

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE HORSE RACING SPORT FIELD

23 MAY 2010

ONAMATANGA

OMUSATI REGION

Director of Ceremonies;
Omusimanekwa Omukwaniila Tatekulu Jafet Munkundi;

Honourable Ministers;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Honourable Governor of Omusati Region Comrade Sakaria Kayone;

Honourable Regional and Local Councillors;

Honourable Traditional and Community leaders;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentleman:

I feel deeply honoured for the invitation extended to me to come and officially open the Onamatanga Horse Racing Sport Field here this morning.

Horse Racing is a privileged sport that is only accessible to the minority members of our society although horse riding is not new to the Namibian communities. Our forefathers used horses as a means of transport and also as a means of waging war against their enemies. Traditional communities that had access to horses always have an upper hand over other communities. In addition, a horse was also a symbol of wealth.

When we were young, we used horses as a means of transport to go to the cattle posts and to visit distant places. However, with the arrival of the colonial invaders, our people lost this rich heritage because horses became commercial commodities which became only accessible to few.

I am therefore delighted that the community of Onamatanga have decided to revive this rich heritage of our country through horse racing activities. Taking cognisance of the commercial value of horse racing today, the community of Onamatanga could participate in national as well as international horse racing sport events.

Director of Ceremonies;

Over the years, Namibia experienced the growth of the tourism industry which currently contributes immensely to national development. With the introduction of horse racing in this part of our country, I am confident that Onamatanga will benefit from the tourism industry through this lucrative sport.

I would therefore like to encourage the youth in the entire Omusati region as well as other regions to introduce horse racing in their communities so that they can participate in future horse racing competitions.

The development of horse racing sport has also a great potential to enhance horse breeding, whose population has been decreasing over the years. I believe that if many Namibians develop an interest in horse racing it has a great potential to contribute to economic development.

I would like to encourage the community of Onamatanga to make this event an annual national event where many communities can participate, thereby promoting national unity and common understanding among all the people of Namibia.

With these few words, it is now my distinct honour to declare the Onamatanga Horse Racing Sport Field officially opened.

I thank you.