young Namibians joined us in exile.

A significant proportion of these young political activists were matriculants who could not continue their studies because they had been involved in some of the student and high school protests in previous years.

Most importantly, many of these educated Namibians who came to join us in exile were SWAPO Youth League (SYL) activists who were instrumental in the operations of the internal wing of SWAPO. Among them were the likes of Comrades Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, Charles Namoloh, Erkki Nghimtina and many others who came to form the backbone and fighting capabilities of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) – SWAPO's Military Wing.

These are some of the SWAPO Party stalwarts who sacrificed for this country whom we should recognise at all times.

Even when visiting the regions, their access to SWAPO Party regional, districts, branches and sections should not be hindered and their advices should always be sought.

They have dedicated the greater parts of their youth and adult lives for the liberation of our motherland until victory was attained and after independence. I pay my tribute to all these gallant sons and daughters of our liberation struggle.

Today, we have countless patriots who remain committed and steadfast to the legacy of our historic national movement.

To you all, I say, do not relent and never surrender to fear and the tidal wave of imperialist manipulations but remain vigilant to defend our hard-won freedom and independence.

As a Party that is progressive in its approach and political philosophy, SWAPO Party must therefore refuse to be drawn into tribal and factional politics as tribalism, regionalism, individualism; egocentricity; favouritism; ethnicity; and other reactionary and retrogressive tendencies are the real enemies of our people.

SWAPO Party must unite the people of Namibia, irrespective of race, religion, sex, or ethnic origin into a democratic, vibrant and peace-loving nation; SWAPO Party must foster a sense of common purpose and collective destiny among the Namibian people.

SWAPO Party must combat retrogressive tendencies of tribalism, favouritism, ethnicity, nepotism, racism, sexism, regionalism, personality cult, and instil in its members a spirit of patriotism and that they are masters of their own destiny.

In conclusion, the strength of our Party has always been built on the strong foundation of unity of purpose and action. I therefore urge all delegates to respect and accept the outcome of the elections and support the candidates that will be elected by this Congress.

These candidates are all SWAPO Party tested cadres who made their contribution both collectively and individually to the liberation of this country and to the Party.

We should therefore stand behind them and give them all our support and loyalty as they will lead our Party for the next five years in ensuring the implementation of the SWAPO Party Political Programme and manifesto.

As we emerge from this 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of SWAPO Party, let us hold hands and march forward in unity and ensure the better future of all Namibians.

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

SWAPO, United!  
SWAPO, Victorious!  
NOW, Hard work!

I thank you.