

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

20 MAY 2010

ONIIPA DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND (ODTF)

HEROES PRIVATE SCHOOL HALL

ONIIPA-ONDANGWA

Directors of Ceremonies;
Honourable Minister of Youth, Sport and National Service and Event Patron, Comrade
Kazenambo Kazenambo;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Honourable Governor of the Oshikoto Region Comrade Penda yaNdakolo;
Honourable Regional and Local Councilors;
Distinguished Captain of Industries;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I feel deeply honoured for the invitation extended to me to come and officially launch the Oniipa Development Trust Fund here tonight. The Trust Fund aims to contribute to poverty alleviation and promote community empowerment projects. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the founders of Oniipa Development Trust Fund for a very good and progressive initiative.

The establishment of this Fund is a clear demonstration that young Namibians are taking the development of our country very seriously. When we started the bitter liberation struggle, we were young and able Namibians who decided to take up arms and fight for our genuine Freedom and Independence. Now that we have attained our genuine Freedom and Independence, the Namibian youth are called upon to play an active role in national development.

Director of Ceremonies;

Oniipa has played a prominent role in the national liberation struggle of our country. PLAN Combatants were day and night treated at Onandjokwe Hospital. The local ONIITEWA burial ground played a major role in hiding freedom fighters. Secret meetings for political mobilization were conducted from Oniipa. As a result, our comrades who operated underground like the two Nakawa brothers, Kasita Kambundu, Paulus Markus and many others were imprisoned and the latter have vanished in the colonial regime's jails without trace.

It is Oniipa, that raised and groomed the late Dr. Leonard Nangolo Auala, the first indigenous Bishop of the then Evangelical Lutheran Owambo Kavango Church (ELOK), a fearless freedom fighter, teacher, defender of justice and preacher, whom we wish to pay homage and tribute, more especially with his famous Open Letter to the colonial apartheid South African Prime Minister John Vorster, that he compiled jointly with Pastor Paulus //Gowaseb of the ELCRN in the quest for independence that we are enjoying today.

In addition, his successor Dr. Kleopas Dumeni was many times on the Koevoet death list. However such threats never discouraged him to surrender or betray his people, until final victory was achieved on the 21st March 1990. Therefore, as youth, you should not forget those who played a prominent role from your community for the better Namibia we have today. You should not be misled by those who wish to tarnish the rich history of our liberation struggle. A nation that does not respect its history is a lost nation and it does not have a future!

Director of Ceremonies;

The launch of the Oniipa Development Trust Fund signals the new dawn for the Oniipa Community. It is a clear demonstration that young people, intellectuals and professionals must realize that their success is not only owed to their families but equally to the communities from which they emerged. Today, the youth of Oniipa have chosen to put their resources together and improve the wellbeing of their community.

As you are aware, development cannot be attained by Government alone, but by collective efforts from all citizens, especially the youth. Government recognizes the communities that are trying to achieve goals of development and will assist those that help themselves. Your initiative is one of the projects that will contribute significantly to the realization of Vision 2030, and I wish to applaud you for these great efforts.

Director of Ceremonies,

We have won the political freedom and independence. Now, the task of achieving genuine economic independence must be won by the youth who are the future leaders of our country. You must shy away from alcohol and drug abuse and devote your time and energy to productive things that take our country to greater heights. By so doing, you will make the world the better place to live in.

Director of Ceremonies;

Vast financial resources will be required for the ODTF to achieve its goals. I, therefore, would like to call upon all of us attending this Gala Dinner to open our hearts and support the ODTF's initiatives with our pledges and donations.

With these few words, it is my distinct honour and pleasure to declare the ODTF officially launched.

I thank you.