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Speech on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC).

Bv: Niilo Taaooi of SWAPO of Namibia.

Mr. Chair person,

Comrade Billy Modise, The ANC Chief Representative in Sweden,
Comrades members of ANC,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Normally, at birthday celebrations people are coming together to congratulate the baby and to enjoy. But at occasions like this, we are here to salute the comrades of ANC and together with them to commemorate the 8th January 1912.

During the course of 78 years of ANC's existence, we would like to single out some aspects out of many which have characterised the movement in its long history. First, is the ability to change with changing time and situation.

When the ANC was formed, it was an organisation of Africans only, it defended and promoted the rights of the Africans; it fought against the colour bar in the 1910 constitution; it fought against the land robbery and against the extension of passes to women. By its very existence, ANC has established African political, thought as an autonomous factor in its own right in the history of South Africa. Today the ANC is the voice of all the people of South Africa. These

developments, these innovations, came about after many battles and sacrifices, and the leadership of the ANC especial of those who served and still are serving long terms in prison and those outside the country, President Oliver Tambo in particular played a very important role in this process. We salute him and wish him a get well.

Dear comrades,

We in SWAPO salute, the leadership, rank and file of ANC for the important role they have played during the course of 78 years of struggle in South Africa.

Today we see the apartheid regime facing a deep and irreversible crisis. All its political strategies of sustaining apartheid have failed dismally. As the crisis against apartheid intensifies, the ruling class is

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becoming more and more fragmented. They no longer have any vision of the future. Today the ANC has captured the centre stage of political life in South Africa.

The 78th Anniversary is taking place at a time when the people of Namibia are undergoing an interesting period. After decades of bloody war and political confrontations, our country is today on the brink of peaceful political, social, spiritual and cultural rebirth. A new era has dawned on our land.

More than a month and half ago, our people were, able for the first time in history, to exercise their long-denied right to self -determination; they have elected their leaders.

Conscious of their responsibility to the Namibian people, the elected leaders in Constituent Assembly have been working very hard, thus, the assembly has made impressive progress in its historic task of writing Namibia's independence Constitution.

During the independence elections In November 1989, SWAPO received an absolute majority. This means that the Namibian people have given SWAPO a clear mandate to form the first government of independent Namibia. As such our people have been waiting for the constituent assembly and the leadership of SWAPO to take all necessary steps towards independence.

In line with the mandate the SWAPO has received to set up the first government for independent Namibia, SWAPO Central Committee met from 18-20 December 1989 to take important decisions on future dispensation.

A decision was reached for SWAPO to announce a cabinet consist of 16 ministries, besides a President, as head of state, and the Prime Minister, the chief assistant to the president.

Mr. Chairman, Your excellencies, comrades and friends, the stake in the Namibian election implied a choice between freedom and perpetual colonialism. The victory of SWAPO meant that the borders of freedom have been extended from Kunen to the Orange river. This also mean that

the victory of SWAPO is a victory of the Frontline States, a victory of the ANC, a victory for OAU and indeed a victory for all those forces fighting against apartheid colonialism. In this context, Namibia under a

SWAPO led government, will render its unwavering solidarity and support to the oppressed people of South Africa under the leadership of the ANC, within the framework of the OAU and UN, until the achievement of a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Let us all declare the decade 90's as A DECADE OF PEACE, A DECADE OF
NON-RACIAL AND DEMOCRATIC South Africa.

Long Live ANC!

Long Live Umkonto We Sizwe!

Amadla! Maatla!

All power to the people!