

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING  
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PEANUT BUTTER MANUFACTURING  
PLANT

20 MAY 2010

NDC INDUSTRIAL PARK UNIT B-14

ONDANGWA

OSHANA REGION

Director of Ceremonies;  
Honourable Ministers;  
Honourable Members of Parliament;  
Honourable Governor of Oshana Region, Comrade Clemens Kashuupulwa;  
Honourable Regional and Local Councilors;  
Your worship, the Mayor of Ondangwa Town;  
Honourable Traditional and Community Leaders;  
Managing Director of Ndeya Manufacturing Services Providing cc, Ms. Otilie Haufiku;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I feel deeply honour for the invitation extended to me to come and officially open the Peanut Butter Manufacturing Plant here in Ondangwa this morning.

The Plant was established in 2009 with a clear purpose of manufacturing quality peanut butter from locally produced “eefukwa nomakunde” which are grown locally in the northern parts of our country. The industrialization of our economy through manufacturing and value addition to our natural resources is imperative in order to enhance the competitiveness of our national economy and create employment opportunities for our people. Therefore, the establishment of this manufacturing plant compliments our Government’s efforts to grow the economy and accelerate socio-economic development.

Few years ago, women in Ondangwa and surrounding areas established the Eudafano Project, an impressive manufacturing plant here in Ondangwa for the production of marula oil and by-products from local marula fruits which has contributed immensely to the creation of jobs as well as boosting the production of various products which are distributed through our local shops and supermarkets around the country.

Director of Ceremonies;

As I have stated on numerous occasions, Namibia is endowed with abundant natural resources. Yet, we have not harnessed these to enable our people to benefit economically from our natural resources. The great percentage of our natural resources are exported in raw form to other countries where they are processed and exported back to Namibia as finished products. This situation has not only undermined our ability to embark upon producing our own goods but has placed our country and the rest of the African continent in a state of dependency. Therefore, efforts should be made to ensure that we add value to our natural resources and manufacture finished products for our own consumption and export them to other countries.

Director of Ceremonies;

The success of our industrialization drive depends entirely on the enhancement of technical knowledge and skills as well as information communication technology. That means, we require highly skilled and technical personnel in engineering fields to ensure success in the industrialization of our economy. As a practical example, most of machinery used in the country is sourced from other countries and we do not have qualified people to manage them efficiently. Against this background, the training of our people in technical fields will ensure resounding success of the Namibia's manufacturing economy.

Last year, the University of Namibia opened the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at Ongwediva and this year, in February, UNAM opened the School of Medicine in Windhoek with a clear purpose of training young Namibians in various engineering and medical fields. I am confident that in few years, Namibia will have her own engineers and medical doctors trained in Namibia who will contribute to the socio-economic development of our country.

In addition, a manufacturing plant like this one will not have to rely on foreign expertise for its operations.

I feel proud that Ms. Otilie Haufiku, a young female Namibian has taken a bold step to venture into manufacturing and produce finished products for local consumption. It is a good example to thousands of Namibian youth who should rise to the occasion and contribute to national development. Many of our youth are not serious with national development issues. They embark upon destructive behaviours, including alcohol abuse.

I therefore urge them to emulate the good example set by Ms. Otilie Haufiku and establish their own businesses so that we can enhance the growth of our economy. Government alone can not provide employment to everyone. We must therefore create employment for ourselves and employ others.

It is saddening to see the mushrooming of cucashops/sheebens in our various towns. Therefore, I would like to urge business people in our country to diversify their business operations into manufacturing so that we can strengthen our national economy.

Director of ceremonies;

Namibians have a tendency to consume what they do not produce. The majority of our people tend to love products that are manufactured from other countries. In this manner, we contribute to the growth of the economies of other countries. I therefore would like to urge our local business people to support the products manufactured from this plant in your shops so that this plant can grow and contribute to agricultural production in our country.

At this juncture, I urge Ondangwa Town Council and its business community to start promoting products produced from here, hence charity starts at home. Peanut Butter is a health product that is nutritious.

I urge schools, prisons and the Namibian Defence Force to source this product from here so that we can contribute to the growth of this manufacturing plant.

As the world becomes a global village, businesses face numerous challenges, including the quality of products and services in the production chain. Therefore in order to succeed, it requires the adoption of innovation to compete with other producers from other countries.

I therefore encourage Ndeya Manufacturing and Services Providing cc to work more harder and produce quality products that will be able to compete with the rest of other products from the rest of the world.

With these few words, it is now my distinct pleasure to declare the Peanut Butter Manufacturing Plant officially opened.

I thank you.