

AFRICAN EUROPEAN PARTY DIALOGUE: 04 – 05 SEPTEMBER 2017

OPENING REMARKS BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF SWAPO PARTY CDE. NANGOLO MBUMBA

- **H.E Cde Dr. Hage Geingob – Acting SWAPO Party President**
- **Cde Laura McLeod- Katjirua**
- **Cde Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah – The Master of Proceedings**
- **Cde Prof Dr Hertha Daeubler-Gmelin**

1. Welcoming remarks

On behalf of the SWAPO Party and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) we have the honour to officially welcome you to the African European Party Dialogue of Socialists and Democrats, being hosted in our country, Namibia.

I would further like to extend a special thanks to all our delegates and in particular our international guests who have travelled from the various parts of Africa and Europe to attend this very important gathering of friends of Socialist, Social democratic and democratic African – European Political Parties.

2. The Conference theme is titled “Overcoming inequality as a political challenge “at this time in history there couldn’t have been a more appropriate time to discuss this very important topic which lies at the very heart of most political organisation namely “How to overcoming the various forms of inequality, in order to bridge the current extreme forms of inequality that exist, throughout the world.

3. It is well documented that income inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10% individuals earning up to more than 40% of global income. While the poorest 10% of human beings earn merely between 2 to 8 % of the total global income.

4. Namibia being one of the countries, like many other countries present here today that are suffering from high levels of inequality, it has become of paramount importance to curb the widening disparities through sound policies, in order to empower the bottom percentile of income earners while trying to promote economic inclusion, overcoming

the colonial legacy regardless of race, gender, ethnicity and class structure.

5. As we gather here as friends that share a common interest, outlook and history as Socialist and Democratic parties, it is important to acknowledge the strength that International Solidarity has played in the past and will continue to play in the future, in our concerted effort to build a better and more just World for all to live in.
6. The SWAPO Party in collaboration with the FES have taken the initiative to relaunch the dialogue. We must face the challenges of poverty, social injustice, youth unemployment, gender inequality amongst other topics in the spirit of International Solidarity. We believe that as Progressive Parties we have the capacity to develop visions for a better and fairer world while striving to attain the Sustainable Development Goal 10 – which advocates for reduction in inequality. This also happens to have been a motioned sponsored by the Progressive Parties, in the interest of our societies. While harnessing the true power of international cooperation.
7. I would now like to take the opportunity to introduce our Key note speaker of the day.

H.E Cde Dr Hage G. Geingob the President of Namibia and that of the SWAPO Party, as you might be aware Dr. Hage G Geingob;

1. As a young man he left a teaching job to defy the order of the day in search of knowledge and justice.
2. He left the country by foot traveling through Bechuanaland, Zambia, DRC before reaching Tanganyika
3. He attained a US scholarship – studied for a BA and MA , he subsequently was appointed and represented SWAPO at the UN in 1964.
4. Back to Education – In 1975 until 1989, he was appointed as the Director of the United Nations Institute for Namibia – the training ground of most of our cadres during the struggle and the forerunner of our own SWAPO Party
5. Forwarded to lead his people back home – In 1989, he spearheaded our SWAPO election campaign and became the Chairman of the Constituency Assembly which formulated our Constitution.
6. Success in the crucial 1989 elections

7. H.E Cde Hage Geingob, was our Prime Minister for 14 years, he is a member of the SWAPO Party Politburo and Central Committee, the President of the Republic of Namibia.

8. Once again I would like to welcome you all to Windhoek, Namibia feel at home and enjoy your stay in the Land of the Brave.

9. Your Excellency, the floor is yours.

SWAPO Central Committee Members in 1970

1. Cde Sam Nujoma
2. Cde Moses /Garoeb
3. Cde Ben Amathila
4. Cde Peter Mweshiange
5. Cde Hifikepunye Pohamba
6. Cde Hage G. Geingob
- 7. Cde Peter Nanyemba**
8. Cde Richard Kapelwa
9. Cde Nataniel Maxwilili
10. Cde Hendrik Witbooi
11. Cde Mwisheki Muyongo
12. Cde Mzee Kaukungwa
13. Cde Lineekela Kalenga
14. Cde Libertine Amathila
15. Cde Homateni Kalwenya
16. Cde Putuse Appolus
17. Cde Andreas Shipanga
18. Cde Salomon Mwifima