



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM
NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE
NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF OTSHIKUKU
OSHIPE ANNUAL TRADE FAIR

FRIDAY, 02 AUGUST 2019

OTSHIKUKU TOWN LODGE

OMUSATI REGION

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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 Proceedings;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region and other Governors present;
Honourable Modestus Amutse, Regional Councillor of Oshikuku and Chairperson of the Regional Council and Management Committee;
Your Worship Mbockoma Mungandjera, Mayor of Otshikuku Town Council and Her Worship Julia Endjambi, Deputy Mayor of Otshikuku Town Council;
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors present;
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Herman Ndilimani lipumbu, gwe lelo lyopamuthigululwakalo lyotshilongo shUukwambi and Other Traditional Leaders present;
Esteemed Reverend Johannes Nghikevali and all Religious Leaders present,
Distinguished Captains of Industry;
Director of Otshikuku Trade Association,
Distinguished Exhibitors;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to have been invited to deliver the keynote address at this auspicious occasion of Oshipe Annual Trade Fair, here at Otshikuku.

This Trade Fair is building on the success and the crafted vision of Otshikuku Town Council which aims to develop this town.

The first Otshikuku Trade Fair was hosted last year in 2018 and it was a success because the potential that was unlocked is visible in the development that has taken place since 2018.

Nevertheless, I hope that the Otshikuku Town Council has learnt from the past experience that hosting a trade fair is not a cheap undertaking but goes hand in hand with the cost factor that should be taken into consideration.

However, the fact that they have decided to stage the second trade fair and plan to make this an annual event, shows their resolve that they are focused on the developmental agenda that they have set out in their Strategic Plan in order to develop this town.

Director of Ceremonies;

The Oshipe Annual Trade Fair is a major event of note in Omusati Region in general and Otshikuku in particular because it gives small businesses in and around this area a chance to network and showcase their products and activities with local and regional counterparts.

This in turn will stimulate growth in the town and the region at large as the Otshikuku Trade Fair aims to ensure stimulations of economic activities in the region and nationally.

I therefore encourage the business community to tap in the immense potential that Otshikuku Trade Fair offers, for your respective business to grow and prosper.

At this juncture, allow me to salute the exhibitors at this trade fair for their commitment to grow our economy and make a prosperous Namibia.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am reliably informed that one of the objectives of Oshipe Annual Trade Fair is to provide a platform to showcase our culture, tradition and values as part of our identity.

I am delighted that Otshikuku Town Council recognises our cultural and traditional norms and practices by incorporating Oshipe in this modern event.

Indeed, our cultural values and norms carry our African identity and that is why I urge our older generation to ensure that we pass on what we know to the next generation.

In this regard, agricultural activities structured the seasonal calendar of Aawambo communities. In years of rainfall, the Small Rains fell from September to November and this was when the first seeding commenced.

When the seeds sprouted, the sprouts were separated and re-planted in small mounds on heaps of dry land in order to protect them from the flooding rivers.

Weeding was done in the summer lasting from November to February and the harvesting season lasted until the beginning of May. The ripening of each crop was celebrated with the first-fruit ritual, called **Oshipe**.

The first crop available was the fruit of the wild Marula tree of which omagongo was made especially in February and March between the Big Rains and the Harvest time from March until May. This was followed by the dry season lasting from May until August when cattle were allowed to graze.

In this regard, we must bear in mind that culture, traditions and customs play an important role in building the character of citizens and society.

I am therefore convinced that festivals of this type are a useful platform for celebrating our cultural diversity and have the potential to contribute to strengthening the unity of our nation, Namibia.

It is precisely against this background that I encourage the elders to continue to teach our youth to appreciate our culture so that they grow up preserving this proud heritage.

It is also my humble plea that this event should be held on an annual basis in order for our young generation to know and understand where we come from and be proud of their identity.

Against this background, I urge the Town Council of Otshikuku to enhance this event so that it reflects our true traditional and cultural norms and values because *“a nation without culture is like a tree without roots”*.

To our young generation, the baton is now in your hands to embrace our cultural identity in this modern world.

Go out in the world being a proud young man or woman with an identity that you can relate to and proudly showcase it to the world. Incorporate your cultural identity in your interaction with other cultures and be proud of who you are.

In conclusion, I want to encourage parents to send our children to school, because without a skilled and educated workforce, we cannot achieve the developmental objectives we want to pursue.

The economic challenges we all face demand that we work together as citizen of Namibia and as I always say: *“A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of society, will always emerge victorious!”*

I thank you.