

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE COMMUNITY  
GARDENING PROJECT AT OTJOMUISE PROJECT SCHOOL

21 AUGUST 2010

KHOMASDAL NORTH CONSTITUENCY

WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies;  
Honourable Ministers;  
Honourable Mensah-Williams, Councillor for Khomasdal-North Constituency and Deputy Chairperson  
of National Council;  
Honourable Regional and Local Councilors;  
Distinguished Stakeholders represented here;  
Distinguished Community members present;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I feel deeply honoured for the invitation extended to me to come and launch the Community Gardening  
Project here at Otjomuise in the Khomasdal-North Constituency.

Firstly, I would like to commend the impeccable work carried out by various stakeholders, especially  
the Khomasdal-North Constituency under the leadership of Hon. Mensah-Williams, as the custodian  
and implementer of this community outreach project. I would also like to thank the Ministry of  
Agriculture, Water and Forestry for their guidance and advising on the setting up of this garden at the  
site, and for taking responsibility of all the various technical and training program needs. I would also  
like to extend my gratitude to the Michelle McLean Children Trust and the Embassy of the People's  
Republic of China for their support to this project through their sponsorships.

Director of Ceremonies;

It is commendable that we embark upon initiatives that enhance the standards of living for the disadvantaged sectors of our society. I am particularly happy that the output from the garden will be used to provide fresh vegetables to Soup kitchens in the Constituency, especially at schools and in particular for, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC's), People living with HIV/AIDS and people suffering from Tuberculosis in the Constituency. Especially, the self-providing initiative of the school itself under the direction of the Khomasdal-North Constituency in providing healthy and nutritious meals for the children here. These projects should be supported because they compliment our Government's efforts in development.

Director of Ceremonies;

Children are the future leaders of our country and therefore they need to be fed a balanced diet of three meals a day. This project indicates that the people in this Constituency are serious about food security hence the initiative they have taken to make sure that the community is fed with fresh vegetables that is grown on their own soil.

This will instill a culture of food self-sufficiency in our country. It is time that Namibia becomes a self-food production country and stop to rely on other countries for food imports. These types of projects are very important, as they inspire a culture of teamwork and positive thinking. At the end of the day, they also serve as a unifying tool in the community. These crops, provide food and nutrients that will come from it, thus resulting in the children becoming healthy and strong children benefiting is due to the inputs that the community plough back into the society.

We must always motivate and set positive examples for our youth to contribute to the socio-economic development of our country. Our youth should be inspired by projects like these. They need to work hard in life to achieve their set goals, and they need to be masters of their own destiny. They need to be nurtured in order for them one day to be exemplarily leaders of Namibia.

I would like to emphasize that Government can only assist those that assist themselves. Therefore, our people should not expect handouts. Our people in all the thirteen regions of our country should initiate projects in their communities to improve their standards of living. It was due to the need identified by the Khomasdal-North Constituency that this project started in order to feed the children of this school. Today this garden teaches not only the young farmers of this school, but teaches Namibia that hardwork can indeed bring positive results.

Therefore, to be here today and launch this project gives me pleasure because it means that we have dedicated people that are making sure that step by step we are moving towards the attainment of Vision 2030.

In conclusion I would like to urge all Namibians across the country: young and old, men and women to work together for the common purpose of developing the country. It is the responsibility of all of us to forge ahead with economic development and start more projects such as the Otjomuise Community Gardening Project that we are launching here today.

With these few words, it is now my distinct honour to declare the Otjomuise Community Gardening Project officially launched.

I thank you.