

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNDRAISING GALA
DINNER

SANJO SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

KATIMA MULILO
CAPRIVI REGION

30 JULY 2010

Director of Ceremonies;
 Honourable Ministers;
 Honourable Members of Parliament;
 Honourable Governor of the Caprivi Region;
 Honourable Traditional and Community Leaders;
 Honourable Regional and Local Councillors
 Distinguished Captains of Industries;
 Distinguished Invited Guests;
 Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to join you here this evening and attend this Fundraising Gala Dinner of the Sanjo Senior Secondary School.

Education and training are key important factors for social, economic development. It is against this background that our Government has allocated a lion's share of our national budget to education and training.

We have built primary and secondary schools in all the thirteen regions of our country. We have built vocational training and expanded programmes at the institutions of higher learning. We have established the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Last year, the University of Namibia opened the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at Ongwediva. This year, the University of Namibia has opened the New Faculty of Medicine in Windhoek.

Despite the successes that we have made over the years, our country still faces many challenges. We still have a shortage of skilled and qualified human resources. We need engineers, medical doctors, geologists, quantity surveyors, amongst others. These are the people who will enable our country to achieve Vision 2030. However, we can only achieve Vision 2030, when we put emphasis on Mathematics and Science subjects.

Mathematics and Science are the backbone subjects to many of the professions. Without relegating down the other professions, our country needs various kinds of engineers, medical experts, and agricultural experts. All these professions require Mathematics and Science. I would therefore like to encourage the learners to work harder and study science and Mathematics.

Directors of Ceremonies;

Our Government has provided you with classrooms, textbooks and teachers. It is now up to the learners to take their education seriously so that they can achieve academic excellence. In addition, teacher competency and commitment to the teaching is imperative. The primary job of a teacher is to impart knowledge and skills. The teacher's competency to teach is measured in terms of the number of learners who passed with higher symbols. We, as a country, expect nothing less of symbols A-B in every subject.

To achieve the A-B symbols requires on the part of the teacher, of both competency and commitment to the teaching profession.

However, in as much as we demand that the teacher should be competent and committed to teaching, it is equally demanded here that the learners become committed to learning. Learners' primary task at school is learning. Your results on the progressive cards or reports are the proofs of how much you have learnt. No one should learn to pass with a U, G, F or E. We want to see As, Bs and Cs. The D-symbol is not good enough to take you to the University or Polytechnic.

Our demands for good results should be accompanied by a manifestation of self discipline. We don't only teach you one plus one equals to two' but we educate you in every aspect of life. Self discipline is critical to every success. You need to restrain yourself from all that is not constructive enough. We expect you to come out of the class educated and then apply that education in your daily lives. A school is not a place for unruly behaviors. Your exercising of rights in this school should be done in such a manner that it does not infringe on the rights of others. I ask the principal and teachers to make sure that those that make themselves guilty of misconduct are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, Act 16 of 2001 and the approved school rules.

I have learnt with dismay that despite the available information on HIV and AIDS, contraceptives and many other preventive measures our learners are still falling pregnant. I personally see this as ignorance on your side. You can't mix pleasure with your education. It is time that you stop. Stop the practice right away. You must work on your education first. It is best that you complete your education first, and have children after.

Our parents have unequal task to that of teachers in the teaching/learning of the children. The teaching and learning of learners should not be left to teachers only. In addition to the necessities that you should provide to the learners you are to make sure that learners, especially non-hostel boarders, compulsorily study at home. You are to keep them away from the cuca-shops and bars.

As you are all aware, education is an expensive undertaking. Government alone will not be able to provide all educational materials to all our schools. In order to succeed, we need the participation of all our parents, teachers as well as members of the community, including the business community. Against this background, I would like to call upon all of us gathered here to open our hearts and support the Sanjo Senior Secondary School with our donations and pledges.

I thank you.