

**Welcome Remarks :Leadership & Basic Management Skills for SWAPO  
Party Women Council Workshop, 20 - 22 July 2007**

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Members of the SPWC

Secretariat of the SPWC

All Protocol Observed

On behalf of FES we feel honored to be associated with you today. The Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation would like to congratulate the SPWC for taking up this initiative to empower the women of Namibia. Such efforts are welcomed by FES because they are complimenting government policies such as the National Gender Policy which is aiming for gender equality for women and men. The FES also welcomes this initiative because it empowers women and by so doing it contributes to the socio-economic development of the Namibia society.

Leadership and Basic Management Skills are one of the key foundations for any institutions. Without these competencies any organization will not be successful and nor will it be able to achieve its objectives. Thus it is very important that women are empowered so that they can add value within their political and economic institutions and address social and economic problems such as HIV-AIDS and violence against women (amongst other problems) within the Namibian society. With capacity building workshop such as this one, the FES strongly believe that women are able to make significant changes because they perform dual responsibilities within our communities. These dual responsibilities which I am referring to are paid and unpaid labor which are performed selflessly by women in our society.

During the 2 day workshop participants will be learning and discussing about leadership but what is leadership?

According to Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, *“leadership is not a position, it is action defined by a vision, which is guided by ethics and driven by a commitment. In order to nurture leadership properly, we must learn to communicate by opening many platforms for national caucuses and debates, while we should remain open to criticism, introspection and exploration.*

*Therefore it is essential that the voice of those who are represented and those daring to be different be heard.”* According to different scholars across the globe; a leader can only be effective and efficient when he/she possess the following five qualities.

**Vision:** “Without vision action is a daydream”. (Japanese Proverb)

**Voice:** “The art of communication is the language of leadership”. (James Hamus)

**Listening:** “The greatest motivational act one person can do for another is to listen”. (Roy Moody)

**Team Building:** “One hand cannot applaud alone”. (Arabian Proverb).

**Heart:** Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. (Marthin Luther King Jnr.)

In conclusion, dear Comrades, since resources and opportunities are scares my appeal to you is to make the best of this opportunity and implement the skills in your working environment. There is saying which says *“Knowledge is only powerful once it is utilized.*

With these remarks dear comrades, I wish you successful deliberations