



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA,
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN
NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH
OF THE BOOK, "JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN"
AUTHORED BY HON. DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA.

22 OCTOBER 2020

THE VILLAGE WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

*Check Against Delivery

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Author of the Book,
“Journey into the Unknown” and Minister of Health and
Social Services;
Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice-President of
the Republic of Namibia;
Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime
Minister and Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation;
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the
National Assembly and Madam Katjavivi;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Festus Mbandeka, Attorney General;
Distinguished Dr. Andrew Niikondo, Acting Vice-Chancellor
of the Namibia University of Science and Technology;
Distinguished Professor Kenneth Matengu, Vice-Chancellor
of the University of Namibia;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am pleased to join you here today, on this special occasion of the Official Launch of the Book, “Journey into the Unknown” authored by Hon. Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, our Minister of Health and Social Services.

Indeed, the freedom and genuine independence our country enjoys today was brought about by the dedication and sacrifices of countless brave sons and daughters of the soil whose experiences make a compelling story of tenacity, courage, pain and success.

The experience of each and every one of them also make a compelling story about youthful energy, the desire for freedom and contempt for an oppressive white minority South African regime that denied young Namibians their basic rights to education and freedom in their motherland.

For this reason, we are here today to witness the launching of a book about courage and determination by one such Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle and gallant freedom fighter, Hon. Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, currently serving as the Minister of Health and Social Services of our Republic.

Decades ago, Hon. Dr. Shangula was a young man motivated by the desire to join the National Liberation Struggle for Namibia's freedom and genuine independence from the yoke of the white minority regime of South Africa oppression.

In this regard, like other youth of his generation, Hon. Dr. Kalumbi Shangula embarked upon a journey into the unknown in search for freedom.

Accordingly, the Namibian people and indeed others far and wide, will now be able to read about the deeds of Dr. Shangula's life in exile.

In his own words, he narrates in vivid details about his early life as a young boy born and bred in Ongandjera District in Northern Namibia. He also narrates his first encounter with the formal education system and his search for further education in South Africa.

Furthermore, he narrates his "Journey into the Unknown", when he left his motherland to go into exile and join the National Liberation Struggle, under the banner of SWAPO.

Against this background, in a fitting manner, Dr. Shangula chose, "Journey into the Unknown" as the title of his book, which we are launching here today.

I must commend Dr. Shangula for the clarity and excellent arrangement and organization of ideas and thoughts throughout this book.

Indeed, the Chapters and Sections of the book are organized in a logical manner that makes the book easy to read and to understand the plot and the story lines.

From the day of his departure from Namibia, together with his Comrades, to his experiences in exile over many years, Dr. Shangula draws the reader into the experiences and bring to life the events that happened at various stages of his life.

Through the book, the author shares with the readers about the difficulties, the motivations, and the joys of both small and great personal victories in foreign lands.

He shares his ingenuity and creativity which enabled him to survive difficult situation and provide leadership when he was called upon to do so.

His dedication to the cause of freedom enabled him to contribute significantly to the National Liberation Struggle as a combatant of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing; as an administrator and as a Medical Doctor.

I have known him well since he arrived in Zambia in 1974 and also when he served as my personal physician immediately after independence.

He continued to serve the Namibian people in many capacities after the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990.

Today, he is serving the nation as Minister of Health and Social Services, a task which he has carried out with distinction.

During this period of Covid-19 pandemic, he again demonstrated his tenacity and leadership quality in the national response to the pandemic.

For this reason, I am pleased that Dr. Shangula has dedicated time to write this book and share with the Namibian people and the world at larger, the rich experiences of his Journey into the Unknown and other aspects of his life.

Director of Ceremonies;

As I stated earlier, for thousands of Namibians, the stories of their participation in the National Liberation Struggle have not yet been told. For hundreds of them, the stories will never be told, as they have taken such stories to their final resting places.

With this book, Dr. Shangula has contributed in a significant manner to the existing body of knowledge and literature on Namibia's struggle for freedom and independence. He has also contributed the understanding of development of governance systems and infrastructure in the post-independence era.

The author has been uniquely positioned to provide these insights from a personal perspective. This is because he has occupied positions of leadership as a Civil Servant, Administrator, Medical Doctor and Public Office Bearer.

Above all, the book tells the readers about the values of dedication and perseverance.

Despite the challenges and setbacks that the author has experienced throughout life, he never gave up. He remained focused to achieve his goals.

This I believe is a good lesson for our young people, especially in this day and age, when the young people are easily distracted and misled.

At this juncture, I wish to remind our young people that success is built on hard work and determination. This is what made it possible for our author to record many successes in different areas of human endeavor.

It is thus my hope that other freedom fighters and other compatriots who participated in our National Liberation Struggle, will also put their experiences in writing.

This will enable Namibians to tell their own stories and their experiences through their own eyes and from their own recollections. This will also enrich the glorious history of our National Liberation Struggle.

Most importantly, the journey into the unknown that Dr. Shangula took as a young man, more than 40 years ago, brought him back to his motherland to contribute to the development of our country.

I therefore take this opportunity to commend Dr. Shangula for deciding to write this book. It is indeed a welcome addition to the literature on Namibia's National Liberation Struggle.

With these few words, it is now my pleasure to declare the Book "Journey into the Unknown" officially launched.

I thank you!