



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA,
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN
NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE EARLY CHRISTMAS
PARTY ORGANIZED FOR THE ELDERLY

ELIAKIM NAMUDJEBO'S RESIDENCE

OLUNGHONO VILLAGE

OHANGWENA REGION

15 DECEMBER 2019

*Check Against Delivery

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(Reg No 8208)

Director of Ceremonies;
Dr Martha Namundjebo-Tilahun
Honourable Usco Nghaamwa, Governor of Ohangwena Region;
Your Worship, Honourable , the Mayor of Helao Nafidi Town Council;
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors present;
Omusimanekwa Meekulu Mwadinomho Martha Kristian Nelumbu, Ohamba yoShilongo shaUukwanyama;
Omusimanekwa Tate Fillemon Shuumbwa, Omukwaniilwa gwaNdonga
OmusimanekwaTatekulu Johannes Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa gwaNgandjera;
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Herman Iipumbu, gwElelo lyUukwambi;
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Oswin Mukulu gwElelo lyaMbalantu;
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Paulus Tjavara, Chief of Otjikaoko Traditional Authority;
Aasimanekwa OoTatekulu Aakwaniilwa, and esteemed Hompas, Fumus, Mulena, Muwoli and all Leaders of Traditional Authorities present;
Aasimanekwa OoTatekulu oMalenga Omanene nOmashona yopamuthigululwa kalo mwaholoka poshututhi shika;
Retired Lieutenant General Martin Shalli
Esteemed Bishop Emeritus, Dr. Kleopas Dumeni
Esteemed Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

First and foremost, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the invitation to attend this important event here at Olunghono Village.

Indeed, when I received a call on Monday the 09 of December 2019 from Comrade Dr Martha Namudjebo Tilahun inviting me to attend an early Christmas party organized for the elderly people here at the Late Comrade Eliakim Namudjebo's residence, I did not hesitate to accept such an invitation for three main reasons.

The first reason being I was already here in the north invited by the Finnish Embassy to attend the 150 Anniversary of the Independence of Finland. I then decided to pay a courtesy call on the newly enthroned Omukwaniilwa of Ondonga Traditional Authority, Tate Fillemon Shuumbwa at his palace at Onambango on Tuesday the 10th of December 2019.

The second reason I consented to her request was because the Namudjebo's family contributed immensely to the freedom and genuine independence of our country when they actively participated in the National Liberation Struggle when it helped PLAN fighters when they needed shelter and food.

Some of the former PLAN fighters who are here today can testify to that. They suffered persecutions, harassment and torture by the apartheid minority regime of South Africa but they never wavered!

Last but not least and more importantly, I decided to join you here this morning because I was reliably informed that apart from Omusimanekwa Meekulu Ohamba there will be Senior Traditional leaders at this gathering such as Aasimanekwa OoTatekulu Aakwaniilwa, and esteemed Hompas, Fumus, Mulena, Muwoli and other Leaders of Traditional Authorities such as OoTatekulu oMalenga Omanene nOmashona yopamuthigululwakalo.

As customary, such an auspicious occasion does not only play an important role in uniting our people but also promotes our cultural heritage and identity. The event brings together our senior citizens and traditional leaders who contributed very much to the development of this country. Our senior citizens contributed very much to national development goals during their active years.

Similarly according to our culture we ought to respect our parents and this cultural value needs to be passed from one generation to another. This good gesture from the Namundjebo's family to bring our senior citizens together every year strives to restore our cultural heritage at the regional level.

I am therefore delighted to join you here today to celebrate this early Christmas party here at Olunghono hosted by Namudjebo's family in the presence of Ohamba and Aasimanekwa Aakwaniilwa, Hompas, Fumus, Mulena, and all Leaders of Traditional Authorities present.

Director of Ceremonies;

The hosting of this important event nurtures the development of cultural expression within the context of the Namibian society, in line with the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia that stipulates that every person shall be entitled to enjoy, practice, profess, maintain and promote any culture, language or tradition.

Indeed, it has been proven that culture as a product of human development, gives people a sense of belonging and promotes the people's identity. Culture is therefore a strong tool to enhance nation building and unity in any nation.

It is therefore not surprising those colonialists, upon the conquest of our countries they embarked upon the Policy of Divide and Rule and segregated our people on basis of tribalism.

Tribalism therefore is not part of our cultural heritage but a tool of colonial oppression in order to perpetuate division, ignorance and underdevelopment in our country and the wider African continent.

It was for that reason that the SWAPO Party Government initiated the Policy of National Reconciliation so that we can build a strong and united nation under the motto “*One Namibia, One Nation*”. We must continue striving to promote unity in diversity, peace and tranquility among all Namibians, irrespective of their colour, race or places of origin.

Director of Ceremonies,

As I have stated on numerous occasions, as an African country, our cultural values and traditional norms must always shape our policies and guide our decisions in the affairs of governance and socio-economic development.

In this connection, I would like to emphasize that a nation without cultural identity is like a tree without roots. The youth of our country should also emulate the exemplary deeds of our forbearers. Indeed, our country has a rich and proud history.

Our forbearers, including our Heroes and Heroines such as King Mandume ja Ndemufajo fought heroically against colonial invaders to restore our pride and determine our future destiny.

The promotion of cultural activities will lay a strong foundation upon which the future generations would build on. The promotion of cultural values and norms will complement our efforts to promote national unity and build a strong prosperous nation.

Indeed, there is no doubt that there is much wisdom that we can learn from our ancestors through preservation and promotion of culture and traditions.

Similarly, if we continue to maintain our culture, this would enable us to curb the evil scourges of domestic violence and other crimes that are disturbing peace and harmony in our country.

People who are well cultured will not take knives and pangas to stab each other or even steal and insult each other. People who value our traditional norms and values do respect their parents, their leaders and other human beings irrespective of their status in society.

I am therefore extremely happy that Dr Martha Namudjebo-Tilahun every year tries to host this event and bring the community together to share the little she has. This is an African culture to come together and share ideas.

My thanks also go to all those present here today for making this event memorable especially those who travelled long distances. I wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous new year.

I thank you!