



STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE MURAL: "FOUR LEADERS ONE REVOLUTION" BY THE ARTIST NAMBOWA MALUA AND THE 68TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF HUGO CHÁVEZ, THE COMMEMORATION OF THE NATIONAL REBELLION DAY IN CUBA & THE VISIT TO NAMIBIA BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXPATRIATES OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE, H.E DR. RIAD MALKI

SATURDAY, 30 JULY 2022

SWAPO PARTY SCHOOL, JOHANN ALBRECHT STREET,

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

*Check Against Delivery

Director of Proceedings, Dr. Charles Mubita, SWAPO Party School National Coordinator;
Honourable Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice President of the SWAPO Party;
Your Excellency Dr. Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine;
Your Excellency, Comrade Sidenio Acosta Aday, Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Namibia;
Your Excellency, Comrade Omar Berroterán Paredes, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Namibia;
Your Excellency, Anastas Kaboba Kasongo Wa-Kimba, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Namibia;
Your Excellency, Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;
The Entire Rank and File of the SWAPO Party;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Comrades and Friends:

I am pleased to have been invited to this auspicious occasion of the unveiling of the Mural “Four Leaders One Revolution” as well as to celebrate the 68th Birth Anniversary of Hugo Chávez, the Commemoration of the National Rebellion Day in Cuba & the visit to Namibia by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, H.E Dr. Riad Malki.

In this regard, allow me to express my deepest gratitude to the Embassies of the Republic of Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the State of Palestine for organizing this event that enables us to celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of the Founding of the SWAPO Party and in order to cement the historical ties between the people of Namibia, Cuba, Venezuela and Palestine.

Indeed, the friendship and strong bonds of solidarity between our countries date back to the years of our protracted armed liberation struggle.

As we 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 the 21st of 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 our generation to follow in their footsteps in order to overthrow the unjust colonial system of apartheid and restore the honour of our motherland.

Throughout the years of our liberation struggle, SWAPO joined hands with other progressive forces at multilateral fora such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Anti-apartheid Movement who supported the noble cause of the struggle for the liberation of Namibia.

Against this background, I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank the gallant people of the Republic of Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the unflinching political, material and moral support they gave to our liberation movement, SWAPO, until the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st of March 1990.

In the same vein, we should not be oblivious of the fact that some of our sister organizations are still being oppressed by imperialists and they are still struggling to achieve independence and freedom. In this regard, we reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Western Sahara in their cause for their right to self-determination, through a United Nations supervised referendum leading to genuine independence.

Similarly, we are morally obliged to support the struggle of the people of Palestine for freedom, equality and genuine national independence to guarantee peace in the region.

Director of Proceedings;

The unveiling of this mural is a distinct honour to the leaders that made their contributions in leading our people during the bitter and protracted armed liberation struggle against oppression and injustices in the world. For this reason, the young generation and all progressive people should emulate their bravery in order to make the world a better place for all.

Indeed, we are extremely grateful and remain indebted to the Cuban people under the leadership of El Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz. By His invitation, the majority of our children who survived the traumatic experience of the Cassinga massacre were offered free education in Cuba.

It was also under the leadership of El Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz that the combined forces of FAPLA and Cuban internationalists troops, including PLAN, estimated at 15,000, at Cuito Cuanavalle brought about South Africa's ultimate defeat and collapse of apartheid, forcing South Africa to the negotiating table and to eventually sign the cease fire agreement on the 22nd December 1988 followed by another cease fire agreement with SWAPO in March the 21, 1989 and the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

In the same vein, it was thanks to the Late Comrade Hugo Chávez Frías, Former President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's effectiveness of his state-directed development policies to improve the lives of his people that he won the historical and decisive electoral triumph not only for the people of Venezuela but also of the countries of the ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America) as well as all the people of the third world countries, as it ensured the continuity of the struggle for the genuine fraternal, complementary and human integration amongst the nations and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

I share his ideals for greater integration and the strengthening of South-South Cooperation as an indispensable condition for sustainable development and the sovereignty of our countries. In the same vein, I reiterate our unwavering solidarity and unyielding support to his successor, H.E. Comrade Nicolas Maduro, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following in the footsteps of the great 19th century independence Hero, El libertador Simon Bolivar.

Director of Proceedings;

I am proud to be associated with the mural paint as it supports the agenda of peace and respect for international laws. We all agree that peace and security in the world is a prerequisite to sustainable economic development, therefore it is imperative that humanitarians and conflict situations be resolved to achieve this.

In this regard, I would like to repeat my call that foreign forces must stop interfering in Venezuela's internal affairs and lift all sanctions against Venezuela. In the same vein, I call for the lifting of Economic Embargo that has been imposed on Cuba.

Similarly, we are indeed proud to be associated with the name of Yasser Arafat, a revolutionary giant and patriot who devoted the greater part of his life to the liberation of his fatherland. His was a life of intense struggle, hardships, simplicity and clarity of vision and sacrifices that contributed immensely to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people.

Our position on the situation in Israel and Palestine is guided by our experiences of apartheid and the duty to act in solidarity with peoples subjected to discrimination and violence and not by Anti-Semitism.

The situation of the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation remains dire due to the repressive, destructive and colonial policies and practices that continue to be perpetrated by Israel, in grave violation of international law, with impunity, as the international community continues to fail to hold Israel accountable in accordance with the law.

Combined with the Israeli government's rejection of peace and relentless provocations and incitement, this situation has deepened the sense of insecurity among the Palestinian people and the hopelessness regarding any possible redress of this appalling injustice.

It is imperative that the international community assumes its moral, human and legal responsibilities and puts an end to Israel's denial to recognize Palestinian rights, mainly their right to self-determination, and Palestine's right to exist.

It therefore behooves me to express my unwavering solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinians struggle against Israeli oppression, as well as reaffirm the principled solidarity of SWAPO Party and the people of Namibia with the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Indeed, it is unimaginable that Africa itself, a victim of centuries of occupation, subjugation and oppression can condone the continued occupation of Palestinian lands by Israel and denial of fundamental human rights of the Palestinians as well as its continued expansion of settlements on occupied Palestinian lands.

Against this background, we cannot normalize relations with Israel while it continuously rides roughshod over the human rights of the Palestinians, incarcerates, tortures and maiming innocent civilians, and acting with impunity while violating international law on several accounts as if it is a law unto itself.

Last but not least the people of Western Sahara must be freed and their state be recognized. It is my sincere belief that the world would be a better place if these issues could be resolved amicably.

In conclusion, I urge all progressive people in the world to always work towards finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions in a fraternal spirit to pressing needs in the world.

To all SWAPO members, supporters and sympathisers let us unite and work together with other progressive nations and states for the betterment of humanity.

As I always say; *“A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious!”*

I thank you!