

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2010, MASUBIA
ANNUAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

31 JULY 2010

BUKALO TRADITIONAL KHUTA
CAPRIVI REGION

Director of Ceremonies;
His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Honourable Traditional and Community Leaders;
Honourable Governor of the Caprivi Region;
Honourable Regional and Local Councillors
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me immense pleasure to be here to witness the 2010 Masubia Annual Cultural Festival.

Traditional authorities play an important role in the life of the communities. They serve as the custodian of the values and norms of the community that are transmitted from one generation to generation, and hence they contribute to the upliftment of our communities and the socio-economic development of our country.

Before independence, traditional authorities also played a significant role in the national liberation of our country.

I would therefore like to pay homage to the late former Chief of the Masubia, Munitenge Joshua Moraliswani, whom we had closed contact during the war of the liberation struggle. He was a great man, a visionary leader. I first met him in Harare. He wanted SWAPO's military wing, PLAN to inflict heavy casualties on the South African military installations in the Caprivi Region. As a result, the Combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) intensified military activities in the Eastern Front.

Then we agreed with him that the Masubia traditional authority should quit from the South African arrangement of the Bantustans, and he did. The Boers responded by cutting all support, financial and material to the Masubia Traditional Authority. However, SWAPO supported this traditional authority financially and materially.

Every month financial support would be channelled to the Masubia Traditional Authority through our comrades such as the late Comrade Honourable Richard Kapelwa Kabajani, Honourable Dr. Richard Nchabi Kamwi and Ambassador Leonard Iipumbu who are here today, and I am glad the two of them are here.

Those who were around that time would remember that SWAPO even bought a vehicle for the Masubia Traditional Authority at that time to use in place of the resources which the Boers withheld from them. I wish we could even find the body of that vehicle, those tangible parts of our history should be displayed even here at the Traditional Authority or in Open Air Museums as a testimony. In relations, the minority white South Africa colonial authorities embarked upon systematic harassment of the traditional authority in order to stop it from supporting SWAPO. However, despite these deceptive machinations, Chief Moraliswani stood firm and never surrendered to the enemy.

At this juncture, we should also remember one of Namibia's heroes, the late Comrade Brendan Simbwaye, SWAPO Vice-President who hailed from this traditional authority and who has laid a strong foundation. He sacrificed his life for independence that we are enjoying today in Namibia.

Director of Ceremonies;

Namibia is now free and independent. We should now work more harder to eradicate poverty, hunger and diseases. Traditional authorities should play a prominent role to accelerate development in their communities. First and foremost, you should encourage the youth to take their education seriously. This is the only way that we can produce our own medical doctors, engineers, marine biologists, agriculturalists, and mass of qualified personnel who can accelerate the implementation of Vision 2030.

In addition, you should urge our youth to learn and appreciate our traditional norms and cultural heritage.

The youth of today do not want to appreciate their culture and traditional norms. Indeed, they copy culture and mainly Western way of life. They abuse alcohol, drugs and dangerous substances that destroy their lives. We must encourage them to desist from this dangerous behaviour and lead responsible lives.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am disappointed by the inter-tribal conflict in the Caprivi Region where members of the communities fight over the land. These conflicts are not in line with the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. They have a potential to disturb peace and political stability and derail socio-economic development. I believe that traditional leaders should work with the Government to maintain peace in our communities.

At the same time, we should learn how to solve conflicts peacefully and amicably, and forge ahead with national development.

We must first of all think ourselves as a nation not as tribe, in that way we can inculcate nationalism in our children.

I thank you.