



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY COMRADE  
DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND  
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE SWAPO PARTY RALLY**

**23 MAY 2009**

**HELAO NAFIDI**

**OHANGWENA REGION**

Director of Ceremonies;  
 Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob, Minister of Trade and Industry and Vice President of the SWAPO Party;  
 Comrade Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, Minister of Justice and Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;  
 Comrade Erkki Nghimtina, Minister of Mines and Energy and Chairperson of the National Leaders assigned to Ohangwena Region;  
 Comrade Marco Hausiku, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Leader assigned to Ohangwena Region;  
 Comrade Lempy Lucas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Leader assigned to Ohangwena Region;  
 Comrade Usko Nghaamwa, Governor of Ohangwena Region;  
 Honourable Governors present;  
 Omufimanekwa Ohamba Meekulu Mwadinomho Christian Nelumbu;  
 Aasimanekwa Aakwaniilwa nOmalenga;  
 Honourable Regional and Local Coucillors;  
 Comrade Members of the Regional Executive Committees of the SWAPO Party;  
 Comrade Members of the District Executive Committees of the SWAPO Party;  
 Comrades:

I feel deeply honoured for the invitation extended to me to address you here at Helao Nafidi this afternoon.

In the next two days, Namibians will join millions of fellow Africans on the African continent and those in the Diaspora to celebrate Africa Day, the formation of the OAU, the forerunner of the African Union. The OAU was formed on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Among the aims and objectives of the OAU was to promote unity and solidarity of the African states, defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and eradicate all forms of colonialism and apartheid from the face of the African continent.

I, therefore, would like to pay special tribute to Africa's founding fathers and revolutionaries among them President Kwame Nkrumah, first President of the Republic of Ghana, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Emperor Haille Selasie, Ahmed Sekou Toure, Modibo Keita, Patrice Lumumba, Ben Bella, Nnandi Azikiwe, Murtala Mohamed, Julius Kambarage Nyerere, Jomo Kenyata, David Kenneth Kaunda, Augustinho Neto and others who made contributions to the total liberation of the African continent.

I also would like to express gratitude to the Government and people of Angola for their sacrifices and selfless contribution to the attainment of our genuine freedom and independence. It was the heroism of the combined forces of the Angolan

FAPLA, Cuban Internationalist forces, and SWAPO's People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), that defeated the Presidential Regiment of PW Botha of the minority white apartheid regime of South Africa at Cuito Cuanavale, leading to the collapse of the last vestige of colonialism in Africa and paving the way for the independence of Namibia on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990 and the birth of the democratic and non-racial South Africa on the 27 April 1994.

Today, Africans stand tall among all the peoples of the world, as free, independent, sovereign peoples who are charting their own future destiny. As we embark upon the second phase of the struggle for economic independence, let us all, as Africans on the continent and those in the Diaspora, re-dedicate ourselves to the genuine economic independence and to ensure brighter future for our continent, and enhance the welfare of all our peoples. Let us take a vow, carry and build on the legacy of our forebears and unite to defend our hard-won freedom and independence, the sovereignty, territorial waters and the airspace of our beloved continent.

Comrades,

Here in our country, SWAPO rallied all Namibians to fight and liberate our country from the yoke of the minority, white apartheid colonialism of South Africa. During the bitter years of our armed national liberation struggle, thousands of Namibian sons and daughters sacrificed their lives and shed their precious blood so that Namibia can be free. As we all enjoy peace and stability today in Namibia, we must always remember our heroes and heroines whose blood waters our freedom. After the long protracted political, diplomatic and armed liberation struggle, we finally achieved our victory on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990, when our flag for freedom was hoisted over the entire territory of Namibia, and we declared to the world that Namibia is free forever.

Comrades,

After the attainment of our genuine Freedom and Independence, the SWAPO Party Government embarked upon the second phase of the struggle for economic independence with the clear purpose of eradicating poverty, diseases and ignorance. During the past nineteen years, the SWAPO Party Government has implemented milestone development projects in all the thirteen regions of our country.

We have constructed road networks to enhance the transportation of goods and services in all our thirteen regions. This include the construction of the Trans Kalahari High Way, the Rosh Pinah Aus Road, the extension of the railway line

from Tsumeb to Oshikango via Ondangwa, the deepening of the Harbours of Walvis Bay and Luderitz, the construction of the Rundu-Elundu Road which is part of the wider Trans-Caprivi Highway through Nkurenkuru-Okongo-Eenhana-Onuno through Omafo-Ongenga-Okalongo-Outapi-Tsandi-Omakange-Opuwo to the envisaged port of Agra Fria on our north-western coast, where a new Harbour will be built. The Agra Fria Harbour will serve, as an important link between Namibia, in particular and the wider SADC region as well as a gate way to Europe, North America and Latin America. The SWAPO Party Government has also initiated the Policy of Decentralization in order to bring the government closer to the people. As a result, we have proclaimed towns and village councils in all the thirteen regions of our country. Our people are now enjoying the delivery of quality public services and other amenities.

Comrades,

Agricultural production remains the mainstay of our national economy. It is for this reason that the SWAPO Party Government has prioritized the development and improvement of agriculture. Over the years, the SWAPO-Party Government has initiated programmes that are aimed at expanding agricultural production, including crop farming and aquaculture. We have initiated aquaculture projects in various regions of our country, while irrigation projects have been established along the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers through the Green Scheme in order to improve food security in our country. Our Government is now establishing silos in several parts of the country so that we can store sufficient food in the country.

Comrades,

Education and training is the key to sustainable socio-economic development. In this connection, education and training have received enormous attention since independence in order to equip our people with relevant skills and knowledge for development. While, we have increased school enrolment at the primary and secondary phase levels, we have also expanded academic programmes at the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia as well as at the Vocational Training Centres and Teacher Training Colleges.

Last month, the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Namibia was officially launched at Ongwediva by His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia. Next year, 2010, the University of Namibia will open the new Faculty of Medicine in Windhoek. In few years, Namibia will have its own medical doctors and engineers trained in Namibia. I, therefore, call upon all parents to ensure that our children

attend school and take their education seriously so that they can contribute to the realization of Vision 2030.

Comrades,

As it is stipulated in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, a healthy nation is a productive nation. It is for these reasons that the SWAPO Party Government has prioritized the provision of quality health care to all Namibians. We have built clinics and hospitals, while programmes to fight diseases such as Malaria, TB, Heart Disease, Cancer and HIV/Aids have been extended to all our major hospitals and health centres.

Comrades,

This year, our country is affected by the world economic recession which has impacted our national economy negatively. We have also experienced floods in various parts of our country which has destroyed crops and infrastructure such as roads. We are grateful to our Government for the manner in which it responded promptly to mitigate the negative impact of the floods. Efforts to mitigate the effects of the floods will continue and all those affected will be assisted.

Comrades,

As you may be aware, our country is blessed with abundant natural resources. We should therefore ensure that we embark upon value addition and beneficiation of our natural resources so that we can enhance the growth of our national economy and create employment opportunities for all our people.

Over the years, the SWAPO Party Government has created conducive environment for the growth of medium and small businesses. I am pleased to state that many Namibian businesses has risen to the challenge and established profitable ventures that have created employment opportunities for thousands of Namibians.

The SWAPO Party Government has established the Development Bank of Namibia to provide funding for profitable and productive ventures. I, therefore, urge all Namibian entrepreneurs to initiate development projects and approach the Development Bank of Namibia for financing. By so doing, we will be able to create employment opportunities for all our people.

Comrades,

This year, our country will hold Presidential and National Assembly Elections. As members of the SWAPO Party, we must enter these elections united and with only one common purpose, namely to win the elections with 100 percent. Political mobilization must be intensified so that we can win the elections with a resounding victory. I would like to urge all SWAPO Party members to continue educating all Namibians about the aims and objectives of the SWAPO Party as well as the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto so that we can ensure that the SWAPO Party becomes a political home for all Namibians and lead our country towards genuine economic independence.

The SWAPO Party Government will confront the challenges that we face with determination. The SWAPO Party Government's priority remains focused on the re-doubling of our efforts to effectively implement the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto so that we can eradicate poverty, ignorance and diseases from our communities, and to firmly place our country on the irreversible path of sustainable development. We must continue to mobilize all Namibians to join the SWAPO Party. In order to attain our goal; we must re-invigorate Party activities in all the sections, branches and districts and educate the broad membership about the policies and guidelines of the SWAPO Party. Unity and solidarity is paramount, therefore, the ultimate goal must be to ensure unity among SWAPO Party members and in our communities.

The realization of our national development plans and programmes will become a reality, when we have peace and stability in the country. It is therefore evident that when we cultivate unity in the structures of the SWAPO Party and among its broad members and the nation at large, we will assure unity, peace and stability of the Namibian nation.

I, therefore, would like to urge all Namibian voters to vote SWAPO Party for peace, stability and sustainable socio-economic development.

I believe that a united people, striving to achieve the common good for all the members of the society will always emerge victorious.

SWAPO United!  
SWAPO Victorious!  
Now Hard Work!