

NAMIBIA'S PEACE STATEMENT

Presented at the Torch of Peace Concert, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 25 August 2003

Namibia is happy to associate itself with the activities devoted to peace in the world in general, Africa and Southern Africa in particular.

Until its independence 13 years ago, Namibia, as a country, was subjected to apartheid colonialism, racial discrimination and violence. The people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO of Namibia, waged the struggle for national liberation. This legitimate struggle enjoyed the support of progressive people the world over. This support was spearheaded by the Front Line States, including Tanzania in particular. This ensured that Namibia achieved her national independence in March 1990. Since then, our country has enjoyed peace and stability, and registered positive socio-economic progress.

Namibia fully supports and associates itself with this important event dedicated to peace, and in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in countries still experiencing social strifes, civil wars and conflicts on the African continent. We would also like to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine who are struggling for independence and self-determination.

It is significant that this Peace Concert is taking place in Tanzania, the land of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the country

that has been a pillar of support for the national liberation struggles in Southern Africa, and contributed significantly to the dismantling and elimination of the last vestige of apartheid colonialism.

As we identify ourselves with the activities devoted to peace, we draw inspiration from great and visionary African leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Agostinho Neto, Kenneth Kaunda and many others who never wavered in their commitment to the total liberation of Africa and provided political, moral and material support to the National Liberation Movements, including SWAPO of Namibia.

We believe that striving for peace is a noble cause, because peace is the necessary condition for social and economic advancement. Conflicts and civil wars in Africa have caused tremendous human suffering. Innocent women and children have become victims and much needed resources for human development have been diverted resulting in increased poverty and destitution.

The Peace Concert in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania today is for a good cause. Humankind deserves to enjoy peace and security, as a right rather than a privilege.

It is our responsibility, the people of Africa, to make our continent a tree of peace.