

HONOURABLE SPEAKER

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

Conscious of the spirits of my late mother Otilie Kandjose /Amiros Apollus Hinda, and of my ancestors which surrounds and protects me, with your permission Honourable Speaker I wish to address this August House for the first time under a theme, **‘PEACE; STABILITY and PROSPERITY’**

Praise be to my Creator who guide and protect my journey through life, that brought me here, to serve the people of Namibia and humanity at large. He carried me through trials and tribulations and helped me to overcome adversities. I am grateful for the blessings and opportunities presented to me.

It will be remiss of me if I don't express appreciation to our Former President, H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba, who recognised potential in this Vaalgras girl and nominated me for the Swapo Party list and thereby accorded me an opportunity to be part of this pool of respected and capable Members of Parliament.

My special thanks go to our President, H.E Dr Hage Gotfried Geingob who appointed me as a Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members

Swapo Government has succeeded to transform Namibia into a peaceful home for all through the dynamic and charismatic leadership of our Founding President Dr. Shafishuma Sam Nujoma.

This legacy was continued by his successor His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, who ensured stability through his unique leadership style which, inter alia, earned him the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

In making the announcement, Salim Salim said: “....His ability to command the confidence and the trust of his people is exemplary. During the decade of his presidential mandate, he demonstrated sound and wise leadership. At the same time, he maintained his humility throughout his presidency”.

Indeed, a master of elegance and modesty, he believed in collective leadership. Now the call is to place for collective interest to redress the challenge for prosperity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

His Excellency Dr. President Hage Geingob has directed us all, to put the collective interest of the Namibian people first. “Nobody should be left out”, poverty be eradicated and living standards elevated,

It is a call for a people centred government indeed, but ^{not} ~~and not~~ a new call, no not at all. It is the fundamental principle and foundation on which Swapo was formed and the basis of its’ Political Program. After political independence, we put the political framework in place "The Policies" and have to marched to a “People's Government”.

Honourable Members, the necessary implementation drive we have, but seldom with misplaced interest.

His Excellency President Dr. Hage Geingob has consistently defined the task facing our Nation today, as that of "Prosperity and Inclusiveness".

Before I dwell on the issues of "Prosperity and Inclusiveness", which relates to the motion before the House today, I wish to underscore that peace and stability are *sine qua non* for development. It is therefore important to preserve the achievements of peace and stability.

At the turn of the century African Leaders declared the 21st century as Africa's century. Fifteen years down the line we are yet to see tangible signs of the prospects for prosperity. Africa has the potential and Namibia can take the lead. We have what it takes to realize the goals set out in Vision 2030. ^{+ Africa Agenda 2063} In actual fact, it is our responsibility to pursue within the market economy, a window for social justice.

There are enormous challenges that we have to overcome in our March to prosperity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

The latest survey available on "Distribution of household by main source of income" states that in average 22.5% of Rural households depend on "Old age pension" as main source of income as compare to only 5.5% of Urban households, but in some regions as high as 41.6%. (In interpreting I could say, need of old age homes may even be high in villages.)

The provision of the "Old Age Homes" is grounded in our belief, that while we pursue a market economy we have to take social responsibility and protect vulnerable groups in our society. This is the context in which the provision of Old-age homes and any other social safety-nets has been provided by the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

^{encouraged}
and ~~still~~ to be provided

It does not take away the family responsibility to care for our elders. Caring for the weak and the poor is a moral obligation on the side of the Swapo Party and the Government. I say Swapo Party not only because we are the ruling party but because even back in the days of the liberation struggle, the Swapo Political Program was clear and I remember the song "...Forward, forward we shall move.

There will be houses, security and comfort; forward we shall move to the people's government...."

It was clear that at independence we will not have arrived but we will move ^{for}wards, and strive towards achieving the people's government where nobody will be left out.

This is precisely what we have done as Swapo Party we have marched in the right direction consistently from the times of the Political Program of Swapo as a Liberation Movement. We ensured during the negotiations of our constitution in 1989, that social responsibility including the caring for vulnerable groups is an obligation and a right. ~~We have to~~ ^{we have to} guarantee a basic right to dignity for all. ^{including the aged.} ~~We are committed to restore dignity and.~~

They are embedded in our constitution, may not always be achievable, but are desired. These moral values should permeate the structures and consciousness of our society as we move towards realizing total eradication of poverty and unemployment. We have collectively and individually the moral responsibility to offer not just leadership but moral leadership.

Honourable Speaker, I am saying the only decision we need to take, ^{Naturally} is to put National interest first and the rest will fall into place. Moral leadership ^{will have the} ~~has a~~ necessary psychological impact ~~and~~ will snowball, ^{and realize} the required paradigm shift.

↓ Moral leadership only ask you to do what is right, and in the best interest of our people for common good. ~~y~~

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I would like to salute, a distinguished daughter of Namibia, Africa and the World, Dr. Helena Ndume for the well-deserved award.

She is an outstanding example of the moral leadership that I have been talking about. If each and every one of us take their responsibilities seriously, than we can make Namibia “ ***A Better Place for All***”.

