



# SWAPO PARTY PROFILE

*Unity In Diversity, Natural Resources Beneficiation,  
Youth Empowerment, Sustainable Development.*





SWAPO Party is a mass movement which rallied together and united all the people of Namibia in the struggle for national independence. It is this unity of purpose and action that made us emerge victorious from the yoke of colonialism and gained our independence on 21 March 1990. SWAPO Party will continue to embrace all the people of Namibia for the task that lies ahead of nation building, eradicating poverty, unemployment and creating social safety nets on the basis of solidarity, freedom and justice.

## Unity in Diversity

Upon assuming state power in 1990, SWAPO's immediate task has been to maintain peace and stability by unifying the people of Namibia through National Reconciliation. **Unity in diversity** has been the hallmark of SWAPO Party policy to maintain peace and stability and are prerequisite for nation building and development. Concurrently, SWAPO set out to transform the state machinery to promote the interests of all the people of Namibia irrespective of creed, race or ethnic origin and to create a democratic dispensation based on the principles of **solidarity, freedom and justice**.

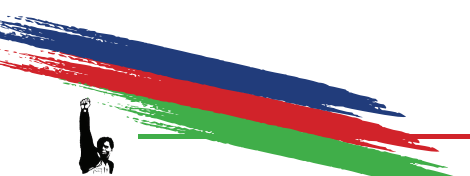
The principle of **solidarity** denotes unity of purpose and action among the people of Namibia, compassion with the poor and vulnerable and mutual support at different levels.

**Freedom** is a fundamental right to govern ourselves as a nation without external interference. It also denotes the freedom of expression and for the people of Namibia to participate freely in the political, social and economic life of society and to have the capacity to interpret political events in Namibia and internationally. It also involves striving for freedom from hunger, disease, poverty and ignorance.

**Justice** is not only a matter of equality before the law but also encompasses fairness in the allocation of resources and opportunities where everyone can reach his or her full potential irrespective of their background. This also involves equitable distribution of resources and opportunities across the fourteen regions of Namibia. SWAPO Party will continue to ensure that the less developed regions of our country will be accorded targeted interventions to bring them at par with the other regions.

## On Democracy and Development

For SWAPO Party, poverty and unemployment are the greatest threat to democracy, peace and stability. Therefore, the empowerment of the people of Namibia, particularly, the disadvantaged inclusive of women and youth, is a priority as set out in the Party's Constitution and Political Programme. The SWAPO led Government in implementing the Party policies, initiated various schemes to empower the people of Namibia in the social and economic spheres. SWAPO thus undertook to work for the acceleration of economic growth through value addition to natural resources in order to bring about greater prosperity for all.





## Empowerment of the Workers

The workers of Namibia, just like in the rest of Africa have been engaged in the social and political struggle against colonialist, apartheid and imperialism which mainly affected workers (and their families) from various corners of Namibia. This was propagated and applied through the inhumane **South West Africa Native Labour Association (SWANLA)** contract labour system, which was used to recruit workers for mining, railway, white farming (agriculture) and fishing commercial sectors amongst others.

The suffering, killing and disappearance of many black Namibian workers inculcated in them, the yearning for unity of purpose and action. SWAPO was formed by the workers who saw the need to fight for the abolishment of the brutal migrant labour system and for national liberation.

The working class has been and continue to be a mandatory strategic steward and ally of SWAPO during the three phases of the struggle, namely a first phase to free Namibia from the bondage of colonialism, a second phase of the attainment of independence and a third phase of market regulation.

The relationship between the workers of Namibia and SWAPO Party is underscored by the affiliation of the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) to the SWAPO Party, the formalised **ACCORD** which governs this relation based on shared common objectives with independence of each party, where they are playing an important role to safeguard the interest of the workers.

For SWAPO, the workers continue to play an important role in the economic development of Namibia through their indispensable provision of labour. At the Party level, there is a full-fledged Department of Labour which is promoting broad minded labour relations. The Party programme includes the protection of workers democratic rights to organize themselves for the articulation of their own interests, sound industrial relations and fair work practices as provided for under Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of Namibia.

The workers are further accorded collective withdrawal of their labour when confronted with unjust practices by the employers as provided for under the Labour Act 2007. Several labour relations agreements have been signed between the workers and employers and will continue to be reinforced.

## On the Land Question

SWAPO Party recognizes that land is the basis of social and economic development. The historical alienation of traditional land from various communities through brutal means including genocide and their confinement to primarily barren communal areas have condemned the people of Namibia to poverty.

SWAPO Party therefore believes in land reform to address historical injustices but also to improve the productivity of the agricultural sector. In pursuance of these objectives, the SWAPO Party led government held two national land conferences in an effort to bring a permanent solution to this vexing problem. Some of the recommendations from these conferences formed the backbone of the land reform and agrarian reform policies. In this regard, various schemes have been introduced such as the affirmative action loan scheme and the land resettlement programme among others.





DEMOCRACY



EMPOWERMENT



LAND QUESTION

Since 1990, through the resettlement programme the SWAPO Party led government acquired 603 farms equivalent to **3,483,083.226 hectares** to the value of two billion four hundred and eighty three million six hundred and thirty four thousand four hundred and ninety five Namibian dollars and 15 cents (**N\$ 2,483,634,495.15**). The Government provides Post Settlement Support which the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform implements in conjunction with Agribank. This loan facility of N\$ 200,000.00 is provided without a requirement for the beneficiaries to provide a guarantee.

Through the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme about 648 loans were granted to male and female beneficiaries and land totaling **3,407,368.6458 hectares** was acquired at the cost of **N\$ 777,453,939.01** Namibian dollars. The SWAPO Party urges that the ongoing review of the national resettlement policy as tabled in parliament must ensure significant participation by the youth of Namibia.

The SWAPO Party led government, through the Flexible Land Tenure system, is reforming land in urban areas. This initiative is targeting informal settlements in Local Authorities, Municipalities, Towns, Village Councils and it has given rights to the residents of informal settlements, including Oshakati and Gobabis. In this regard, the government has covered fees for surveying and registration in the Deeds Office. For example Land Rights Title Certificates have been issued to 1300 beneficiaries in Oshakati and Gobabis respectively. The cost for planning, surveying and registration for Oshakati amounted to N\$1,177,467.00, and for Gobabis was N\$ 1,273,890.00.

The Government has thus far covered or waived the registration fees in the Deeds Office of N\$6,500,000.00 which beneficiaries would have collectively paid if they were to register their properties using conveyancers.





The SWAPO Party further recognizes that limited availability of land is not only confined to the rural areas but also to urban areas where high rate of urbanization has put tremendous pressure on infrastructures in towns. To this end, the SWAPO Party will continue to promote equitable land ownership for all Namibians in both rural and urban areas by strengthening the existing legislative framework.

### **On Empowerment of Communal Farmers**

SWAPO Party recognizes that farming in the communal areas provides income to a large number of Namibian people. SWAPO Party will work towards an improved land tenure system in the communal areas that accord commercial value to the land to be used as collateral. This will among others facilitate access to financing for communal farmers. A concerted effort will be made to ensure that financial institutions are encouraged to assist communal farmers in general and in particular upcoming young farmers.

SWAPO Party believes in the modernization and mechanization of farming in the communal areas through the provision of ploughing services and access to equipment by communal farmers. In particular the SWAPO Party will continue to advocate and, through its government, implement agricultural mechanization scheme, as well as seed systems development scheme, which are key for sustainable crop and livestock value chain improvement.

Equally important is the access to water, seeds and livestock improvement programmes in order to enhance productivity. SWAPO Party recognizes that improved market access for produce from the communal areas, crops and livestock respectively, will generate substantial income for communal farmers. Against this background Agriprocessing and Agribusiness will be given priority. Agricultural subsidy for both communal and commercial farmers will be improved in line with the current review programme to mitigate the impact of climate change and research on drought resistance crops will be intensified.

Agriculture remains the backbone of national development. Government will increase investment in agriculture to ensure productivity of the green scheme. The government will further review and adopt more agriculture incentives.

### **On Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**

SWAPO believes in equality between men and women and equal pay for equal work. SWAPO has introduced the policy of 50/50 for recruitment to leadership positions within the Party and its Parliamentary representation. This policy is tacitly also implemented at the level of the SWAPO led government. To this end, the SWAPO Party Government will ensure that local authorities and enterprises create facilities to care for children of working mothers and ensure that women take full part in the production process as well as the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Equality between men and women is to be entrenched in the Namibian society through conscious efforts for gender awareness in development planning and the delivery of services in all spheres of national life. Namibia is to harness the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of women who are more than 50% of the population if it is to progress beyond the current situation. The SWAPO Party strives to increase the share of women, including young women, in leadership positions in Government. Significant strides have been made in this regard as women occupy strategic positions in the Party.





## On Youth Empowerment

SWAPO Party recognizes that over the past 34 years of independence, Namibia's youthful population has grown exponentially. This also marks the first time in the country's history to have highly skilled population in various fields of study. Unfortunately this growth in population also presents a challenge because the growth of the economy has not created enough jobs to significantly reduce the high rate of unemployment in the country. The SWAPO Party also recognizes that there is scope for more young people to be deployed in strategic positions in the executive, legislature, parastatals and private sector.

SWAPO Party recognizes that the high rate of unemployment in our country hit the youth hardest. Furthermore, the lack of experience, mismatch between available skills and the fast changing demand of the labour market, limit the opportunities for the youth to enter labour market.

The new economic prospects on the horizon promises to create employment opportunities in the near future that the youth of Namibia can take full advantage of. Naturally, the youth are easy to train and mould to take advantage of new opportunities that requires technical skills and a different mindset. Consequently, last year the Green Hydrogen Council have begun a scholarship programme on Green Hydrogen and total of 90 students from the second cohort were successfully awarded scholarships to various universities and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. A total of 76 students have secured placements in 15 different institutions. Among these, 11 students are pursuing master's programmes, and 31 are TVET students.

The SWAPO Party led government has directed the public institutions of higher learning to put emphasis on training unemployed matriculants. The University of Namibia (UNAM) has introduced a readiness programme and over 7000 students have been absorbed within the five campuses of UNAM. The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) on its part has expanded its engineering bridging programme to include over 1500 students, while the TVET centres are expected to absorb 2000 students. Furthermore, three TVET centres are expected to be inaugurated this year namely Keetmanshoop, Khorixas and

Nkurenkuru respectively. The Keetmanshoop TVET Centre will amongst other things specialize in oil and gas as well as the emergent Green Hydrogen. The National Commission on Science and Technology (NCRST) has been tasked to develop a comprehensive research on matters pertaining to education and skills development.

Furthermore, institutions on Oil and Gas are being established. In having commercially viable oil and gas resources in place, training in various technical and geoscientific fields to young Namibians is progressively been carried out from the exploration phase. The value and supply chains will be developed fully, this will increase economic opportunities, employment creation and skills development for the youth.

SWAPO Party therefore believes that the youth of Namibia can play a critical role in the development of Namibia given their energies and creativity. Special training programmes will have to be designed in the various sectors of the economy for the development of technical and managerial skills among the youth in order to contribute to the acceleration of social and economic development.

Furthermore, the Party recognizes that there is a need for a deliberate and robust policy to overcome the hurdles for access to finance for young people to create their own businesses such as through schemes under the National Youth Council as well as other governmental interventions through the Ministry of Youth and National Service. The SWAPO Party led Government will ensure that the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, in collaboration with the Development Bank of Namibia, AgriBank and other OMA provides young people access to finance to create their own businesses.





### On Empowerment Through Education

Recognizing the important role that education plays in the development of any nation, SWAPO Party identified education as a priority. To this end the Party through its government facilitated access to education for Namibians over the years by establishing the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) which provides financial assistance to eligible students at approved tertiary educational institutions in Namibia and other countries around the globe. This year, the NSFAF received 31,114 applications for financial assistance, of which 23,785 met funding requirements which is a significant increase of 3 651 funded students compared to those in 2023. Upon independence in 1990, SWAPO Party led government set out to democratize access to education, through, among others, free compulsory primary education. This resulted in the increase in leaps and bounds in enrolment in primary school. Currently there are 2047 educational facilities in the country and they will be increased to meet the demand of the increasing population. The SWAPO led Government has consistently increased the budget allocation on education. The focus now is to continuously improve on the quality of education, through teachers training and availing equipment and facilities to schools.

SWAPO Party believes that the quality of infrastructure at educational institutions affects the quality of teaching and learning. The Party is therefore committed to improving the infrastructure of public schools through building new class rooms, and to renovate schools especially in the rural areas as well as the provision of other amenities such as water and sanitation with the resources of government and that of society at large.

The SWAPO Party led government increased access, attaining equity and improving the quality of Basic Education and TVET through Project End-line Evaluation of the Education and Training Quality Improvement Project (ETQIP). More than N\$1 billion was spent on infrastructure during Covid 19 Pandemic. Over 1000 classrooms were constructed in 2023, and the project is continuing.

In this regard, several activities were undertaken including renovations and upgrading of classrooms, hostels, dining halls and science laboratories of the twenty-two (22) schools (19 secondary and 3 primary schools) across all fourteen (14) regions of the country, and one (1) National Library and Archives. The renovated schools include: Ashipala SS, Ongha SS, Nehale SS, Lordsville JSS, Andara CS, Mariental HS, Augustineum SS, Concordia HS, Dibasen SS, Okakarara SS, Ernst Meyer PS, Epukiro Post 3 JSS, Andimba Toivo ya Toivo SS, Oniipa PS, Onesi SS, Ernst Jager CS, Linus Shashipapo SS, Caprivi SS, Omuhonga PS, Mavuluma JSS, Braunfels Agricultural HS and Himarwa lithete SS.

SWAPO Party is committed to promoting research and innovation through National Commission on Science and Technology (NCRST) as the basis for creating the industrial society envisaged in vision 2030. In this regard, in addition to establishing the University of Namibia, Namibia University of Science and Technology and vocational training institutions, SWAPO Party created its own school and Think Tank, respectively, to impart knowledge and to facilitate innovations in the various walks of life to complement the efforts of government and other institutions in our society.

## Access to Health

Since independence, SWAPO Party, through its government, has ensured that health receives priority in terms of budgetary provision in order for all Namibians to have access to quality healthcare in the country. The SWAPO Party has already directed its government to ensure that there is universal healthcare for all Namibians. The SWAPO Party led government has commenced work on this key policy initiative which will significantly ensure that all Namibians have access to quality healthcare.

More than 85% of the Namibian population depend on public health and social services provided through hospitals and other health facilities managed by the SWAPO Party led government. This include 322 clinics, 56 health centers, 34 district hospitals, 4 intermediate hospitals and 1 national referral hospital.

In addition, there are more than 1150 outreach points. The portfolio of services offered at public health facilities consists of primary healthcare services, including health promotion, preventive and curative interventions, immunization, as well as tertiary and specialized services offered at our tertiary healthcare hospitals.

The SWAPO Party led government is also committed to training more health workers such as the number of doctors, nurses, medical technologist and medical assistants to improve access for the majority of the people. SWAPO Party government will ensure that all trained health professionals are accommodated in the health industry. The training of health professionals will be planned to close the gap in the sector. SWAPO believes that community based programmes designed to increase community participation in the promotion of sanitation and health education will contribute significantly to the health of the nation. Hence, community healthcare workers will be strengthened.

The SWAPO Party recognizes that some new graduates in the medical fields including veterinary specialists are unemployed. The party will work closely with its government and all relevant OMAs to ensure these medical personnel are absorbed in order to render critical services to the health sector across the country.







### **On Housing**

The quest for affordable and decent housing for all has been one of SWAPO Party's priority. The unprecedented rural urban migration that took place after independence has created what could be termed a housing crisis. The increasing demand for housing, particularly, in urban and peri-urban areas around the country, has outstripped the capacity of local authorities to deliver houses and land for residential purposes.


The SWAPO Party led government will ensure that the current programme on housing delivery will be improved and continue to be carried out by municipalities, the National Housing Enterprise and the Shack Dwellers Federation. These entities will be strengthened through additional resources. Employers, especially the medium and large enterprises will be incentivized to support their employees to have access to housing.

The cost of building materials has been prohibitive to realize the objective of decent housing for all. To overcome this problem, SWAPO Party led government will take appropriate measures to support the production of local building materials. Furthermore, government in partnership with the private sector will introduce financial housing schemes to cater for the low-income section of the Namibian society.





## Environmental governance for sustainable development



SWAPO Party believes that our natural environment is the common heritage of all Namibian people, the present and future generations. SWAPO Party recognizes that Namibia's environment is fragile, yet it is the basis of our substance. As enshrined in our Constitution, the protection of the environment remains a priority for SWAPO Party. We believe that conservation and development can co-exist. Against this background, various economic activities such as tourism, mining, fisheries and agriculture have to be carried out in a way that ensure environmental sustainability. The SWAPO Party believes in the promotion of domestic tourism as an avenue to sustain the industry at all times.




## Natural Resources Beneficiation

SWAPO Party believes that all the natural resources belongs to the people of Namibia and should be used for the benefit of all the people. They should be exploited in a sustainable manner and be processed locally to the extent possible in order to create jobs and to transform Namibia into an industrial society. The export of minerals in raw form and the importation of finished goods is undesirable and urgent measures are to be taken to bring an end to that system.

Namibians should participate in the management of resources through the entire value-chain. The limit of technical know-how and lack of capital for exploration should not be an excuse. The party will continue to urge and direct its SWAPO led government to prioritize the training of young Namibians in the key fields of geology, geophysical, mining engineering, topography among others so that they can participate meaningfully in the management and beneficiation of the country's natural resources.





The people of Namibia are the greatest assets of the SWAPO Party. SWAPO Party as a mass movement embraced all the people of Namibia in the struggle for national independence. The same people will be embraced in the struggle for economic independence to bring about a prosperous Namibia for all. In the upcoming Presidential and National Assembly Elections on 27 November 2024, YOUR VOTE for SWAPO Party Presidential Candidate and for SWAPO Party will ensure Unity in diversity, natural resources beneficiation, youth empowerment, sustainable development for all the people of Namibia.

**ENTRUST THE SWAPO PARTY TO CONTINUE SERVING YOU**





**VOTE  
SWAPO  
VOTE  
NETUMBO  
NANDI-NDAITWAH**

27 November 2024

**SWAPO**



**2024**

