

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
RECEPTION HOSTED BY OUTAPI BUSINESS COMMUNITY

22 MAY 2010

OUTAPI

OMUSATI REGION

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Honourable Governors;
Aasimanekwa Aakwaniilwa nOmalenga;
Honourable Regional and Local Councillors;
Your Worship, The Mayor of Outapi Town;
Tatekulu Elenga Enene, Oswin Mukulu of Ombalantu Traditional Authority;
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 Thanksgiving Ceremony hosted by the Outapi Business Community in my honour.

On behalf of my Family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to express my deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to the business community of Outapi and entire Ombalantu District for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to me, and more specifically for the reception hosted in my honour here at Outapi today.

I receive the numerous gifts that are presented to me today with humility and appreciation. Although they are presented to me in my personal capacity as Founding President of our Republic, I view them as a gesture of appreciation to the collective efforts that we have made during the past twenty years in building a united, peaceful and prosperous Namibia.

This event should also be seen in the context of paying tribute to our collective efforts in fighting against colonial oppression and apartheid colonialism led by SWAPO.

Indeed, Ombalantu Traditional Community has suffered the blunt of the war of national liberation. Like all the northern areas of our country which are situated in the former war zone, our communities here rendered logistical support to PLAN Combatants, in terms of food, shelter and providing information about the movements of the troops of the minority white apartheid regime of South Africa.

Therefore, this thanksgiving ceremony is ironic but yet symbolic in the sense that as the Commander-in-Chief of PLAN, it was me who was indeed supposed to have come to say thank you because you stood firm and supported the struggle for national liberation until final victory was achieved on 21 March 1990.

Director of Ceremonies;

This reception was organised by the business people from Outapi and the entire Omusati Region.

As you are aware, business people play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of our country. Since independence, our Government has initiated policies that are aimed at the development and growth of our local businesses, including our small and medium enterprises.

The Government has also created a legal framework, including the establishment of the Development Bank of Namibia which provides funding to viable development projects. I therefore would like to encourage our business people to initiate projects which are aimed at creating job opportunities for our people. Most importantly, I would like to urge our businesses to embark upon value addition and manufacturing to our natural resources so that we can enhance the competitiveness of our national economy.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am delighted that this occasion is attended by traditional and community leaders. Traditional leaders play an important role in national development. They are the custodians of our traditional values, norms and cultural heritage. I always believe that as an African country, Namibians should always promote and respect our traditional norms and values. We should make sure that traditional norms must always shape policy decisions in the affairs of governance and development because a country that does not have cultural heritage can not claim to be genuinely independent because it will always be influenced by negative foreign cultures.

Director of Ceremonies;

Our country faces numerous challenges. This includes the lack of qualified personnel in critical areas of development such as medicine, engineering, geology, marine biology, agriculture, veterinary science, among others. In addition, thousands of Namibian children do not have access to education, especially vulnerable children, orphans and those from disadvantaged families. I therefore would like to thank the organizing committee of this event for their decision to use the surplus funds from this event to establish a fund to support these children to pursue their education. This is a commendable initiative indeed. I am confident that the envisaged fund will enable children from disadvantaged backgrounds to realise their potential.

Director of Ceremonies,

I once again would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hosting of this event and sincerely thank all of you for the wonderful gifts.

I thank you.