

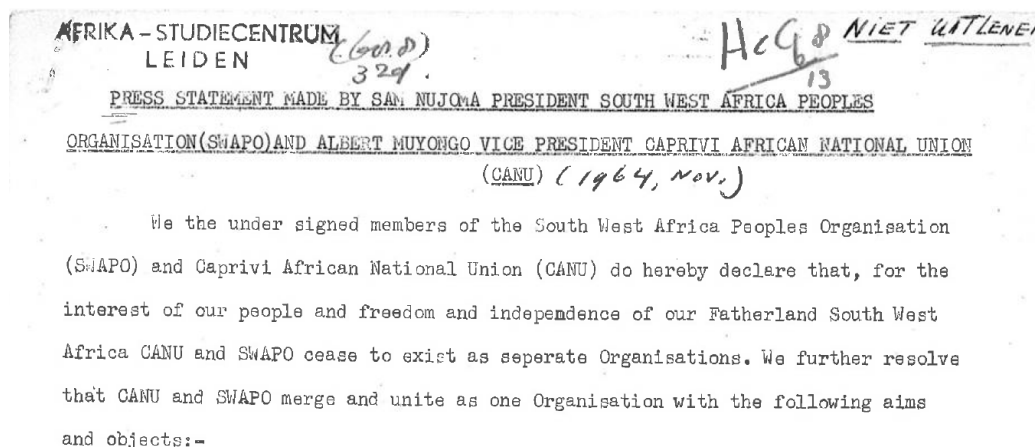


The SWAPO / CANU merger of 1964

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Fifty-four years ago on 5 November 1964, a joint press statement was issued by Sam Nujoma, President of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO), and Albert Muyongo, vice president of the Caprivi African National Union (CANU). The press statement announces the merger of SWAPO and CANU. At the time, the President of CANU, Brendan Kangongolo Simbwaye, was imprisoned by the South African authorities.



The press statement goes on to list the objectives as follows:

1. - To fight relentlessly for the total liberation of South West Africa from the yoke of the South African Imperialism.
2. - To foster the ideal of Pan-Africanism and to rally the African masses into a cohesive National Organisation.
3. - To strive for the creation of true democratic Government in South West Africa, a Government that would serve the interest of all the people of our country irrespective of their colour, race, ethnic origin, religion or creed. *sic*

After the opening paragraph, for the next four pages, a historical overview follows of (then) South West Africa since the end of the first world war. It relates how the country became a mandated territory entrusted to the Government of the Union of South Africa, and the request by South Africa in 1946 to incorporate South West Africa into the Union. It then goes on to describe the plans of the South African government to establish tribal 'Bantustans'.


The report also contains a detailed account of the arrest of Brendan Simbwaye, the President of CANU. According to the press statement the arrest took place on 29 July 1964. After a month in prison, Mr. Simbwaye was served with restriction orders signed by the South African Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, M.D.C De Wet Nel. The full text of the restriction order is included in the press statement.

On page five the press statement concludes with the following paragraph and signatures of Sam Nujoma and Albert (Mishake) Muyongo:

Despite the arrest, imprisonment and intimidation of the African people by the South African Imperialists, SWAPO shall continue with the struggle until self determination and national independence is achieved in South West Africa.


ALBERT MUYONGO

VICE PRESIDENT
CAPRIVI AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION


SAM NUJOMA

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANISATION.

P.O.Box 577

L U S A K A .

5th November 1964.