

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FUNDRAISING
DINNER FOR THE KATIMA MULILO TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL SHOW

UNAM
KATIMA MULILO CAMPUS

29 JULY 2010

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Honourable Governor of the Caprivi Region;
Honourable Regional and Local Councillors;
Your Worship the Mayor of the Katima Mulilo;
The Chief Executive Officer of the Katima Mulilo Town Council;
Members of the Katima Mulilo Trade and Agricultural Show Organising Committee;
Honourable Traditional and Community Leaders;
Distinguished Captains of Industries;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I feel deeply honoured for the invitation extended to me to come and attend this fundraising dinner for the Katima Mulilo Trade and Agriculture Fair 2010 here this evening.

The purpose of this Trade and Agricultural Show is to market goods and services produced locally; to expose goods and services produced outside the region; to create opportunities for networking amongst business people; to raise awareness and present product information to potential customers and to increase awareness of Government services available so as to increase access to these services and thereby enhance quality public service delivery.

Over the years, we have witnessed the increase of trade fairs which are held annually in most of our towns. In 2009, the Caprivi Show Society was transformed into Katima Mulilo Trade and Agricultural Fair. This change comes after consultation with various stakeholders. The rationale is to increase the level of participation in the event by the local authority. As we are all aware, Katima Mulilo is the heart of the Caprivi region. Therefore, strengthening the economic growth of the town will have desirable results to enhance the growth of the local and regional economy.

Director of Ceremonies;

The Caprivi Region is endowed with valuable natural resources that are available for exploitation. Using these resources efficiently will unlock the economic potential of the region and improve the livelihoods of residents of this region.

I urge all business people to make use of available opportunities and establish business enterprises that will create employment and compliment our Government in fighting poverty, ignorance, underdevelopment and diseases.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia is working tirelessly to address economic imbalances inherited through our colonial history. As we know, Namibia's Gini coefficient is one of the highest in the whole world. This reflects high inequality in the distribution of economic resources between the haves and have-nots.

In order to address these imbalances, the Government has put forward a long term framework known as Vision 2030 as well as Medium Term Plans known as National Development Plans (NDPS).

Government spending programmes are in line with these plans and are operationalized through medium term expenditure framework (MTEF). This is to ensure that our efforts are targeted at achieving our objectives.

Our Government has also put in place mechanisms to address challenges to development for business enterprises. These include the establishment of the Development Bank of Namibia and the soon to be established SME Bank. The objectives of these institutions is to provide access to much needed capital for funding projects that can create jobs and create income. I urge all you to take up the challenge and initiate development projects and approach the Development Bank of Namibia for funding.

Director of Ceremonies;

I have been reliably informed that Katima Mulilo Town Council has donated land for the construction of the Katima Mulilo Trade and Agricultural Fair Centre. In order to realise these, I am also informed that the Ministry of Trade and Industry has availed an amount of N\$8 million that will go towards the construction of the Centre. This enhances opportunities for further business expansions across the region.

To further grow the business potential in the country, our Government has put in place several incentives for manufacturers and exporters. I urge those in the manufacturing sector to visit the Ministry of Trade and Industry to find out how these opportunities can be accessed.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is a widely recited saying that Caprivi is the bread-basket of Namibia. Indeed we have the potential to feed this country and the rest of Africa. If properly harnessed, the agricultural sector has the ability to feed the nation. Our Government has in this regard established the Agricultural Bank of Namibia to finance farming activities. Against this background, I would like to urge all farmers to make use of this funding opportunity.

Director of Ceremonies,

I would like to use this opportunity to invite potential inventors to come to Caprivi and the rest of Namibia. We have one of the most business-friendly environments that will allow the flourishing of business.

In conclusion, I strongly feel that the Katima Mulilo Trade and Agricultural Fair may not be the biggest in our country but can be the best, given its strategic location to the SADC countries and diversity of products in the region.

I thank you.