

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

25 SEPTEMBER 2010

OLUPAKA COMBINED SCHOOL
OUTAPI CIRCUIT
OMUSATI REGION

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Minister of Education, Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo;
Honourable Ministers; present;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Your Honour the Chief Justice Peter Shivute and Patron of Olupaka Combined School;
Honourable Governor of the Omusati Region, Comrade Sackey Kayone;
Honourable Regional and Local Councillors;
Honourable Traditional and Community Leaders;
Director of Education, Mrs Ester-Anna Nghipondoka;
Distinguished Principal of Olupaka Combined School, Mr Abner Amuulo;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Distinguished Teachers;
Dear Learners;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I feel deeply honoured for the invitation extended to me to come and attend this occasion to witness the introduction of the School Patron and the school fundraising event here at Olupaka this morning.

As the saying goes, “knowledge is power”. It is for this reason that the development of human resources is one of the key areas of development, as enshrined in Vision 2030. Indeed, education and training has received significant attention from our Government since independence. At the moment, education and training receives a lion’s share of our national budget.

The primary objective is to ensure that all our children have access to quality education. In this context, we have built primary and secondary schools in all the thirteen regions of our country.

We have expanded educational programmes at the vocational training centres, teacher training centres as well as the institutions of higher learning, including the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia. Last year, the University of Namibia opened the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at Ongwediva and this year in February 2010, a new School of Medicine was opened in Windhoek.

Our Government has provided all the educational resources to the learners, including classrooms, teachers and other teaching materials. The responsibility now is with the learners to take their education very seriously.

Indeed, the bright future lies ahead for the learners who work harder at school and achieve academic excellence. Hard work, discipline and respect for the teachers and parents at home are the ingredients for academic success.

However, I am disappointed that despite the assistance that our Government provides to our schools, only few schools rise to the occasion and produce good results at the end of the year.

A large number of our learners at schools produce lower results that are not encouraging at all. I, therefore, would like to encourage the learners at Olupaka Combined School to work hard and only obtain A and no C or D symbols.

You must also put more emphasis on Science and Mathematics subjects. These are the subjects that will enable you to pursue technical and scientific fields of study at the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia.

These are the subjects that will enable you to become geologists, medical doctors, engineers, agriculturalists, quantity surveyors, electronic engineers, amongst others so that you can contribute to the implementation of Vision 2030.

Director of Ceremonies;

The home environment has a significant impact on the child's development. When the home environment is conducive to learning and gives a child good care and security, the child develops holistically and becomes a useful citizen in the society.

It has been observed that many parents neglect their homes and abandon their children. They spend their significant time drinking and abusing alcohol leaving the children to fend for themselves. In this environment of lawlessness and disorder, the children also follow in the footsteps of their parents. These are the children who embark upon negative behaviour at school and disrupt school activities. They bully other children and vandalize school properties.

I want to caution the learners and also parents that a bad behaviour child will never become a future leader or useful citizen in the community.

Therefore, as parents, we must make sure that we take care of our children and teach them good behaviours at home. We must assist them with their homework and make sure that we provide them with enough food, clothing and other necessities.

Director of Ceremonies;

The promotion of our cultural values, traditional norms and heritage is crucial for moulding our national identity. Therefore, I believe that as an African country, we must encourage our children to appreciate and develop interest in our cultural values and traditional norms. A large number of our people, especially our youth have lost interest in our culture. As a result, they adopt foreign negative cultures from other countries.

I would like to inform you that when you neglect your own cultural norms and values, you lose self-respect.

We must therefore adopt the positive values of our culture and traditional norms so that we can mould and promote further our own cultural identity.

Director of Ceremonies;

The provision of quality education is an expensive undertaking. While our Government commits millions of Namibian dollars every year to build more schools and purchase educational materials for our schools, these will not be enough. Therefore, as communities, we must compliment our Government's efforts by providing assistance to our educational

sector, be financial or in kind. This is the only way that we can be able to improve the quality of education in our country.

It is always good to identify ourselves with leaders in our society who have proven themselves as committed and hardworking citizens of our community.

I therefore would like to express my appreciation to the School Board of Olupaka and the community here for appointing His Honour the Chief Justice Peter Shivute, who is the product of Olupaka Combined School, as the Patron of the school.

His Honour the Chief Justice Shivute is also a product of SWAPO Education in exile who has equally contributed to the National Liberation Struggle of our country. He is a fighter for social justice, peace and social progress. I, therefore, would like to encourage the learners of Olupaka Combined School to emulate his exemplary deeds.

In the same vein, I would like to once again encourage the learners and teachers of Olupaka Combined School to work harder in order to achieve success in your future endeavours.

In the final analysis, I was approached by the school board to be their Goodwill Ambassador to raise the necessary funds for the school development fund as well as the teaching and learning materials for the school.

At this moment, I wish to announce to you that I have accomplished my task and I will hand over those school donations and contributions in a few minutes.

At this juncture, I urge teachers and learners to look after the school learning and teaching materials in order not to disappoint those who sacrificed their financial resources by assisting this school.

Long Live Olupaka Combined School

I thank you.