



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**COMRADE DR. RICHARD NCHABI KAMWI, MP  
HON. MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**DURING THE**

**LAUNCH OF THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

**OMUTHIYA TOWN**

**2 FEBRUARY 2008**

The Director of Ceremony  
The Representative of the King of Ondonga  
Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers (present)  
Hon. Governors and Regional Councillors (present)  
Members of SWAPO Party Central Executive Committee & Politburo  
The SWAPO Party Regional & District Coordinators  
Heads of Government, Parastatals and Private Sectors  
Distinguished invited Guests  
Ladies and gentlemen  
Comrades & Friends

This rally should have been addressed by Comrade Dr. Sam Nujoma, The Commander in Chief of the Peoples' Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the Republic, the Father of the Namibian Nation, and Leader of the Namibian Revolution. Due to unforeseen circumstances he could not be with us. It is thus with a sense of humble honour that I stand in for a leader such as him to address you.

Comrade Nujoma led the struggle for the Namibian Revolution; he brought about independence, freedom and democracy for which some others claim to be the champions. Comrade Nujoma brought us up, and brought us back to Namibia safe and sound. He educated us and gave us opportunity to develop this country. He appointed many of us in different positions as Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Heads of Parastatals, and Ambassadors, among others, laying the foundation for this country.

Comrades and Friends

It is the evolution of that same spirit that brings us here today.

We are launching the campaign for local authority elections for Omuthiya Town Council. The local authority elections of this new and beautiful town to-be will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008, where the mighty SWAPO Party and other political parties will

contest for the seats. I however have no doubt that SWAPO Party will win all the seven seats.

What do these elections mean for the Community of Omuthiya?

As a newly proclaimed town, there is now serious need for development, promoted by locally elected institutions. It is the individuals who will serve on these institutions that we are here to introduce to you today; leaders of the Omuthiya community who will work for its development and its ambassadors in all other communities whether local, regional or international.

You as electorate must look for quality leaders then. A group of individuals who will promote the ideals of peace and democracy; leaders who will consider their service to Omuthiya first, and their service to themselves second; people who will exercise sound judgement, manifest ethical conduct, and be all-inclusive in their approaches; and individuals who have demonstrated capacity and abilities.

Indeed, through this historic election in Omuthiya, we as SWAPO Party are advancing candidates with these necessary qualities, who will maintain unity, who are disciplined, who show and demand respect; and who will promote a culture of tolerance and collective development for Omuthiya. These are the qualities you must be looking for.

Director of Ceremony, Comrades and Friends

Allow me to give you in brief, the achievements of the SWAPO Party Government in Oshikoto, and in particular Omuthiya, since Independence. We all know for sure that at Independence, the Oshikoto region was very underdeveloped in all aspects of life. There were sandy roads and most parts of the region were inaccessible. Today we have decent gravel roads and this has reduced time spent to travel. We are however continuing to implement the road master plan

as adopted by the Oshikoto Region. A further remarkable achievement is the railway line that runs across this region, from Tsumeb to Ondangwa.

As far as health infrastructure is concerned, at Independence there were only Onandjokwe and Tsumeb hospitals. People used to travel long distances to these two hospitals. At present the SWAPO Party led government has built numerous clinics within reach of many citizens in this region. We are also going to build a hospital here, at Omuthiya, and plans are at an advanced stage. This has been made possible by our Chinese friends who have been supporting the SWAPO Party led government.

At Independence there were very few schools and learners had to walk long distances to attend these schools. Today there are schools within short walking distances for all our children in Oshikoto Region and most of them have conventional classrooms. The few that do not have classrooms, the SWAPO Party led government will continue to address that deficit within our various National Development Programs as we have witnessed over the years. NDP1 and 2 have made significant impact in this sector and we are convinced that much will be achieved through NDP 3 and the successive National Development Program.

In the early years of our Independence there were only a handful of secondary schools in Oshikoto Region such as Oshigambo, Etosha, Otjikoto, Nehale and Uukule. The SWAPO Party led government has built Ekulo and Onguti Senior Secondary Schools and Omuntele Secondary School will soon be constructed. This has and will reduce over crowdedness at secondary school level.

Much has been achieved in the Education sector in the Oshikoto Region in terms of training for teachers and Principals to such an extent that the region has been the top performing in both Grade 10 and 12 for the past three years, I am also reliably informed that it is still in the second position for Grade 10 results for 2007. I am

convinced that more progress will be done with the implementation of ETSEP and the National Development Programs.

As far as communication is concerned, at Independence, communication infrastructure was very under developed we all recall how we used to call by requesting the number from Telecom and would wait for a day. Such days are gone because the SWAPO Party - led government made the communications business environment friendly to investors. Today we can call from our cell phones within a few seconds.

May I inform you that with the establishment of Oshikoto Regional Council in 1992, much has been achieved in the area of local government. Constituency offices were established and offices built to bring government closer to the people. In this regard, the following constituency offices were built: Olukonda, Onyaanya, Onayena, Okankolo, Eengodi, Omuthiya and Guinas. Omuntele constituency office is now under construction. The two remaining offices, Tsumeb and Oniipa, will be built during the course of this year. Additionally, Omuthiya, Onethindi, Onayena and Oshivelo were proclaimed as settlements.

In 1998/99 Oshikoto Regional Council decided to relocate from its present headquarters in Tsumeb and also to make Omuthiya a town. This decision of Oshikoto was endorsed by the Cabinet and preparations were set in motion in 2004 to build bulk services such as roads, water reticulation, sewerage reticulations, and electricity are still to be put in place.

The landowners and property owners that are affected by this development of Omuthiya were also compensated. Today it has cost Oshikoto Regional Council an amount of N\$3 million to compensate those who are affected. The process is still continuing.

The Regional Council has also facilitated the construction of its head offices, the Town Council office and a Multi Purpose Youth Centre. The Town Council needed to be built early so that the local authority councillors and the administrative staff can start working in a conducive environment to make their town a vibrant town and real gateway to the North.

The peace and stability that the SWAPO Party-led government has maintained over the years since Independence, has made these gigantic achievements possible. We will continue to mobilize for further investments in this sector together with others.

Dear Comrades, as we prepare for these important elections, allow me to warn you to be mindful of the ideals upon which Namibia was built. It is the blood, sweat and tears of our fellow Namibians which have given us our valuable stability, our peace, and democracy. These ideals must be actively safeguarded.

Colleagues, as we speak, our sister country Kenya is battling a serious situation. As we are aware, culturally directed violence, killing and destruction broke out following disputed elections. This is indeed a grave situation. While we hope and pray for the swift resolution of the suffering there, let us take heed. We must do our utmost best to uphold transparency, legitimacy and maintain peaceful order in all our electoral processes.

As hard as we fought for Independence, with the same resolve, let us hold fast to our peace, development and progress. This is the task at hand. Now that we have liberated ourselves, we must educate our nation and develop the country together.

Dear Comrades,

The development that we are so earnestly striving for doesn't operate hierarchically. It does not start and end in Windhoek. No, it starts within the community, from the local Authority together with

Regional Councils. When we talk of basic needs and services: water, sanitation, shopping malls, tourism, telecommunications, schools, roads, hospitals and clinics, sports and cultural facilities; all of cannot and must not be decided in Windhoek.

You can see how important this upcoming local authority election is for Omuthiya and for the Namibian nation at large. Therefore, when we talk of bringing development to the regions, we need women and men who will inspire, who will consult with the community leaders, who are in touch with the people, who will think collectively as a team, know the history of our country. With these women and men leading a community, the vision can clearly be charted because they know where they came from, they understand where they are presently, and so they can best steer where that community is going.

Comrades and Friends,

My assignment here today is to inspire you with the SWAPO Party vision and achievements, and to introduce the winning candidates - the visionary leaders that I have been talking about. It is only our mighty SWAPO Party that has such quality leadership. This is the only party which advocated and brought about gender equality – a vital element to the progress of any nation.

I now have the honour to introduce to you the Comrades who will steer the development in the newly proclaimed Omuthiya Town. Ladies and Gentlemen, the SWAPO Party Candidates are:

1. Comrade Samuel P. Shivute (Mr.)
2. Comrade Selma Nakaziko (Mr.)
3. Comrade Hiskiel Nanyeni Jambo (Mr.)
4. Comrade Toivo Nghilalulwa (Mr.)
5. Comrade Mwetuhanga Hishekwa (Mr.)
6. Comrade Katrina N. Uusiku (Ms.)

7. Comrade Toini Andreas (Ms.)

We now know who our comrades are. I wish to invite you all to rally behind these comrades. I am counting on you, the Regional and District Coordinators for Oshikoto, Comrade Governor of Oshikoto and your entire team of Regional Councillors, comrades and friends to take up the campaign aggressively.

We want a total team of SWAPO local councillors for Omuthiya!

**SWAPO UNITED!**

**SWAPO A VICTORIA!**

**NOW: HARD WORK!**

Thank you Comrades.