

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION AND CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
NAMIBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF PHASE 1B AND THE
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR PHASE 2 FOR THE FACULTY OF
ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

25 FEBRUARY 2010

ONGWEDIVA
OSHANA REGION

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Your Excellency Mr Tsewang Topden, Indian High Commissioner to Namibia;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Honourable Governors;
Honourable Traditional and Community Leaders;
Honourable Regional and Local Councillors;
Chairperson of the University Council, Professor Fillemon Amaambo;
Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Prof Lazarus Hangula;
Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Research, Professor Osmund D. Mwandemele;
Founding Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Frank Kavishe;
Your Worship, the Mayors;
Members of the University Council;
Members of UNAM Management;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you all know, a country's economic strength depends substantially on its mastery of science and technology. It is this very same mastery that enables any country's citizens to fully exploit its natural resources and wealth. It is for this reason that less than two years ago, we broke

ground and laid the first brick to this magnificent training facility of the University of Namibia here in Ongwediva.

With the establishment of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at Ongwediva, our Government has placed a huge responsibility on our National University. With this Faculty, UNAM is expected to take a path that ensures accelerated human resource development with a special focus on engineering and information technology. This Faculty is expected to produce highly competent engineers in the following fields: Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics, Mining, Metallurgical, Chemical, and Computer Engineering.

The University of Namibia admitted students to its new Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at its Ongwediva Campus in February 2009 after the completion of Phase 1A of the project, which included the basic infrastructure, including lecture rooms, mechanical engineering labs, staff offices and student hostels.

That phase of the project was inaugurated by His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia on 17th April 2009.

While students were attending lectures, the construction of Phase 1B continued. This included additional lecture rooms and staff offices, electrical and electronics labs, a field kitchen for student use, a kiosk for staff meals and a block of flats for visiting staff. The whole of Phase 1 of the faculty was funded by the Government of Namibia to the tune of about N\$150 million. I am happy to mention that we are gathered here to inaugurate Phase 1B this morning.

The Faculty is currently offering four-year programmes leading to the professional degree of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering with specializations in Civil, Computer, Electronics, Electrical, Mechanical, Mining, Metallurgical and Telecommunication Engineering. All the 42 students who registered last year proceeded to their second year of study in these disciplines, except Computer Engineering and Telecommunication Engineering, which admitted its first intake of students this year.

Distinguished Vice Chancellor, I am also reliably informed that in the meanwhile UNAM has managed to recruit additional teaching staff to cope with the expected increase of students.

A few have already reported for duty, and the rest are awaiting the processing of their Work Permits. As Chancellor of this University, it is my singular honour to welcome you, distinguished professors and lecturers, to UNAM and to the town of Ongwediva, may you please rise to be acknowledged. (*Thank you, you may be seated*).

Director of Ceremonies;

Late last year the Government of India made a generous grant of about USD12.5 million towards the construction of the Departments of Mining Engineering and Computer Engineering, as well as Training Workshops and an Information Resource Centre. Your Excellency, the High Commissioner of India to Namibia, the assistance of the people of India to the people of Namibia has a long and treasured history. The solidarity of the people of India with Namibia led to India's decision to grant diplomatic status to SWAPO as a Liberation Movement during that time.

Such status was also accompanied by all round material assistance. India also took a strong and unwavering stand of spearheading Namibia's just cause of our Freedom and Independence at the

United Nations. India's stand led to more support for SWAPO by other Asian, Arab and Latin American countries and condemned white South Africa apartheid colonialism in Namibia. Your Excellency, SWAPO and the people of Namibia have always been able to count on India as a reliable friend. Your kind assistance for this Faculty and many other human resources development initiatives of your Government cannot be overemphasized.

Director of Ceremonies;

Our Government is fully committed to building a strong human resource base that will underpin the developmental and economic needs of our Nation. These initiatives however have to happen in tandem with the support of the local public and private sectors. The University of Namibia is training these human resources for you and in that regard you have to play an active role in ensuring that the training we provide is relevant and sufficient to meet your needs. Last year, we welcomed the support by the Government of China, Standard Bank, the Agricultural Bank of Namibia, and Old Mutual in terms of equipping laboratories for this Faculty.

I am equally happy to note that the new building to be inaugurated also includes laboratories and lecture halls that are being equipped through this smart public, private partnership.

I am pleased to acknowledge the presence of representatives from the International Commercial (Pty) Ltd who have sponsored one of the computer laboratories to be inaugurated today.

Therefore, the support of the private sector for this particular inauguration ceremony deserves special mention. One of our sponsors is none other than UNAM's own alumnus Dr. Frans Indongo who will be recognized for his donation towards the construction of an 80-sitter lecturer room. I am equally happy to note that the Namundjebo family is committed to carrying forward the industrious and entrepreneurial spirit of the Late business icon Mr Eliakim Namundjebo. His legacy will be recognized by the University of Namibia for the donation towards the construction of a 40-sitter lecturer room to be inaugurated this morning. Last but not least, we will also witness the inauguration of the Malakia Nakuumba Optical Microscopy Laboratory. Therefore, please join me in giving a thunderous hand of applause for their enormous support. Let me similarly extend my appeal for more support from our partners in all the sectors of our economy. Your support will accelerate the pace at which we can achieve the developmental goals set out in Vision 2030.

In conclusion, as Chancellor of the University of Namibia, I wish to extend a special word of gratitude and congratulations to the Council, the Vice Chancellor and his management team as well as the Faculty and students of this Campus for a job well done this far. This facility is a sound example of what Namibians can do for themselves in order to define our economic destiny. We have done it for Engineering and Information Technology and now we will do it for the School of Medicine.

With these few words, it is now my distinct honour to declare Phase 1B of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology complete and ready for Business.

I thank you.