



**PRESS CONFERENCE**

**ADDRESSED**

**BY**

*COMRADE PENDUKENI IIVULA-ITHANA,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF SWAPO PARTY*

**ON THE OUTCOME OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU  
MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2008 AT THE  
SWAPO PARTY HEADQUARTERS**

**WINDHOEK**

**17 NOVEMBER 2008**

**Members of the Media  
Comrades and Compatriots,**

## **YOUTH POLITICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES**

1. The Politburo met on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2008, with the SWAPO Party Youth League Executive Committee Members and directly engaged this important sector of our society, on a number of critical issues pertaining to our political and developmental issues of common concern.
2. This inter-generational Indaba reaffirmed SWAPO Party's inner Party democratic operations to foster the principle of unity and discipline with itself, through engaging all relevant and important components; the Party Wings and Affiliate Organization as enshrined in our Party's constitution.
3. The meeting between the PolitBuro and SWAPO Party Youth League leadership served as an historical milestone in the annals of the SWAPO Party, as it was the first of its kind in the history of our Party that a meeting at such level has taken place under one roof. It is in this context that the Politburo engaged and will continue to

engage with the SWAPO Party Youth League on issues of Party and national concern.

4. The Politburo therefore reemphasized the Party's Constitutional position that the youth across all levels of society are the transmission belt and the backbone of development and engine of economic growth and development. The following issues therefore formed the basis of this important meeting of the Politburo and the Executive Committee of the SWAPO Party Youth League:

- Acceleration of the legislation process of an All-Inclusive Black Economic Empowerment policy, which should guide domestic private sector and international investments and not only the state, with a special emphasis on programmes for youth and women empowerment;
- Intensification of further capital support to local and regional governments to enable them to create business opportunities and employment creation opportunities for the youth;
- The continued restructuring of our education system so that it gives our youth the necessary skills to engage in economic activities of benefit to them, and to increase funding to tertiary institutions, and bursary to as many secondary school leavers as possible.
- That the state should encourage more labour intensive activities, through construction of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railways,

ports, schools, hospital, housing, including rural housing programmes, cement plants and in many other productive sectors of the economy, where meaningful and sustainable jobs can be created to fight back the frontiers of unemployment and poverty;

- That there should be an expansion of an availability of economic resources, such as wildlife, tourism and mineral exploration concessions and that the government should assist youth to meaningfully enter the strategic hospitality and catering sectors.
- Accelerated process of Integrated and Sustainable Youth Development Programmes by all Government Ministries/Offices/Agencies and the Private Sector,

5. The Politburo further emphasized that youth development must be an integral part of what we do in the Regional and Local Authorities. In this regard, youth development and participation must assume a center stage in our national development plans, not only for the state but also inclusive of the domestic private sector and international investors.

6. On specific economic issues as submitted by the Youth League and derived from their Economic Transformation Convention held in May this year, and its Congress Resolutions the Politburo resolved to refer these issues to the Economic Committee chaired by the Vice-President who is also the Minister of Trade and Industry, to critically examine these submissions for implementation.

7. The Politburo further encourages the SWAPO Party Youth League to continue playing its vanguard role as the ears and eyes of the Party. In this regard, the Politburo expressed its appreciation to the SWAPO Party Youth League for generally serving as a watchdog for the Party. The role it played in the MCA debate and other issues of national concern is remarkable and appreciated.

## **STRATEGIC REGIONAL GEO-POLITICAL ISSUES**

1. The Politburo also deliberated on the current political and security situation in the SADC region.
2. In this context, the Politburo deliberated on the conflict situation in the eastern DRC, as well as the political stalemate in the Republic of Zimbabwe.
3. The Politburo calls for a speedy and peaceful resolution of the DRC conflict which has affected the civilian population. To this end, the Politburo urges the SADC Troika on Defense, Security and Politics to assist in resolving the crisis in DRC to avert a full-scale war which might destabilize the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). It further called upon the international community to render all necessary humanitarian support to the civilian population in the affected region of the DRC.
4. In this instance, the Politburo reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, particularly ZANU-PF, and urges the mediator comrade Tambo Mbeki, appointed by SADC, to find a lasting solution to the current

- impasse, which will ultimately lead the nation to economic emancipation.
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  6. The Politburo took note of the latest political developments in South Africa and has decided to monitor the situation closely against the backdrop of a long standing fraternal and comradely warm relationship that has been existing between SWAPO Party and the ANC of South Africa.
  7. The Politburo has taken note of the intensified propaganda by our adversaries with the clear purpose of reversing the gains of the former liberation organizations which are now the ruling parties, notably MPLA, ZANU-PF, ANC, FRELIMO, SWAPO Party and others.

## **Members of the Media**

### **Dear Comrades and Compatriots,**

Let me once again take this opportunity and thank you most sincerely for responding to our invitation to attend this conference and hope that through you, as always, the nation will be informed.

I thank you for your attention.