



**VOTE OF THANKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK: TEACHING AND LEADING BY
EXAMPLE; THE STORY OF SAM NUJOMA**

FRIDAY, 06 DECEMBER 2019

THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT (IUM) HALL

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

*Check Against Delivery

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(Reg No 8208)

Directory of Ceremonies;
Right Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia representing H.E. Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia;
Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Former Prime Minister and Chairperson of the Sam Nujoma Foundation;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Dr. David Namwandi, Founder and Chairperson of the IUM Governing Council;
Professor Keto Mshigeni, Research Professor and immediate past Vice-Chancellor of Hubert Kairuki Memorial University;
Professor Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia;
Professor Kingo Mchombu, Acting Vice Chancellor of IUM;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Esteemed Reverend Dr. Tshapaka Tsha Kapolo, Spiritual Counselor in the Office of the Vice-President;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the IUM Community;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

A Very Good Afternoon to You All!

When Professor Hangula and his team visited me on the 21st of September 2018, to interview me and also get approval for them to write the book which has just been launched today, I did not think it would take them such a short time to complete this task.

Having perused the contents of the book, I must say that the team, under the able leadership of Professor Lazarus Hangula, has done a great job and I wish to congratulate them most sincerely.

I do not know if I deserve all the praises and accolades written about me in the book, as all I did was to follow the discipline, tenacity and cultural values and norms instilled in me by my parents as the firstborn child in the family.

Nevertheless, it is my wish that lessons that I have learned throughout my life journey that have been identified in the book will be beneficial to many generations to come.

Lest we forget, the liberation struggle in Namibia was conducted through collective leadership and following in the footsteps of our forefathers and mothers until we attained our Freedom and genuine Independence on 21st March 1990.

In this regard, I remember attending the historic Third All-African People's Conference that was launched by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and which took place in March 1961 in Cairo – Egypt where I met many other Pan-Africanists.

During the Conference, President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt assured me of support to SWAPO. When Tanganyika achieved its independence on 9 December 1961, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere helped us to establish a provisional SWAPO's Headquarter in Dar-es-Salaam-Tanzania and offered our Liberation Movements training camps at Kongwa, Morogoro and other places.

Mwalimu Nyerere further assisted us with the formation of the Pan-African Freedom Movement of East, Central and Southern Africa (PAFMECSA) which played an important role of uniting the Southern African Liberation Movements such as UNIP of Zambia, FRELIMO of Mozambique, MPLA of Angola, SWAPO of Namibia, ANC of South Africa, ZAPU and later ZANU PF of Zimbabwe and others. For this reason, I propose a monument to be dedicated to Mwalimu Nyerere especially near Kongwa and Morogoro in Tanzania for the crucial role he played in the total liberation of Africa in general and Southern Africa in particular.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am mindful of the historic responsibility entrusted upon me by the broad membership of the SWAPO Party and the Namibian people at large. I therefore pay tribute to our forefathers and mothers and to the gallant sons and daughters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing, who took part in our long and protracted armed liberation struggle under the banner of SWAPO.

I agree with the previous speakers that leadership is about purpose and direction, as our collective security depends on our unity of purpose and action. Unity is a precondition for peace and development and without peace, it is not possible for the best and talented citizens of our country to realise their full potentials.

I too concur with those who said that leadership is about identifying leadership potential, talent spotting and mentoring. As the saying goes in one of the Namibia's mother tongues; "*Waana m'tanda kuna ngombe, Waana m'pagona kuna lilya*". Meaning, there is no future without a dynamic and educated youth.

In this regard, let all our children attend school from kindergarten, through primary and secondary school up to university level, in order to propel Namibia and our African continent to greater heights.

Having said the above, allow me now to extend my profound gratitude to the following people and sponsors that have made the launch of the book possible.

First and foremost, I wish to thank H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, represented here by the Right Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, our Prime Minister, for having agreed to launch the book at such short notice.

Further, I am grateful to Professor Mwandemele for his welcoming remarks and express my sincere thanks to Professor Mshigeni for his warm words and for the excellent synopsis of the book. *Ahsante sana!*

I too wish to express my gratitude to Reverend Dr. Tshapaka Tsha Kapolo for the opening prayer.

I am also very grateful to Comrade Dr. David Namwandi, Founder and Chairperson of the IUM Governing Council, for hosting us at these facilities today and for his generous financial contribution that helped us to print two thousand (2 000) copies of the book we are launching today.

Last but not least, I am grateful to our Director of Ceremonies for his sense of humour and the mastery of the event.

In addition, allow me to thank The Sam Nujoma Foundation Trustees and the Technical Committee for being the Publishers of the book.

I particularly wish to point out Ms. Julia Muetudhana, the initiator of the book and the project coordinator.

In the same vein, I want to thank the following sponsors namely; Dr. Martha Namundjebo-Tilahun of the Africa Group Pty (Ltd); Mr. Rodrick Engelbrecht of Trip Travel Namibia; and last but not least, Comrade Lazarus Jacobs and Comrade Desmond Amunyela of Paragon Investment Holding.

Similarly, I wish to convey my gratitude and appreciations to the six writers that have volunteered their time, namely: Professor Keto E. Mshigeni; Professor Lazarus Hangula; Professor Osmund Mwandemele; Ms. Julia Muetudhana; Mr. Evaristus Evaristus, and Ms. Elizabeth Ipangelwa.

Furthermore, I wish to point out and thank the two Editors of the book: Professor Keto E. Mshigeni and Professor Jairos Kangira.

Finally, I will fail in my duties if I do not mention H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President; H.E. Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President; Hon. Pendukeni Iivula –lithana, a Member of the Board of Trustee of the Sam Nujoma Foundation; as well as Hon. Leon Jooste, Minister of Public Enterprise for their valuable contributions.

Among the contributors are also Dr. Richard Kamwi, Former Minister of Health; Hon. Dr. David Namwandi, Former Minister of Education; Retired Lieutenant General Martin Shalli; Dr. Elia Ngarare; Dr. Tshali lithete and Mr. David Nuyoma.

Similarly, Mr. Armas Amukwiyu; Mr. Sven Thieme; Ms. Hilda Basson-Namundjebo; Mr. Lazarus Jacobs; Mr. Desmond Amunyela; Mr. John Nauta and Ms. Susan Hamunyela contributed to the writing of the book.

Finally, I commend the complementary role of the staff members in my Office under Comrade Shipale and all those who participated in the design and layout including the printing of the book. It is my sincere hope that you will get some copies of the book for yourselves.

In conclusion, I am heartened by your attendance and filled with gratitude and deep appreciations. Your presence is testimony that you believe in building this country through unity of purpose and action.

We must unite the people of Namibia, irrespective of race, religion, sex, or ethnic origin into a democratic, vibrant and peace-loving nation as well as foster among us a sense of common purpose and collective destiny.

I therefore wish to urge all of us to work together – black and white, women and men, young and old – to build a united, peaceful and prosperous Namibia.

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

I thank you!

Ahsante sana!