



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT
AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LAUNCHING OF THE BOOK “**HAKUNA MATATA**”
BY PROFESSOR PETER NYARANG’O

TUESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2019

WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB RESORT

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

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Director of Ceremonies, Ms Yvonne Dausab, Chairperson: Law Reform and Development Commission;
Esteemed Professor Peter Nyarang'o, Founding Dean of the UNAM School of Medicine;
Professor Filemon Amaambo, Chairperson of the University of Namibia Council;
Professor Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia;
Professor Lazarus Hangula, Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia;
Professor Kingo Mchombu, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the International University of Management (IUM);
Professor Osmund Mwandembele, UNAM Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research;
Dr. Ellen Ndeshi Namhila, UNAM Pro-Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Resource Mobilization;
Distinguished Members of the University Management and Senate;
Distinguished Professors, Lecturers and all University Staff Members;
Your Excellency Benjamin Langat, Kenya High Commissioner to Namibia;
Your Excellency Mr. Anastas Kaboba Kasongo Wa-Kimba, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Namibia and All Members of the Diplomatic Corps present;
Esteemed Dr. Tobi Kingsley;
UNAM President of the Student Representative Council and all Students present;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

When I was requested to be the Guest of Honor at this ceremony to launch this new book entitled *Hakuna Matata*, I went down memory lane to a time before Kenya's independence. I remembered the day when we met Mzee Jomo Kenyatta after he was released from prison to solitary confinement at Maralal in Kenya.

I was also reminded of a date ten years ago when we were planning to open our own Medical School here in Namibia and the vision of the Engimed Foundation.

Finally, I was reminded of a recent decision by SADC to recognize KiSwahili as one of the official languages on the African continent.

All these events have something in common. They demonstrate the cordial relationship that Namibia and Kenya have cultivated.

This relationship started at Namibia's Independence. When SWAPO won the UN supervised elections in 1989 and the apartheid regime left our country with no money, in my capacity as President of SWAPO, I requested Former President Daniel Arap Moi to allow Kenyan Forces to remain in Namibia after the UN peacekeepers left.

The Kenya government agreed to have its peacekeeping forces to remain for three months, paid by the Kenyan Government. In this regard, I remember that it was Lt. Gen. Opande who served as Deputy Force Commander of the UNTAG peacekeeping force between 1989 and 1990 in Namibia.

This relationship also includes the provision of health workers and the appointment of a Kenyan as the Founding Dean of our new School of Medicine.

I am very impressed to note that although Professor Peter Nyarang'o had his hands full by successfully leading the School of Medicine, he still found time to write a book! Congratulations, Ndungu Professor.

Hakuna Matata in KiSwahili means "No problem" or "No worries". As we have been informed, this new book describes the journey and growth of a young Kenyan into a mature medical professional, capable of leading world class institutions.

This book should inspire our young graduates to believe in themselves and to aspire to do great things in life.

It is not enough to learn from our teachers and written materials. Those of us in retirement, we should transfer the wealth of many years of experience to the next generation by putting our thoughts on paper.

I agree with all those who have said that we should develop a culture of reading and writing. Often people hide behind being busy for not writing about their experiences. By publishing this book, Professor Nyarang'o has challenged all of us to write books.

I have been informed that Hakuna Matata is a well written book that is easy to read, with plenty of humorous chapters.

I look forward to seeing the book Hakuna Matata in not only Kiswahili, but also in many of our local languages. However, I would be even more inspired to see similar publications, not only as personal accounts, but as scientific papers on new researches by our people.

In conclusion, now that KiSwahili has come of age, I am calling on Namibians to seriously embark on learning the language as it will facilitate unity across the African continent.

Allow me to end by calling on all concerted efforts to instill a sense of patriotism and hard work in our youth.

To Professor Nyarang'o, thank you for giving a good example and for being a role model to our youth.

Once again, congratulations on the publication of Hakuna Matata.

It is now my singular honour to declare the book Hakuna Matata, officially launched.

Asante sana!

I thank you for your kind attention.