

BIOGRAPHY

Name: Sam Nujoma

Date of Birth: 12 May 1929

Place of Birth: Etunda-village, Ongandjera district,
North- Western Namibia – (Present Omusati Region)

Parents: Father: Daniel Utoni Nujoma - (subsistence farmer)
Mother: Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo- (subsistence farmer)
Children: 6 boys and 4 girls.

From Childhood: Like all boys of those days, looked after his parents' cattle, as well as assisting them at home in general work, including in the cultivation of land.

Qualifications: Attended Primary School at Okahao Finnish Mission
School 1937-1945;

In the year 1946, Dr. Nujoma moved to the coastal town of Walvisbay to live with his aunt Gebhart Nandjule, where in 1947 at the age of 17 he began his first employment at a general store for a monthly salary of 10 Shillings. It was in Walvis Bay that he got exposed to modern world politics by meeting soldiers from Argentina, Norway and other parts of Europe who had been brought there during World War II. Soon after, at the beginning of 1949 Dr. Nujoma went to live in Windhoek with his uncle Hiskia Kondombolo. In Windhoek he started working for the South African Railways and attended adult night school at St. Barnabas in the Windhoek Old Location. He further studied for his Junior Certificate through correspondence at the Trans-Africa Correspondence College in South Africa.

Marital Status: On 6 May 1956, Dr Nujoma got married to Kovambo Theopoldine Katjimune. They were blessed with 4 children: Utoni Daniel (1952), John Ndeshipanda (1955), Sakaria Nefungo (1957) and Nelago (1959), who sadly passed away at the age of 18 months, while Dr. Nujoma was in exile.

Profession: Politician

Present Position: Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Father of the Namibian Nation as enacted by Parliament, Act No. 18 of 2004, read in conjunction with Cabinet Decision No. 36th/07.12.04/002.

Political Career: With a deep passion for politics and the yearning to see his people living in a free and democratic society whereby they didn't have to be restricted due to the apartheid pass law system and confined according to colonial policy of racial segregation, Dr. Nujoma resigned from the South African Railways in 1957 at the age of 29 with the purpose of devoting his full time to politics.

In 1959, he was elected Leader of the Owambo People's Organization (OPO) that aimed at ending the then contract labour system and ending the South African colonial administration by placing South West Africa (Namibia) under the UN Trusteeship system. Through this, Dr. Nujoma petitioned the UN, through letters in the late fifties, together with Chief Hosea Katjukurume Kutako, Samuel Witbooi, Reverend Theophilus Hamutumbangela, Toivo ya Toivo and others demanding that the then South West Africa be placed under the UN Trusteeship System.

Subsequently, Dr. Sam Nujoma together with Uatja Kauketu of the Southern Africa National Union (SWANU) and Moses Garoeb, the late Minister of Labour and others, organized resistance against the forcible removal of the inhabitants of the Old Location to the new township of Katutura, which was based on the apartheid policy. This culminated in the massacre of 12 innocent unarmed persons and wounding many others on the 10th December 1959.

After the massacre, he was arrested and charged for organizing the resistance. By the directive of OPO leadership and in collaboration with Chief Hosea Katjukurume Kutako, he went into exile on 29 February 1960, via the then British Bechuanaland Protectorate. With the assistance of Daniel Munamava he had been able to cross the borders of Bechuanaland, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Tanganyika, Kenya and Sudan. In April 1960, he attended the All African People's Conference organized by President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana against the French atom bomb test in the Sahara Desert.

After Ghana Dr. Nujoma proceeded to Liberia and finally reached the USA in June 1960 and petitioned before the UN Fourth Committee of the General Assembly demanding the end of the South African colonial administration of SWA. In the meanwhile, OPO was later

transformed to become the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) on the 19 April 1960 and Dr. Nujoma was elected as the President of the movement in absentia. In March 1966, in a bid to test South Africa's claims at the International Court of Justice at the Hague that Namibians in exile were free to return, Dr. Nujoma, accompanied by President Hifikepunye Pohamba, chartered a plane to Windhoek. On arrival at the airport, they were arrested and deported to Zambia the next day, 21 March 1966.

Clandestinely he transported the first weapons from Algeria via Egypt, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia, from where they were taken to Omugulugwobashe in north-western Namibia where the armed liberation struggle was launched on 26 August 1966;

Dr. Sam Nujoma represented Namibia at the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement on 1 September 1961 in Belgrade Yugoslavia as well as at the founding of the OAU in Addis Ababa on 25 May 1963. In 1971, he was the first leader of an African nationalist movement to address the UN Security Council in New York, leading to the UN General Assembly passing a Resolution declaring SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian People.

From 1977, Dr. Nujoma led the SWAPO negotiations team between the Western Five Contact group and South Africa on the one hand, and the Frontline States and Nigeria, and SWAPO on the other, which culminated in the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978). Thereafter on 19 March 1989, the signing of the cease-fire agreement with South Africa took place, which resulted in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435. Returned from exile and received a hero's welcome on 14 September 1989;

In Namibia's first democratic elections for a Constituent Assembly, SWAPO gained a majority and Dr. Sam Nujoma was elected to the Constituent Assembly. On 16 February 1990, he was unanimously elected by the National Assembly as the first President of the Republic of Namibia.

President Nujoma was sworn in as the First President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-in-chief of the Namibian Defence Force on 21 March 1990. He was popularly re-elected for two more terms of office in 1994 and 1999 respectively, in recognition of his wise and dynamic leadership. Through his leadership, SWAPO adopted the Policy of National Reconciliation under the motto: ONE NAMIBIA, ONE NATION. He successfully united all Namibians into a peaceful, tolerant and democratic society governed by the rule of law.

He was sworn in as Founding Chancellor of the University of Namibia on 23 April 1993 in the presence of President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

In recognition of his dedication to his selfless sacrifice to the national liberation struggle and nation building, the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia enacted a piece of legislation in April 2005, declaring him the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation. He stepped down on 21 March 2005, handing over the reins of power to his successor His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

After leading and serving as leader of SWAPO as a Liberation Movement and SWAPO Party for 47 years, Dr. Nujoma stepped down as the Founding President of the Party on 30 November 2007 handing over the reins of power to his successor, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and SWAPO-Party. During the historical occasion, Dr. Nujoma had the following to say:

“I am stepping down as President of SWAPO Party with a full sense of fulfillment. I am proud to have worked with the entire leadership of SWAPO. Collectively, we have steered SWAPO through immense challenges, some of which might have seemed insurmountable. There were internal contradictions, most often driven by tribalistic, power hungry, unpatriotic and selfless individuals. In all these challenges, SWAPO persevered, survived and emerged even stronger.”

Dr. Sam Nujoma (30 November 2007).

On 18 November 2011, Dr. Nujoma handed over the reins of the Chancellorship of the University of Namibia to his successor, the Chancellor of UNAM, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and SWAPO-Party.

During his lifetime, Dr. Nujoma was bestowed Honours and Awards for his outstanding leadership qualities, courage, steadfastness, vigour, commitment and dedication in not only spearheading the Namibian people’s national liberation struggle against colonial settlers and apartheid but also for the patriotic and selfless sacrifice of his life for freedom and genuine independence of his people; for his constancy in the principled struggle for justice and equity; for his magnanimity and non-vindictive transition and transformation of post-colonial-apartheid Namibia, especially his foresightedness and vision of the Policy of National Reconciliation and Nation building; for his rare ability to promote and run a multi-racial and peaceful society as well as in recognition of his contribution to the establishment of Democratic foundation, peace and Political stability in Namibia, and the Enhancement of the dignity of the African people both on the Continent and in the Diaspora. Following are the Honours and Awards bestowed on him:

1	Lenin Peace Prize.	1973	USSR
2	Frederic Joliot Curie Gold Medal.	1980	
3	Honorary Doctorate of Law (Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria).	1982	Nigeria
4	Medaglia Pontificia (Pope’s Medal) Anno VI, The Vatican City, Italy.	1984	Italy
5	Certificate of Honour (University of Ibadan) Nigeria.	1986	Nigeria
6	Grant Master Order Merit, the Grant Cruz, Highest Order.	1988	Brazil
7	Ho Chi Minh Peace Award.	1988	Vietnam
8	Namibia Freedom Award (California State University) for his leadership role in the struggle against apartheid	1988	USA
9	Honorary Citizenship of the City of Atlanta for his leadership role in the struggle for freedom, national independence and social justice	1988	USA
10	Recognition granted to him by the City and County of	1988	USA

	San Francisco.		
11	Recognition granted to him by the City of New York and similar recognition granted to him by the City of Chicago.	1988	USA
12	Recognition granted to him by the City of East Palo Alto.	1988	USA
13	Honorary Doctorate Degree of Law (Lincoln University).	1990	USA
14	Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for Disarmament and Development in recognition of his outstanding contribution in leading the people of Namibia to freedom.	1990	India
15	Anno XIII, The Vatican City, Italy.	1991	Italy
16	José Marti (Highest Award).	1991	Cuba
17	Ordre du Merite Congo.	1991	Congo
18	Honorary Doctorate Degree Doctor of Technology (Honoris Causa) (Federal University of Technology) Minna.	1992	Nigeria
19	Chief of the Golden Heart.	1992	Kenya
20	Order of the National Flag, First Class.	1992	DPRK
21	Honorary Doctorate Degree, Doctor of Education (Honoris Causa) (University of Namibia).	1993	Namibia
22	Honorary Doctorate Degree of Law (Ohio Central State University).	1993	USA
23	“Grand Cordon” Decoration	1994	Tunisia
24	Grand Master of the Order of Welwitschia.	1995	Namibia
25	Order of Liberty, Highest Cross	1995	Portugal
26	Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger.	1995	New York USA
27	Order of Good Hope, Gold	1996	South Africa
	Doctor of Laws, Atlanta	1996	USA
28	Honorary Doctorate Degree, Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) (The State University of New Jersey)	1997	USA
29	Honorary Doctorate Degree (The Academic Council of the Russian Economic Academy)	1998	Russia
30	Honorary Doctorate of (The People’s Friendship University of Russia)	1998	Russia
31	Honorary Degree of Doctor of Public Service (at La Roche	1999	USA

	College) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania		
32	Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa at the University of Zimbabwe at the Great Hall, Harare	1999	Zimbabwe
33	Order of Friendship Award	2002	Vietnam
34	O.B.F.F.S.	2003	Romania
35	Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) Honoris Causal of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), Bauchi, Nigeria, in recognition for the patriotic sacrifice of his life; for freedom of his people; for his constancy in the principled struggle for justice and equity; for his magnanimity and non-vindictive transition and transformation of post-apartheid Namibia; for his rare ability to promote and run A multi-racial and peaceful society; and for his love for Nigeria.	2003	Nigeria
36	Recipient of the Fellowship Award of the Institute of Governance and Social Research Award (FIGSR) at The Institute of Governance and Social Research (IGSR), in recognition of his contribution to the liberation of his country, the establishment of Democratic foundation, peace and Political stability in Namibia, and the Enhancement of the dignity of the Black Man.	2003	Nigeria
37	Recipient of the Ghana National Highest Award “The Companion of the Order of the Star of Ghana” as an expression of respect and admiration of the Government and people of Ghana.	June 2004	Ghana
38	Conferred the title of Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Father of the Namibian Nation by the Namibian Parliament.	March 2004	Namibia
39	Recipient of Honorary Professor of the China University of Geosciences	26 May 2006	Beijing
40	Awarded International KIM IL Sung Prize Certificate	10 April 2008	India
41	Obtained his Master of Science Degree in Geology (After 4 years study and research at the University of Namibia) Windhoek	24 April 2009	Windhoek Namibia
42	Recipient of Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal	17 Aug 2010	Windhoek Namibia

43	Bestowed the highest Medal and Diploma by MPLA at its first International Colloquium, Conference, as an extra-ordinary friend who helped, inspired and collaborated with the MPLA and enabled it to survive the countless challenges it faced in its mammoth efforts to achieve, maintain and consolidate the independence of Angola and the sovereignty of its people.	6-8 Dec. 2011	Luanda, Angola
44	The Government of the Republic of Namibia bestowed upon him the honour by featuring his portrait on the upgraded N\$ 10 (Ten Namibia Dollars) and N\$ 20 (Twenty Namibia Dollars) Banknotes.	21 March 2012	Mariental, Hardap Region
45	The SWAPO party conferred H.E. Dr Nujoma, the title of the leader of the Namibian Revolution and granted him permanent membership with the right to attend all party's top structures, at the 4th Congress in 2007 and the 5 th Congress in 2012, respectively.		
46	The University of Kinshasa conferred H.E. Dr. Nujoma, the Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy Degree <i>Horis Causa</i>	30th April 2014	Kinshasa, DRC
47	The Copperbelt University conferred H.E Dr. Sam Nujoma the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Peace and Conflict Studies (<i>Honoris Causa</i>)	25 July 2015	Kitwe, Zambia
48	Honoured with the African Union 'Son of Africa' Award for his lifetime achievement in the promotion of peace and dignity on the African continent.	21 October 2015	Windhoek, Namibia
49	H.E Dr. Sam Nujoma received the Mehdi Ben Barca Solidarity order, the highest honour to be awarded by the Organisation of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL) on 30 September 2016, Havana, Cuba.	30 September 2016	Havana, Republic of Cuba

Publications:

- i) *"Where Others Wavered"*, the Autobiography of Sam Nujoma. *My life in SWAPO and my participation in the Liberation Struggle of NAMIBIA.*

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