



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H. E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE
WATER BOTTLING PLANT AND OLIVE TREES PLANTATION

16 OCTOBER 2020
SAM NUJOMA CAMPUS
HENTIES BAY
ERONGO REGION

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(Reg No. 8208)

Director of Ceremonies, Dr. Sam Mafwila;
Your Excellency, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia and UNAM Chancellor;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors present;
Your Worship, Honourable Herman Hosabe /Honeb, Mayor of the Town of Henties Bay;
Distinguished Professor Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia;
Distinguished Professor Anicia Peters, UNAM Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development;
Distinguished Dr. Ellen Namhila, UNAM Pro-Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance;
Distinguished Dr. Hilikka Ndjaula, UNAM's Acting Registrar;
Distinguished Professor Frank Kavishe, UNAM José Eduardo Dos Santos Campus Assistant Pro-Vice Chancellor;
Distinguished Members of the Management of the Sam Nujoma Campus;
Distinguished UNAM Lecturers and Researchers present;
Dear Students;
Esteemed Religious and Community Leaders present;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to have been invited to the Official Commissioning of the Water Bottling Plant and Olive Plantation.

Indeed, I am always pleasantly optimistic when visiting the UNAM Sam Nujoma Campus in Henties Bay. Back in 1999 when we established the Centre, our aim was to host visiting researchers who were to conduct research on the flora and fauna of the coastal areas.

Our vision was driven by the notion that the coastal area, although seemingly empty for some, contains huge potential. Today after more than 25 years later, I must proudly admit that our investment in this Centre has yielded positive results.

The UNAM Sam Nujoma Campus is now a fully-fledged Campus boasting with the Research Arm under the Sam Nujoma Marine and Coastal Resources Research Centre and Teaching Arm under the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

This Campus has played a major role in putting the University of Namibia on the global map by developing targeted developmental goals, establishing regional and international linkages and delivering on set objectives.

The commissioning of the Desalinated Water Bottling Unit and the Olive trees plantation is, once again, evidence of Namibia's quest to become a major player in green technological advancement aimed at harnessing natural resources at our disposal.

Our collective aim is to tap into the Blue Economy. We are fully aware that our Atlantic Ocean is crucial for economic growth and food production, but it is also fundamental to global efforts to mitigate climate change.

As an advocate for sustainable utilization of marine resources, I would like to encourage the establishment of the envisaged School of Marine Systems and Engineering, that will ensure the required human capital, to be tasked with finding new innovative and emerging ways based on scientific evidence.

It is disheartening to hear that some of the Bachelor of Science Degree Fisheries and Aquatic Science graduates cannot be absorbed in the job market. My appeal is for employment creation for our graduates in the public and private sectors where their skills could be better utilized.

There is no doubt that the curriculum for the Bachelor of Science Degree for Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences is still relevant. UNAM will always strive to improve and advance their curriculums to fit in with the current national developmental needs.

The recent droughts and health pandemic such as COVID-19 has brought forth the stark reality that we should rely more on harnessing our own resources, both human and natural.

Director of Ceremonies;

Universities and Institutions of higher learning are transforming from the pursuit of scientific understanding, the application of engineering solutions, innovation and invention into commercialization. This is important at the time that the government face multiple demands.

I have always been of the firm believe that we can make our desert green, and I am certain that it can be achieved if we apply our minds. It was achieved in other countries, why not here?

In this regard, the commissioning of the water bottling facility and the olive tree plantation should set a precedence for coastal towns to take a lead in the desalination approach for portable water supply and for agricultural purposes.

This will change our focus from the regions with perennial rivers as the only hope for our food security to the coastal, seemingly dry, regions.

I have a firm assertion that the University of Namibia, under the capable leadership of H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, UNAM Chancellor and Professor Kenneth Matengu, UNAM Vice-Chancellor, will do all in its power in contributing to teaching and learning; research and innovation as well as community service.

Against this background, funding the University of Namibia is no longer a privilege but a priority for our Government as we move towards a knowledge-based economy.

At this juncture, I would like to congratulate the Management of the University of Namibia and in particular, the Sam Nujoma Campus management and staff as well as students for their excellent dedication and hard work.

Your commitment is proof that a lot can be achieved if we properly apply our minds and adopt a smart approach to challenges.

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

I thank you!