



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE GROUND-
BREAKING CEREMONY OF A COMMERCIAL MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT
COMPLEX FOR THE SAM NUJOMA FOUNDATION**

MONDAY, 03 FEBRUARY 2020

SAM NUJOMA FOUNDATION SITE

WINDHOEK WEST

KHOMAS REGION

*Check Against Delivery

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Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma
Board of Trustees: Hon. Nahas Angula (Chairperson), Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana,
Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Hon. Erkki Nghimtina, Ms. Febronia Nelago Shapaka
(Reg No 8208)

Director of Ceremonies;
Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia represented by Dr. Ngarikutuke Tjiriange;
Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party in absentia;
Honourable John Mutorwa, Minister of Works and Transport and; All Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Nahas Angula, Chairperson of the Sam Nujoma Foundation;
Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-lithana, Deputy Chairperson of the Sam Nujoma Foundation;
Distinguished Members of the Board of Trustees of the Sam Nujoma Foundation and all Members of the Technical and Secretariat Committees of the Board of Trustees;
Your Worship, the Mayor of the City of Windhoek;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Morning

It seems like yesterday when the members of the Board of Trustees of the Sam Nujoma Foundation told me about the plan to build a commercial mixed-use development complex for the Foundation. I am therefore delighted to stand here today for the ground breaking ceremony of such a complex.

Indeed, the Foundation was established in 2005 as a non-profit organization with the main purpose to act as a vehicle that promotes and sustains the vision, ideals and goals of my work upon my retirement from Public Office.

In this regard, the Sam Nujoma Foundation has been working at ensuring that it complements the Namibian government's efforts in order to close the inequality gap that we experience today as a nation, with the core values of fostering national development, equality amongst people and enhancing national equity.

Similarly, the Foundation, as a civil society institution, aims, through its work, to ensure that our National Development Goals are met. It is for this reason that, to date, the Foundation has engaged in One Hundred and Three successful projects impacting Two Thousand people across the length and breadth of our country.

These projects range from the provision of information communication technology's hardware to the provision of a clinic which was handed over to the Government in 2017.

It is my firm belief that all our children must attend school from kindergarten, through primary and secondary school up to University level, in order to propel Namibia and our African continent to greater heights.

Against this background, the Foundation intends to finalize the construction of the Etunda Farm Primary school which is aimed at providing education to the majority of the children of farm labourers who do not attend school in the district of Otavi and the surrounding areas.

It is envisaged that once completed, the Etunda Primary School will also be handed over to the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

After 14 years since its inception, the Sam Nujoma Foundation finds itself at a stage where its contribution towards national development is deepening through the construction of a commercial mixed-use development complex at this very location we find ourselves.

This will allow for a blend of commercial use of the property as well as the housing of the Sam Nujoma Foundation offices and facilities in a joint Private Public Partnership.

I am informed that the construction of the development is envisaged to commence as soon as possible after the Board of Trustees and its Technical Committee went through a public process of appointing the required expertise to develop and construct these facilities.

I thus am proud to know that the Foundation is fulfilling its mandate and objectives to become a dominant player within the Namibian society with the aim to propel our country to greater heights.

As we engage in this ground breaking ceremony, it is therefore my wish that all Namibians come together and find ways in which government, the private sector and civic society can collectively develop Namibia into a fully industrialized nation and bring about the much needed socio-economic development for all our people.

Indeed, it is no easy thing to rest while many of our people still bear the burden of poverty, swimming in a sea of inequality and walking in a desert of unemployment and mountains insecurity.

I will thus only be filled with contentment to the extent that hands are joined across social divides and national boundaries to give effect to our common humanity in whose name we have together crossed the jungles of Southern Africa to the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence.

I can think of no more noble objective to pursue, than the realisation of the aspirations of our people to reaffirm their dignity among the nations of the world; to be self-reliant and depend on their native intelligence and labour in order to transform their dreams into reality.

I therefore urge the Sam Nujoma Foundation to commit itself to continue contributing towards impacting the lives of the previously disadvantaged and marginalized Namibians.

For this reason, this ground breaking Ceremony also serves, in its own small way, to reaffirm our commitment to fight hunger, disease and ignorance.

I say this with special pride in the presence of so many distinguished comrades and friends who stood with us and those with whom we shared trenches, faced challenges and overcame them together.

At this juncture, allow me to thank all those generations of Namibians who fought relentlessly under the most difficult circumstances, so that we should be free. From them we inherited our dedication to building the unity of our nation out of its diversity. Today, the the task of this generation is to help make a reality of our long-cherished dreams of peace, equity and economic independence and I am confident that our youth will be equal to the task.

Having said the above, allow me in closing to extend my profound gratitude to Dr Tjiriange who is representing H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Hon. John Mutorua, the line Minister, and the Mayor for having agreed to grace this ceremony with their presence at such short notice. I am indeed heartened by your attendance and filled with gratitude and deep appreciations.

In the same vein, I would like to wholeheartedly extend a word of appreciation to Comrade Nahas Angula, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Sam Nujoma Foundation, His Deputy, Comrade Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, all the Trustees as well as the Technical and Secretariat Committees' members for their hard work. Keep up the good work.

To all the invited guests, your presence speaks more loudly than any words of mine, of the importance you attach to this noble idea and your loyalty to the cause of building this country through unity of purpose and action.

Let us work together – black and white, women and men, young and old – to build a united, peaceful and prosperous Namibia.

As I always say; *“A people united, striving to achieve common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious.”*

I thank you!