

# **Republic of Namibia**



**Statement by His Excellency  
Sam Nujoma, President of the  
Republic of Namibia, on the Occasion  
of the Conferment of National Medals  
Coinciding with the Celebrations  
Of the 15<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary**

**19 March 2005**

**State House, Windhoek**

Master of Ceremony  
Honourable Governors  
Tatekulu Omukwaniilwa, Kauluma Elifas  
Esteemed Inspector General of the Namibian Police  
Distinguished Invited Guests  
Comrades and Friends  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to welcome you all to State House this afternoon. It has become customary that during independence celebrations, National Medals and honours are conferred to deserving sons and daughters of the Land of the Brave for their gallantry, bravery and outstanding contributions towards the total liberation of our Motherland.

In this manner, we pay tribute to them for their role in the attainment of our Freedom and Independence which was achieved through determination and dedication of the Namibian people, many of whom did not live to witness the dawn of our nationhood. It is against this background that today we have honoured some of our heroes and heroines posthumously.

As we all know, the struggle for the national liberation waged by SWAPO of Namibia was fought on many fronts, including the political, diplomatic and military fronts. On the political front, it included the mobilisation of all our people across the length and breadth of our country to stand firm and resist the tactics of the colonial regime of apartheid white South Africa.

On the diplomatic front, our cadres effectively mobilised the international community to render support to our just cause. Militarily, SWAPO's Military Wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) was able to wage successful battles against the enemy with constant support from the Namibian people who provided them with shelter, food and information about the enemy troop movements.

Some of the recipients present here today are members of our society from all different walks of life. This is a clear testimony to their resilience and tenacity in supporting the liberation struggle in the face of brutality and atrocities by the colonial forces. I am therefore pleased that we have honoured them for their contributions towards the attainment of our nationhood and sovereignty.  
Master of Ceremony,

Now that we have achieved our political independence, we should rededicate ourselves to the values of hard work and commitment for which thousands of our heroes and heroines shed their precious blood and sacrificed their lives. This is the only way in which we can keep their memories alive and honour their enduring legacy.

Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.