



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBAMBA, PRESIDENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE 2009 SWAPO PARTY  
ELECTORAL COLLEGE**

**05 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**WINDHOEK**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**Comrade Sam Nujoma, Founding President of our Republic**

**Comrade Hage Geingob, Vice President of the SWAPO Party,**

**Comrade Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party**

**Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, Deputy Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party**

**Comrades, Members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party**

**Comrades, Members of the Central Committee**

**Comrades Delegates to the 2009 SWAPO Party Electoral College,**

**The 2009 SWAPO Party Electoral College has been just opened. Before we proceed further, I would like to address a few issues that are pertinent to the internal functions of the SWAPO Party which will also have a bearing on our success during the elections in November.**

**I believe that as we approach the up-coming elections, we must all strive to promote the principles and ideals that the SWAPO Party has always stood for in order to realize the aspirations of our people and the country at large.**

**In this regard, we must work for the collective interests of the Party and of our nation at all times.**

**In other words, this means that we should not allow personal and group ambitions to overshadow the virtues of working for the well-being of our people and remaining true to the revolutionary ideals that have made it possible for the SWAPO Party to defeat the forces of apartheid colonialism and establish a non-racial and democratic society where every citizen, where each Namibian boy or girl can have the opportunity to realize their potential.**

**About eleven days ago, our nation commemorated Heroes Day at the liberation shrine of Omugulugwombashe in the Omusati Region. We did so in order to remember those freedom fighters who made history by taking a decision to launch the armed liberation struggle and indeed who participated in one way or another in our struggle for national liberation. These heroes and heroines came from all corners of Namibia.**

**We are proud that over the years, youth, workers, peasants, women and senior citizens, from all corners of Namibia identified themselves with the history of the national liberation of our Motherland.**

**This demonstrates that our people have been fully committed to the ideals of National unity and national representation in the structures of our PARTY. They have been committed to the ideals and principles of women representation, youth representation, workers representation, peasant representation, senior citizen representation and racial representation at both PARTY structures and Government levels. In my capacity as the President of the SWAPO PARTY, allow me to thank the SWAPO PARTY members who have shown such maturity. Over the years, it has been a source of strength for our party to work in such a manner that the processes of transition provide for the infusion of new blood as well as continuity. This in my view, is a way of maintaining smooth transition with continuity.**

**It ensures focused policy direction while making it possible for wider inputs in the process of policy making. I trust that during this Electoral college, the delegates will be guided by the strategies and the tradition which has made our PARTY to grow from strength to strength. The SWAPO PARTY is the largest political family in Namibia, as such it is normal to have differences of approach or emphasis on some issues. What is important, however, is that established rules and procedures of the PARTY must be used to find a common ground.**

**I am happy that in the past, forums such as the Political Bureau and the Central Committee have addressed such issues. The Political Bureau met with the SWAPO PARTY Youth League and the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) to exchange ideas on a number of issues. I, therefore, encourage such culture of consultation on issues of national and PARTY interest to continue so that we can avoid an impression in the eyes of our political opponents that we are divided.**

**At this time of elections, the spirit of PARTY unity must bind us together more than ever before. Let us speak with a common voice. Our objective first and foremost is to address the socio-economic needs of our people. We need to focus on the needs of the rural poor; the needs of our senior citizens; the needs of our orphans and other vulnerable children; the needs of our youth; the needs of our workers; the needs of our women; the needs of our veterans of the liberation struggle; and indeed the needs of our nation. Those of you who will find yourselves in the National Assembly should always remember this mandate of our SWAPO PARTY.**

**In all organizations, there are differences of opinions and approach. There are different points of view and outlook. However, I believe that where differences of opinions occur, they must be addressed through appropriate channels at the Party or Government levels.**

**My reason for mentioning this matter is to re-emphasize our commitment to strengthen the culture of intra-party dialogue and consultation. This must be based on healthy criticism, where such criticism is warranted.**

**I would also like to say that it is important for our Party to engage in self criticism in order to identify shortcomings and to correct our course whenever necessary. This is vital for our Party and our government to remain robust, dynamic and to effectively respond to the challenges that we face in the process of governance.**

**What we do as members of the Party *vis-á-vis* our fellow comrades should be aimed at uplifting them, not breaking them down. In so doing we will build a stronger Party and deny our opponents reasons to take cheap shots at our members and our Party. Therefore, we must always be circumspect and adopt strategic approaches in our thinking and in our actions. This requires a co-ordinated approach in all our actions in order to avoid pitfalls that can have negative consequences for the Party.**

**We have an important task at hand during this Electoral College. I am confident that all preparations have been made to ensure smooth and democratic elections for our candidates for the SWAPO Party List for the National Assembly Elections.**

**This democratic process demonstrates the strength of the culture of democracy within our Party.**

**It shows, once again, that contrary to the assertions of our political opponents, the SWAPO Party does not only promote democracy and the rule of law at the national level, but that we also practice democracy as part of our own internal processes.**

**The SWAPO PARTY is a mature PARTY which has embraced a culture of democratic elections. I am aware that there are more candidates than the available number of positions. Mathematically speaking, therefore, it means that there will be those who will not be accommodated on the final list. This does not mean that they have lost, what it means is that it is not possible to accommodate everybody given the available positions. Therefore, as long as we follow a democratic process, all candidates are winners and above all our SWAPO PARTY and democracy are winners.**

**Those Comrades who may not make it on the PARTY List should not be discouraged. In SWAPO there is always a second chance.**

**Indeed some of the Comrades here who are today members of the National Assembly tried more than once before they become successful. So remember that all of you Comrades will still be proud members of our Mighty SWAPO PARTY. You will still have a crucial role to play in the PARTY. I encourage you to stand up and vigorously campaign for your PARTY in the forthcoming elections. Tomorrow it might be your chance.**

**Due to the busy schedule ahead of us and before I hand over to the Election Committee, I would like to once again appeal for national unity and for PARTY unity. I wish all the candidates good luck.**

**I look forward to a smooth election for all our candidates including those who were elected at SWAPO Party Regional Conferences and those elected by the different Party Wings and Affiliate Organisations to form part of the ‘pot’.**

**Forward to a landslide victory for the SWAPO Party in November.**

**SWAPO: UNITED!  
SWAPO: VICTORIOUS!  
NOW: HARD WORK**

**I thank you.**