



STATEMENT BY H.E. COMRADE DR. SAM NUJOMA, THE
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE SWAPO PARTY AND OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AS WELL AS THE FATHER OF THE
NAMIBIAN NATION AND THE LEADER OF THE NAMIBIAN
REVOLUTION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SWAPO PARTY'S
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, 9 MARCH 2024
PARLIAMENT CAUCUS ROOM C1
WINDHOEK
KHOMAS REGION

*Check Against Delivery

Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia;

Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Acting President and Vice President of the SWAPO Party and of the Republic of Namibia;

Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Second President of the SWAPO Party and of the Republic of Namibia;

Comrade Sofia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;

Comrade Uahekua Herunga, Deputy Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;

Right Hon. Dr Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister;

Comrades Members of the Politburo and the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party;

I am pleased to have been invited to this very important SWAPO Party's Central Committee meeting.

This gathering could not have come at a very crucial time to fully interrogate the current situation in the SWAPO Party with the view to map the way forward, going for the next Presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled for November 2024.

Allow me therefore to take this opportunity to wish our Mighty SWAPO Party successful deliberations and a very resounding Central Committee meeting, hoping that the Party will emerge from this meeting much stronger and more united.

Comrades;

In November 2022, the SWAPO Party held its Ordinary Congress where the new leadership was elected to run the party's affairs for the next five years, until 2027.

The Late President Geingob (May His Soul continue to rest in Peace) was re-elected unopposed in order to correspond responsibilities and ranking at party and government levels. This was done despite the rules stating that each of the top four positions must be contested by at least three candidates.

On that occasion, and for good reasons, nobody made reference to the Party's constitution to oppose that view and no one called for an Extra-Ordinary Congress in 2015 when the second President resigned to hand over the instruments of power to the then Vice-President.

Nevertheless, wisdom prevailed, and SWAPO Party emerged from the 2022 Congress much stronger and more united than it went in.

Everybody, however, was looking forward on who would emerge as the Vice-President of the SWAPO Party, because that person would be our candidate in this year's Presidential and National Assembly elections, scheduled for November.

Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, overwhelmingly won the race for the Vice President position with four hundred and ninety one (491) votes.

She was followed by the Right Honourable Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister, with two hundred and seventy (270) votes and the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Comrade Pohamba Shifeta with ninety one (91) votes, respectively. They both accepted the outcome of the election and once again wisdom prevailed.

However, as we all know death disrupts many well-thought-out plans and throw them off-balance. This is how the passing of the Late Comrade President Geingob has sent the SWAPO Party back to the drawing board.

The transition at the state level was seamless and peaceful. Within less than eight hours of the late Comrade President Geingob's passing, the country had a new President and Vice President, in the persons of H.E. Comrade Dr Nangolo Mbumba and Her Excellency Comrade Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, respectively.

At the Party level, constitutionally, the President's position must be filled within a specific timeframe. For this reason, there are those who are calling for an Extra-Ordinary Congress arguing that the Ordinary Congress in 2022 did not have the mandate to elect a presidential candidate and because there is now a vacancy for the position of the President.

Nonetheless, it was clear from the 2022 Ordinary Congress that Comrade Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah would be the SWAPO Party Presidential candidate in the November 2024 Elections.

How the SWAPO Party navigates these stormy waters and complex situation, depends on how its leadership considers how this mass-based movement has effectively dealt with similar complex situations in the past through pragmatism and unity of purpose and action.

It is the same delegates who attended the 2022 Ordinary Congress who will attend the Extra-Ordinary Congress. Thus, the leadership must take informed decisions to save the Party. The alternatives are chaos and anarchy.

As SWAPO Party leaders, we should therefore seriously and carefully consider the implications that come with that Congress and map a way forward that gives the Party a competitive advantage over other parties in the next elections.

After all, SWAPO Party members and the nation at large have already been prepared that SWAPO Vice President, now acting SWAPO President, Comrade Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, is our candidate in the next Presidential and National Assembly elections. She visited all the regions last year conveying that same message.

Comrades;

This is a defining moment for the SWAPO Party. The success of the SWAPO Party depends on making the right decisions that are in the best interest of the Party and Namibia at large.

People may be tempted to challenge Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah but that will only create factions in the run-up to the elections and disadvantage the Party.

In this regard, those who still harbour presidential ambitions, should consider the bigger picture for the Party to go into the November elections united.

Against this background, in my opinion, for the position of President of the SWAPO Party, the Central Committee should nominate and elect or proclaim by acclamation our current Acting President and Vice President of the SWAPO Party, Comrade Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah as our Presidential candidate for the next elections.

In other words, if the Central Committee decides that an Extra-Ordinary Congress should take place, such Congress should be carefully managed in such a way that Comrade Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah emerges from that Congress as the SWAPO Party President.

History will not absolve us and will not be lenient with us if the SWAPO Party were to lose the next elections under our watch.

I therefore urge all of us to hold hands and march forward in unity of purpose and action and rally behind Comrade Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah to ensure a better future for all our people.

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

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

I thank you.