



MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY BY HIS EXCELLENCY COMRADE DR. SAM
NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND
OF THE SWAPO PARTY, FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION AND
LEADER OF THE NAMIBIAN REVOLUTION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
SWAPO PARTY YOUTH LEAGUE 7TH CONGRESS

THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST 2022

ONGWEDIVA

OSHANA REGION

*Check Against Delivery

Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO Party;
Honourable Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice President of the SWAPO Party;
Honourable Comrade Sofia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;
Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Second President of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO Party (*in absentia*);
Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;
Right Honourable Comrade Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;
Comrade Ephraim Nekongo, Secretary and All Members of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party Youth League;
Comrades Delegates from the Regions;
Comrades from the SWAPO Party Wings and Affiliate Union;
Comrades Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Comrades and Friends:

I am pleased to have been invited to the 7th Congress of the SWAPO Party Youth League. To this end, allow me to apologize for not gracing the occasion with my presence.

Notwithstanding, I am sending this message of solidarity to urge our youth to take this opportunity to pause and reflect on their achievements, challenges and the way forward.

Dear Comrades;

Since the dawn of our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990, the SWAPO Party has made significant strides towards reaching our goal of building a better country for young people. For many young people, our country is now a far better place to live in than it was prior to our independence. This is underpinned by a democratic constitution with profound social content, which is an epochal achievement in our country's history.

Combined with this achievement is the progress made in changing the lives of our people for the better in terms of access to basic services. Indeed, profound changes have taken place on such fronts as access to education, health services, water and sanitation as well as pursuit of gender equality and youth empowerment. Yet the breadth of access requires continuous improvement in relation to depth or quality of these services.

Dear Comrades;

The constitution of the SWAPO Party Youth League, as adopted in 2002, defines the SPYL as a progressive youth political wing, born out of the crucibles of the anticolonial struggle for freedom and national independence, serving as an active, revolutionary, and militant transmitting belt of the SWAPO Party ideology, policies and programmes.

Among the tasks and challenges facing the SPYL is to assist the SWAPO Party to become and remain a strong political force directing progressive policies and programmes towards a developed, fair and just society.

Therefore the SWAPO Party Youth League is urged, among others, to be vigilant and constantly combat all forms and tendencies of nepotism, favouritism, moral decay, tribalism, individualism, corruption, racism, regionalism and all reactionary conduct among the youth in the Namibian society and to fully participate in the promotion of the culture of selfless and voluntary service towards the struggle against unemployment, ignorance, illiteracy and all types of social ills in the Namibian society.

Now is the time for the youth of Namibia to be organised using modern weapons including creative and innovative methods with modern technology in order to capture the imagination of our young people as well as using the modern tools of analysis such as the SWOT analysis looking at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the SWAPO Party in general and the SPYL in particular and come up with SMART analysis, which stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely targets as well as the PESTLEE analysis, which stands for Political, Economical, Social, Technological, Legal, Environmental and Ethical analysis of the external environment.

Dear Comrades;

Our nation owes the young generation of the liberation struggle a debt of gratitude and we dare not forget their collective sacrifices when they crossed the Namibian borders to volunteer for the armed struggle and reinforce the fighting capabilities of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing. The best tribute we can pay to that generation is to make a solemn commitment never to abandon or betray the ideals for which they laid down their lives!

Today, as we seek to consolidate the gains of our independence, the country continues to look up to the current generation of youth to once again play a leading role in the national effort to confront the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

At this juncture, allow me to commend the leadership which was elected after the 5th Congress of the SWAPO Party Youth League for coming up with progressive resolutions some of which were adopted by the government. I also remember that for the first time the Congress of the SWAPO Pioneer Movement was held in Okalongo, Omusati Region.

Most importantly, that leadership hosted the Heads of Former Liberation Movements in Windhoek in 2009. Unfortunately today, the liberation movements are under attack from within and from without and have been infiltrated by those who seek self-interest and gratification. The biggest question therefore is; what is to be done?

The manifesto of the SWAPO Youth League in 1971 said “youth and students are the most courageous and fearless group of our people”. It also said “Dear compatriots, our country is passing through difficult point in its history, and to participate in the struggle has become a must for every Namibian... It is we, and only we in our own country who will fight for our own liberation, our own independence and for our own future”.

That is the indomitable and enduring spirit our youth must have today, reflecting values of courage and determination in the second phase of the struggle for economic emancipation.

Dear Comrades;

The SWAPO Party remains the vanguard movement and leader of our society. Yet, as shown in recent elections, this status depends on the movement’s capacity to self-correct. As such, self-correction and renewal should be premised on the firm understanding that what is required is unity of purpose and action to take Namibia to greater heights.

Therefore, true to the democratic traditions of the SWAPO Party, this Congress must be characterised by open and robust debate, a firm commitment to engage with each other and to find common positions.

The SWAPO Party-led government must respond assertively to the challenges that our people confront on a daily basis. These challenges include unemployment, poverty, inequality, gender-based violence, corruption, etc.

However, despite the deeply rooted challenges which continue to ravage the lives of young people, I commend the initiatives by the SWAPO Party-led government for introducing a variety of interventions to mitigate against these challenges.

We have noted with great concern the impact of the rising cost of living on Namibian families. Nevertheless, we are happy that the government has made concessions and negotiated with the Unions to cancel the industrial action of civil servants by increasing the wages of the workers.

In this regard, we should be determined to achieve gender equality and youth empowerment as well as intensify our efforts to provide young people with quality education and relevant skills and use all available policy instruments to encourage businesses to hire more young people.

Indeed, we need a more youthful SWAPO Party by filling it with young blood in its ranks and have a segment of young people to take over the leadership of the Party and the country as a dynamic social construct characterised by youthful energy, enthusiasm, ambition and creativity.

Against this background, I am pleased that our government has appointed youthful ministers and managers into its ranks and the Party has introduced 50/50 gender representation and now Namibia has over 40% of women representatives in the National Assembly.

Similarly, the government has created a favourable policy environment for the youth to take advantage of key opportunities that exist in order to promote and support entrepreneurship among our youth.

Therefore, our youth is urged to take full advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) in sectors such as agriculture, which has the potential to grow the country's economy, create necessary jobs and take people out of poverty.

Dear Comrades;

This in many ways is a defining moment for the SWAPO Party Youth League and this Congress, which carries the weight of history, should be a place where the SWAPO Party Youth League lives up to its role by developing policies to shape the future destiny of our country.

Indeed, young people must continue to occupy their rightful place as change agents. In this regard, this Congress must demonstrate more clearly than ever before our common commitment to rid the SWAPO Party of factionalism and prepare the path towards our 7th SWAPO Party Congress.

Dear Comrades;

Political education is the lifeblood of any organisation and should forever constitute the day to day activities of the SWAPO Party Youth League. Political education entails capacitating our youth with the necessary tools of analysis and frameworks such as the revolutionary theory that lead to concrete action and not just a set of dogmas degenerating into adventurism and leading to anarchism.

It is an objective reality that any revolution that does not reproduce its ideas is bound to fail. Therefore, all SWAPO Party Youth League structures should standardise political education into their mainstream programmes and constantly ensure that all members have a proper grasp of the politics of the SWAPO Party and current issues.

Our youth wing must elevate the political consciousness of our young people in order for them to appreciate that the SWAPO Party is the only organization that can address their socio-economic challenges. In addition, our youth must know that *“a Nation without culture is like a tree without roots.”* Let us therefore preserve our cultural heritage in a bid to overcome cultural imperialism.

In conclusion, allow me to take this opportunity to repeat my call that foreign forces must stop interfering in Venuezela’s internal affairs and lift all sanctions against Venuezela. In the same vein, I call for the lifting of Economic Embargo that has been imposed on Cuba.

Similarly, it behooves me to express my unwavering solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinians people and call for the international community to assume its responsibilities and put an end to Israel’s denial to recognise Palestine’s right to exist. In the same vein, I look forward to the resolution of the issues of Western Sahara and their right to self-determination.

Last but not least, I wish the SWAPO Party Youth League successful deliberations and a very resounding 7th Congress.

As we emerge from this Congress, I urge all of you to hold hands and march forward in unity of action and purpose. As I always say, *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!