



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR SAM NUJOMA,
FOUNDING FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION AND FIRST
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWAPO PARTY WOMEN'S
COUNCIL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION
PROGRAMME**

SATURDAY, 16 APRIL 2022

NKURENKURU COMMUNITY HALL

KAVANGO WEST REGION

***Check Against Delivery**

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(Reg No. 8208)

Directors of Proceedings;
Comrade Fransina Ndateelela Kahungu, Secretary of the SWAPO Party Women's Council and Comrade Maria Ntusi, Deputy Secretary of the SWAPO Party Women's Council;
Central Committee Members of the SWAPO Party Women's Council and all new members who are attending this regional leadership orientation leadership programme;
Comrade Davi Hamutenya Hipulua, SWAPO Party's Regional Coordinator for Kavango West Region;
Comrades Members of the SWAPO Party's Regional Executive Leadership;
Comrade Sirkka Ausiku, Governor of Kavango West Region;
Your Worship Comrade Jafet Markus Muti, the Mayor of the Town of Nkurenkuru;
Comrades Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;
Distinguished Hompas, Fumus, and all Leaders of Traditional Authorities present;
Members of the Clergy present;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great honour for me to have been invited to officially open the SWAPO Party Women's Council Regional Leadership Orientation Programme here in Nkurenkuru.

My last time here was in November 2019 when I came to address the Mini SWAPO Rally. I am glad to be back here in the mighty Kavango West Region, this time around to grace the SWAPO Party's Women Council's activity in order to consolidate their efforts as one of the crucial party's Wings.

The SWAPO Party Women's Council has made significant strides in capacitating its rank and file in order to maximize performance and productivity. The essence of the Council's objectives for capacity building is contained in the theme under which this programme is being conducted, *"Re-Imaging Inclusive Development Through Service Delivery"*.

It would be a remiss for me, at this juncture, not to congratulate the entire leadership of the SPWC for emerging unified after their elective Congress.

In this regard, the role played by women in the attainment of Namibia's independence is indisputable. Indeed, it was the revolutionary spirit embodied in Namibian women that facilitated the establishment of the SWAPO Party Women's Council in 1969/1970.

Against this background SWAPO Party adopted a policy of gender equality which was instrumental in forming a foundation for the inclusion of women in leadership. Today we are witnessing the fruits of this policy, in the implementation of the 50/50 gender representation, also known as the Zebra Style.

Comrades and friends;

We must desist from thinking that we have reached our destination. Women in Namibia continue to be victims of sexual and gender-based violence. Young girls are still faced with impediments such as a lack of menstrual products and being subjected to child marriages which hinders their access to education. There remains a need for greater inclusion of women in decision making positions. We have much work to do now more than ever before.

In addition, the SWAPO Party Women's Council must transform itself into a formidable force to be reckoned with in the Namibian society as far as women and children's matters are concerned. Therefore, Capacity building is a befitting beginning towards achieving this objective.

This orientation programme is a step towards empowering women with the necessary skills in order to equip them to make invaluable additions to society. It brings me joy to witness the continuation of SWAPO Party's values through the structures.

Similarly, you ought not to neglect the nurturing and mentoring of young women into leadership positions. As it is imperative for continuity. Equally, do not neglect the boy child. Be deliberate in your efforts towards roping in young women and harnessing their potential for the greater benefit of the SPWC and the SWAPO Party, by extension.

In conclusion, it is my singular honour to declare this leadership orientation programme officially open.

We will overcome challenges when we work together as a team, 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!