



**HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT OF THE
SWAPO PARTY AND OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LAUNCH OF THE 2009 SWAPO PARTY
ELECTION MANIFESTO**

5 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 Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party

Comrades, Members of the Central Committee

Comrades Delegates to the 2009 SWAPO Party Electoral College

Members of the Media,

It is with great pleasure and joy that I am addressing you here today. The SWAPO Party Electoral College currently underway is again a clear demonstration of the maturity and capacity of the SWAPO Party to expand and deepen the process of democracy. We have, yet again, ensured that the notion of democracy is entrenched within the SWAPO Party.

In further ensuring that the SWAPO Party captures the imagination of the Namibian people, I am proud to present the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto to the Namibian electorate. I am happy to see that there are so many young Namibians present here today.

Our children are the future of our country and it is important that our programmes and policies are designed to meet the current and future needs of the youth.

The 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto presents the policies and strategies of the SWAPO Party for the next five years. Once the mandate of the SWAPO Party is renewed, which I am sure will be the case, this Manifesto will serve as a Contract between the SWAPO Party and the Namibian people.

The SWAPO Party will, therefore, continue to transform the strategies contained in the Manifesto into practical and implementable projects and programmes to accelerate economic growth, to consolidate service delivery and to improve the living standards of all Namibians.

Today, I am launching the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto in English. The Manifesto will also be printed in all Namibian languages. Our aim is to enable all Namibians to read and understand the Manifesto for themselves. In order to monitor the implementation of the commitments made in the Manifesto, the SWAPO Party will put in place a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track the pace and effectiveness of the implementation of the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto on a regular and systematic basis.

This will enable us to know where objectives are being met and where changes may be necessary. It will therefore enhance effectiveness in the fulfilment of the commitments that we have made to the electorate.

This Manifesto is inspired by the heroic deeds of the heroes and heroines of our struggle who sacrificed their lives and shed their precious blood for the independence and democracy that we enjoy today. It is also inspired by the bravery of the workers, peasants, youth and students who have been and remain the pillars and the foundation of the SWAPO Party.

Therefore, it is no coincidence that the SWAPO Party remains deeply rooted in these sections of our society and they will continue to be the focus of our policies. We are confident that the people of Namibia will once again demonstrate their support for the SWAPO Party by giving us a renewed mandate in the forthcoming elections.

We are the Party that brought about freedom to our country. We are the Party that made it possible for a new Namibia to join the community of free nations. We are the Party that, through supreme sacrifices, paved the way for freedom, peace, and prosperity.

The SWAPO Party is determined to continue to build the firm foundation that has been built since 1990 to provide a better life for all.

The SWAPO Party will continue to fight crime, combat poverty, unemployment and to provide efficient and high quality services such as education, health care, housing, electricity and potable water.

When we came to power nineteen years ago, many communities, particularly in rural areas, had no access to potable water, electricity, houses, jobs and social security. Health care was not accessible to most of our people. The country did not know respect for the rights of workers or the basic conditions of employment. We were a nation divided.

I am proud to say that 19 years of independence we have made significant progress in the improvement of the living standards of the Namibian people. We can all take pride in the fact that, in many respects the lives of our people have been changed for the better. This positive change brought by socio-economic development is continuing in all parts of the country.

The task before the SWAPO Party is that of moving forward with the second phase of our struggle, namely of the struggle for economic emancipation and development in order to create wealth for our people.

The SWAPO Party will intensify efforts to combat the challenges posed by poverty, hunger, disease, and ignorance and to improve the day-to-day lives of all our people.

We will do everything in our power to accelerate job creation through the promotion of value addition, manufacturing and the promotion of small-and medium enterprises. We will continue with the implementation of our short, medium and long-term development plans to make sure that Namibia achieves the goal of becoming an industrialized economy as envisaged in our Vision 2030.

We will continue with the social investments in the sectors of health and education to create a healthy, skilled and productive labour force that can make Namibia more competitive at regional and global levels. We will continue to improve the capacity of the law enforcement agencies and institutions to combat crime and to guarantee security for all our people and their properties. We will tackle crime and disorderly conduct by insisting on tougher sentencing for serious crimes, providing more to the police and local councils, putting more police officers on the streets and ensuring that our correctional services are repositioned to reform offenders especially the youngsters so that they do not become hardened criminals. We will continue to protect families in their own homes and the public at large.

During the past nineteen years, we have demonstrated that our goals are achievable. Moreover, Namibians have shown that by joining hands across all sectors of society and working together, even the most difficult problem can be overcome.

The SWAPO Party is the winning party! Unlike other our party has the will, the capacity and the necessary experience in the area of governance to bring about a better life for all citizens in our country. The SWAPO Party will continue with ongoing policies to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of resources to all communities in all parts of our country.

During the forthcoming elections, the SWAPO Party will put forward committed candidates who will articulate the needs of our people and work hard to find effective and durable solutions to the challenges facing our people. During the coming elections, I urge the Namibian people to vote for the SWAPO Party.

The SWAPO Party Government is committed to bringing the fruits of development to all our people. In the five years ahead, Namibia needs a leadership committed to higher economic growth, strong infrastructure, excellent public services and the building of stronger communities. We will vigorously pursue policies and programs geared towards addressing the inherited social inequalities and the elimination of all other vestiges of apartheid colonialism.

This will enable us to further combat poverty, unemployment and improve the health of our people by combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS. The Aids pandemic is a significant challenge.

Because of it, we are faced with a human, economic, political and social calamity that affects each one of us. Namibia has a small population of 1.8 million people and we cannot ignore the danger that has befallen our villages, towns and cities as a result of this disease. We will continue to act proactively in search of effective solutions to address the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Land redistribution and the elimination of other social ills will also receive attention.

The choice facing Namibian voter during this year's election is clear. It is whether we will continue to build on strong foundation that we have already built, or whether we will take the risk of losing the gains of the hard-won independence, progress, peace and prosperity of the past nineteen years.

I encourage the Namibian people to make the right choice. We must send a clear message that all eligible voters have a civic duty to vote. In this manner, voters will contribute to the process of democratic governance in the country.

The SWAPO Party is campaigning to be given another mandate to continue with the work of serving the Namibian people. We have already taken huge steps to secure a brighter future for our country. Indeed, we can do more.

Today, by launching the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, I am inviting the Namibian people to read this document and to understand the undertakings that the SWAPO Party is making to the electorate.

During the campaign, SWAPO Party members will interact with the voters in order to provide more information about the content of the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. The SWAPO Party remains the only driving force for peace, development, and stability in Namibia. The Party has delivered on its promises to the Namibian nation over the past 19 years. It is a tried and tested political Party with the credibility and capacity to yet again deliver on its promises.

I am, therefore, inviting you to vote for the SWAPO Party during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in November. Your vote for SWAPO Party is a vote for a secure future, peace and prosperity.

It is now my distinct honour to declare the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto officially launched.

**SWAPO! United!
SWAPO! Victorious!
NOW! Hard Work!**

Long live the SWAPO Party!

I thank you.