

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF
THE NAMIBIAN NATION ON OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

26 MARCH 2010

SAFARI HOTEL
WINDHOEK

Your Excellency, Jia Qinglin, Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference;
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Your Excellency, Madam Ren Xiaoping, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a special privilege and great honour to be here today and celebrate the 20th Anniversary for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Namibia and the People's Republic of China.

Sino-Namibia relations are characterized by strong bonds of friendship and solidarity, which were forged during the difficult years of our struggle for freedom and independence. During the early 1960s, China provided unflinching political, moral and material support to the struggling people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO.

The spirit of solidarity and friendship of the Chinese people and other peace-loving nations of the world made it possible for Namibia to attain our genuine freedom and independence. I can thus state with conviction that the excellent bilateral relations enjoyed by our countries are indeed built on solid foundation.

Immediately, after Namibia's independence 20 years ago, Namibia and China established diplomatic relations, and since then, bilateral relations have been strengthened for the mutual benefit of our two nations.

From 1990 till today, China has been a steadfast partner in our national efforts towards economic and social development. China has thus helped Namibia with the implementation of various projects, including the construction of the National Council and Regional Council's Offices, hospitals and clinics, as well as schools throughout the country. China also donated equipment and other materials to various institutions in Namibia. Such assistance has greatly contributed towards improving the lives of the people of Namibia. We wish to express our profound gratitude and deep appreciation for this generous assistance.

Your Excellency,

During the past twenty years of our independence, Namibia made significant progress in the implementation of our development plans and programmes. We have laid a strong foundation for a better future for all our people through democratic governance and the policy of national reconciliation, which has assured peace and stability in our country. We strongly believe that without peace, security and stability there can be no sustainable economic growth and social development.

The Namibian Government is determined to continue addressing the enormous challenges facing our people such as unemployment, poverty and underdevelopment, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, tuberculosis and malaria that are still undermining our efforts towards economic growth and social progress. These and other social challenges require our concerted efforts to achieve sustainable development, in keeping with our National Development Plans and Vision 2030.

Your Excellency,

It is gratifying to note that trade between Namibia and China has increased significantly since 1990. There is still potential for reaching a higher level of economic cooperation in areas such as investment in research, mining, science as well as innovation and technological development.

There is also a need to balance trade volumes. In this regard, it is pleasing to note that Chinese businesses signed procurement contracts with their Namibian counterparts yesterday. I would therefore encourage more Chinese companies to follow suit by importing Namibian products in our quest to balance trade between our two countries.

Today, as we celebrate this joint joyous occasion, I would wish to request our two Ministries of Foreign Affairs to ensure full and speedy implementation of all the agreements signed between the two countries. Namibia will continue to utilize the platform created by the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) to promote cooperation between Africa and China on matters of mutual interest.

The Namibian Government equally continues to support your efforts to safeguard your sovereignty and territorial integrity and to achieve the reunification of China. I would like to reaffirm our Government's support for the One-China Policy.

I wish to further seize this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Chinese Government and people on the remarkable successes in economic and social development, as well as in championing the cause of developing countries, within the spirit of south-south cooperation.

Your Excellency,

The Government of Namibia will remain engaged with all friendly countries, including the People's Republic of China, in efforts to reform, revitalise and strengthen the UN system, especially the expansion and democratisation of the UN Security Council, to make it more representative and responsive to the aspirations of developing countries.

Your Excellency,

Let me conclude, by reiterating once again our commitment to further strengthening the excellent bilateral relations and strong bonds of friendship existing between our two countries and peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I now invite you to join me in a toast to celebrate this Special Event in our history, to the good health of His Excellency, Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, and to the lasting bonds of friendship between our two peoples.

Long live the friendship between the Republic of Namibia and the People's Republic of China.

I thank you!