

Salma Prepares for a New Namibia



Salma lives in a traditional hut in Ovamboland, Namibia. She, like many women of Africa, sews and knits dresses, scarves and headdresses. But Salma works with three main colours. Red, blue and green - the rich colours of South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO).

A SWAPO Supporter All My Life

Salma lives in a part of Namibia that has always been tense since the armed struggle against the South African government and its army began in the 1960's.

"I have been a SWAPO supporter all my life," says Salma. "My two brothers left the country to join PLAN, my family has supported SWAPO since the beginning, and now elections are coming, I have nothing more to fear. Viva SWAPO!"

"SWAPO has fought the war and won. Now we must show our support for our boys and girls who have been fighting." Salma has survived a tough and tragic war. Her commitment has got her through. She and her close family members have survived. But, like so many others, she has lost other family members, and friends.

Salma sews in the colours of SWAPO.

The war has caused great pain for the people of Namibia for more than 20 years. Now Salma feels more relaxed, as she talks freely of her experiences.

SWAPO Colours Are Everywhere!

With the war now over, attention is on the elections, on the returnees, and on a free and independent Namibia. What Salma is doing with her sewing and knitting has grown into a kind of fashion. Before, people in Ovamboland wore only their colours of SWAPO in very safe places for fear of death or detention. In time, people became more bold as they saw the arrival of white trucks and cars with the big UNTAG sign. This was a sign that fair and free elections should come to Namibia for the first time.

Now the north of Namibia is full of people wearing T-shirts, scarves, dresses and caps - all in the rich red, blue and green of SWAPO!

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