



STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION AND
LEADER OF THE NAMIBIAN REVOLUTION, AT THE
OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2019

ETUNDA HOMESTEAD, ONGANDJERA

OKAHAO CONSTITUENCY

OMUSATI REGION

UNDER THE THEME:

*SAM NUJOMA @ 90: A LIFE DEDICATED TO FREEDOM AND
HUMANITY*

Directors of Ceremonies, Cde. Marco Hausiku and Cde. Dr Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana;
Your Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and
Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady;
Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of
Namibia and Madam Penxupifo Pohamba, Former First Lady;
Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;
Madam Kovambo Nujoma, Former First Lady and the Entire Nujoma Family;
Right Honorable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister and Comrade
Amadhila;
Right Honorable Nahas Angula, Former Prime Minister and Chairperson of the Sam
Nujoma Foundation and all Members of the Board of Trustees;
Honorable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
International Relations and Cooperation and Retired Lieutenant General Ndaitwah;
Honorable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly;
Honorable Margareth Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council;
Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Judge Shivute;
Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;
Honorable Members of Parliament present;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Honorable Governor of Omusati Region and all Governors present;
Esteemed Mr. Ebson Uanguta, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Namibia;
Esteemed Mr. José Luis Bastos and Mrs Bastos;
Tatekulu Johannes Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa gwo Shitunda shaNgandjera;
Esteemed Chief Emmanuel !Gaseb, Acting Chairperson of the Council of Traditional
Authorities;
Aasimanekwa Ootatekulu Aakwaniilwa naMekulu Ohamba noMalenga Omanene
noMashona yopamuthigululwa kalo and all Leaders of Traditional Authorities
present;
Reverend Jeremia Ekanjo of Okahao ELCIN Congregation nAasimanekwa Aawiliki
yOpambepo mwaholoka mpaka;
Comrade Alexander Anguwo and all Members of the 90th Birthday Preparatory
Committee;
Distinguished Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;
Comrade Iyaloo Shiimi, National Secretary for SWAPO Party Pioneers Movement
and Comrade Foibe Daniel;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Aakwashigwana yaakwetu mweya amushe kOshituthi shEvalo;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured and humbled that Namibians from all walks of life have gathered here today to celebrate my 90th Birthday Anniversary.

I am aware that 90 years in a life of a person is a milestone occasion worthy of celebrations but due to the persistent drought and adverse effects of Climate Change as well as the impact of unprecedented headwinds caused by the global economic downturn in our country, I did not want to have a big party this year to celebrate my 90th birthday but a simple and modest one.

At this juncture, allow me to thank H.E. Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, for declaring a National state of Emergency with respect to a drought that hit several areas in the country due to a shortage of rainfall experienced this year.

Indeed, I recently officially launched the Seawater Desalination Research Pilot Plant at the UNAM Sam Nujoma Campus at Henties Bay, a joint initiative of the University of Namibia and the University of Turku in Finland.

The question of seawater desalination has been at the forefront of my thoughts for many years. Today I want to reiterate the need to implement large scale seawater desalination in Namibia.

Our water supply is diminishing year after year due to the adverse effects of Climate Change already felt in Namibia. As you know, about 80% of Namibia relies on groundwater as a major water source. But due to Climate Change, our country could experience prolonged years of drought in the future that could deplete all our groundwater and surface water resources.

Ironically Namibia is blessed with about 1500 km of coastline along the Atlantic Ocean that provides us with unlimited water resource. The time is now to abstract seawater and to desalinate it for human consumption.

Directors of Ceremonies:

Indeed, 90 years ago I was born here at Etunda homestead, in Ongandjera-Omusati Region, to my Father, Tate Daniel Uutoni Nujoma and my mother, Meme Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo. (May their Souls Rest in Eternal Peace)

Both of my parents hailed from Uukwambi royal family. I am the first born in a family of 11 but now we are six and like all boys of those days, I had to look after my parents' livestock and assist with home chores including the cultivation of land.

Indeed, this is my birthplace where my roots are and where the values of my culture were instilled in me. Our convening here in celebration of my birthday is therefore not an accident but as a homecoming for me to pay homage to my parents, the Etunda and surrounding communities who have all helped to raise me up.

Allow me therefore, on behalf of the Nujoma Family and indeed on my own behalf, to extend a cordial warm welcome to all the distinguished guests, friends and comrades who have travelled long distances to celebrate this milestone occasion with me.

Allow me also to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciations for this Birthday Celebration that is hosted in my honour by the Sam Nujoma Foundation together with the Office of the Secretary General of the SWAPO Party.

I profoundly thank you for not only spearheading but also contributing immensely for the successful hosting of this event.

Your generosity of hosting my birthday party has been consistent for the past few years.

In the same vein, I wish to thank the Councilor of Okahao Constituency and recognize the hard work and commitment by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee and their Sub Committees as these were instrumental in successfully hosting this event.

Similarly, the complementary role of the various preparatory committees as well as that of my Office is commendable.

I will fail in my duties if I do not extend a word of appreciation to H.E. Dr Hage Geingob and Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady for gracing this event with their presence despite their heavy schedule.

I should also extend a word of appreciation to H.E. Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia as well as to H.E. Dr Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia and the Right Honoubrale Dr. Sara Kuugongwela-Amadhila, the Prime Minister and all Cabinet Ministers present for coming to celebrate this milestone occasion with me.

In Addition, allow me to thank Tatekulu Johannes Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa gwOshitunda sha Ngandjera and his community for their hard work and generous contributions. I also want to thank Tatekulu Ndilimani lipumbu of Uukwambi Traditional Authority for eloquently narrating the Nujoma roots and I am grateful and appreciate the presence of the Leaders of the Council of Traditional Authorities.

Similarly, allow me to thank Mr. Ebson Uanguta, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Namibia for the wonderful gift and recognize the presence of Mr. José Luis Bastos and his wife Mrs Bastos, friends indeed who decided to spend this time with me.

Most importantly, the successful hosting of this event would not have been a reality had it not been for all those patriotic Namibians and progressive people present here who have travelled from all over the country to make this birthday celebration a memorable one. In particular, I wish to thank Comrade Iyaloo Shiimi the National Secretary for SWAPO Party Pioneers Movement and Comrade Foibe Daniel for their presentation.

Indeed, your messages profoundly touched me and I thank you all for the wonderful gifts and pledges including the catering services for my 90th Birthday Celebrations. Your presence is testimony that you believe in building the future of this country through unity of purpose and action.

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

Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.