

**By Morgan Colbert**

**Word Count: 400**



On March 21, history was made as Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was sworn in as Namibia's first woman president after winning the November 2024 election.

As she was inaugurated, Ndaitwah declared that her responsibility as the fifth president of the Republic of Namibia is to preserve the nation's independence and ensure balance and prosperity for all.

Ndaitwah, a devoted loyalist to the South West Africa People's Organization, swears to uphold the goals and values of the independence group. Vowing to continue to fight for gender equality and further push its bounds. The president also plans to invest in infrastructure to increase economic growth and improve unemployment. To better Namibia's quality of life, she plans to reinforce the education system and implement universal healthcare.

Ndaitwah has been a prominent SWAPO figure since 1966. Starting off as a youth organizer, Ndaitwah led protests condemning South African apartheid and supporting the independence of the Namibia people. These actions caused her arrest in 1978 and later her exile. After Namibia gained independence in 1990, she joined the National Assembly, serving continuously until becoming vice president in February 2024.

With 60 years of political involvement, and now a presidency, Ndaitwah is showing the young women of Namibia that leaders do look just like them.

With Namibia achieving such a great feat, it begs the question of will other countries that have not had a woman as president ever follow suit.

The U.S - a country that prides itself on liberty and justice for all - has never had a woman as the head of state. Are the women of the U.S being fed a lie when they are told they can be anything?

According to the data in a 2024 Pew Research Center study, most adults believe that a woman would be neither better nor worse than a man. 68% of U.S adults say it is not that important that a woman be president in their lifetime. While these results are not outright rejecting a woman president, the indifferent attitude is not enough to put a woman in office.

Marginalized groups have to be given equity to excel. Even if a woman's qualifications are the same as her running mate, America has to intentionally want her to be in office and provide the resources to do so. Due to social exclusion, her win cannot simply be an equal tossup, as the odds will never actually be in her favor.