



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

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 Ivula 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,

A few weeks ago, I launched the SWAPO Party National Preparatory Committee, which is tasked to ensure thorough and comprehensive preparations for our Party to achieve a landslide victory in the upcoming Presidential and National Assembly Elections. The Preparatory Committee has begun its work and good progress is being made on different fronts and in different aspects. Following the announcement by the Electoral Commission of Namibia last week, we now know that the Presidential and National Assembly Elections will take place from 27th to 28th November 2009.

After this Open Session, SWAPO Party delegates to the Electoral College will gather here to elect our representatives who will comprise our party's list for the National Assembly Elections.

The organs of the SWAPO Party, which include the Youth League, Women's Council, Elders Council and the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW), have together with the Regional Offices completed the process of nominations. That democratic process has produced the names of cadres who are eligible for election to the party list during this convention. The convention is an important process in our party's tradition of choosing leaders in a democratic and transparent manner. It will be guided by our policy documents, which have been adopted by the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party. I am referring to the SWAPO Party Code of Conduct and the SWAPO Party Rules and Procedures for Election of Party Office – Bearers and Party Representatives at Legislative and Government Levels.

I have said it in the past and I will say it again, while victory is certain in November, nothing should be taken for granted or left to chance. We must do everything necessary to ensure that our preparations are complete, thorough and implementable to the last detail. We can do this by conducting the affairs of our Party in accordance with the time-honoured traditions of the SWAPO Party of promoting democracy and unity of purpose in all what we do and say.

This Electoral College is part of the well-established and strong culture of intra-party democracy, which provides for the election of SWAPO Party leaders and party office bearers in a democratic way.

This includes the choice of the cadres who are placed on our party list for the National Assembly Elections. I am proud to say that this culture is alive and well at all levels of the Party from the grassroots at section level, to branches, to districts, to regions, to party wings and affiliate organisations. Therefore, contrary to what our detractors are saying, the SWAPO Party is the most democratic political party in Namibia. Those who are attempting to imitate our democratic culture could only have copied from us.

Yes, the Electoral College will be competitive. But, we must not lose our focus to prepare for a landslide victory in the impending elections. We should all hold hands to ensure that the SWAPO Party emerges stronger from this College and better poised to achieve victory in November. We must ensure that the SWAPO Party remains on a strong footing. Most importantly, we must reinforce unity within the Party and the nation as a whole, by building on the strong history of the SWAPO Party as a mass-based movement and a political home for the majority of our people.

Our commitment to serving the Party and our people must go hand-in-hand with a principled stance not to yield to any provocation that is aimed at causing violence. The party leadership as well as the rank and file of our Party should not fall in the sinister traps being set by those who wish to tarnish the integrity of our Party and Namibia's track record of credible elections.

The SWAPO Party has a proud history of holding free and fair democratic elections. We must continue to build on that proud history by conducting our mobilization work in a manner that is consistent with our Party's dedication to democracy, peace and national reconciliation.

I am confident that during November, the Namibian voters will give the SWAPO Party another resounding mandate to govern our country and to implement development programmes for the benefit of our people in different parts of the country. That mandate will guide our actions as we continue to build on the successes that we have recorded over the years since the SWAPO Party brought freedom and independence to our country and freed our people from the yoke of apartheid oppression.

Dear Comrades,

I wish you all a very successful Electoral College. I am confident that the Party will emerge stronger at the end of this College. To those who will be elected as our candidates for the Party list at this Electoral College, I can only say that the SWAPO Party has placed its trust in you to work for the well-being of our people and to promote the best interests of our country.

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

I thank you.