



**STATEMENT ON THE SWAPO PARTY OMUTHIYA FIRST
LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTION VICTORY**

By

**Honourable Cde. Pendukeni Iivula – Ithana, Minister of
Justice and SWAPO Party Secretary General**

National Assembly, Windhoek, 29 September 2008

**Comrade Speaker,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

1. The time has come that I am enabled to share in the joy of life again. Thank you for your support and understanding during the passed few months as my family tried to come to terms with he loss of my husband who was a resident of Omuthiya Gwiipundi.
2. As we all know, on Saturday, 26 September 2008, the outcome of the first-ever, Local Authority Elections for Omuthiya Gwiipundi was announced. The SWAPO Party won with more than 2/3 majority (6 seats). None of the remaining parties scored enough votes to gain a seat (DTA 5 votes; CoD 26 votes and RDP 123 votes). The surplus from the SWAPO Party enabled RDP to get one (1) seat. Allow me therefore at this juncture to commend the people of Omuthiya for their overwhelming support and trust in the SWAPO Party to lead them! Their happiness is shared in all 13 Regions and 107 Constituencies.
3. Allow me therefore the opportunity to pay tribute and congratulate the people of Omuthiya for the following reasons: 1) they turned out in large numbers (82%) to vote for their new councilors; 2) they conducted themselves as usual in a peaceful and calm manner; 3) they voted overwhelmingly for the SWAPO Party, my Party. It therefore gives me great pleasure to congratulate the people of Omuthiya for their well deserved victory.
4. Through the policy of decentralization, which was reflected way back in the 1989 Election Manifesto, the SWAPO Party government has brought government closer to the people through the establishment of Regional and Local Authorities Act since 1992. New towns have been proclaimed. Where there were only bushes, there are now vibrant towns such as

Outapi, Eenhana, Nkure-nkuru and others, and now Omuthiya Gwiipundi, which shall also serve as the new regional capital for the Oshikoto Region.

5. Comrade Speaker, prior to the Omuthya elections a lot was said and written about Omuthiya. Many in the local media made themselves guilty by falsely painting Omuthiya as a violent and intolerant place in Namibia. Leading that chorus were those who have formed themselves undemocratically and yet purporting to be democrats. For how can one be democratic when you have allocated to yourself a particular position in an organization without due process which all of us are subject to. For our democracy to be meaningful and credible we should establish procedural requirements which should be met by all political parties intending to play a role in national politics. Interim arrangements should not be allowed in democratic setting such as ours to be the rule of the game. Those candidates serving interests of different political parties at every level of our governance should be properly mandated by the democratic structures of the respective organizations. Failure to adhere to these tenets of democracy will create anarchy which Namibia cannot afford.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

6. The SWAPO Party victory at Omuthiya has mandated and directed us to move faster and accelerate the implementation of development plans in the context of SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2004, NDP3 and all other relevant programs of the SWAPO Party and its Government.
7. In this regard, the newly elected SWAPO Party Local Authority Councilors of Omuthiya are called upon to accelerate the provision of housing, potable water, electrification of all households and the acceleration of the provision of improved sanitary and sewerage services. Increase in public health campaigns and roll out of HIV Testing Centers and anti-retroviral

drugs should be accelerated to halt the spread of deadly HIV/AIDS pandemic. These efforts shall be accompanied by renewed campaigns to educate our people about family planning, and good health.

8. The people of Omuthiya have also given clear orders that the newly elected Councilors should speed up the completion of the Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Center to cater for the diverse interests of our youth, especially in view of the National Youth Council Bill, introduced by the line Minister in this August house last week.

**Comrade Speaker,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

9. On behalf of the SWAPO Party, I am appealing to all of those in elected national positions not to sit on their laurels. Our Plans for the development of this country are all in place, just ready for implementation. The newly elected councilors who will be sworn in today already, should waste no time in embarking upon the tasks which have been waiting for them since February this year.

10. With Omuthiya behind us I call on all SWAPO Party members to focus their attention and campaign vigorously for the Tobias Hainyeko by-election and move into the next gear for the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly elections with vigour and determination.

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members of Parliament,**

11. Finally, as we approach the year 2009, a number of our sister Parties will also face similar elections throughout the SADC region, such as the ANC of South Africa amongst others. Our comrades in these respective

countries must stand in unity and solidarity to defeat the onslaught against former Liberation Movements. The neo-colonial agenda of trying to penetrate our ranks, to cause disunity and confusion should be rejected vociferously through the democratic process, after all, it is thanks to the liberation organizations that democracy and dignity is restored in our respective countries in southern Africa. We should remain united because in unity there is strength.

12. Once again congratulations to all SWAPO PARTY rank and file members for our victory at Omuthiya and many more to come.

I thank you!