



ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION AND NAMING CEREMONY OF THE
EXPLORATION AND SAMPLING VESSEL (MV) SS NUJOMA

15TH JUNE 2017

WALVIS BAY

ERONGO REGION

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(Reg No 8208)

It is with a sense of great joy, pride and satisfaction that I have accepted the invitation from Debmarine Namibia, in order to witness the official inauguration and naming of its sixth ship, in its fleet of diamond mining vessels in my name.

As we are all aware, the Marine diamond firm Debmarine Namibia, established in 2002 is owned wholly by Namdeb Holdings (Pty) Ltd, which itself is an equal joint venture marine diamond prospecting and mining company between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and De Beers Centenary AG.

I am happy that the rehabilitation of marine mining environment occurs naturally and once the mining has been completed in a particular area, I am informed that all aspects of operations are carefully considered and managed through the implementation of an Environmental Management System certified to the international standard, in pursuance of the highest levels of environmental management.

Through a commitment to ensuring long-term sustainability as well as clear focus on its medium and long-term goals, the Company continues to live up to its mission of delivering value to its shareholders and is increasingly becoming the most important source of diamonds for Namibia.

Similarly, I am reliably informed that the ship, which was co-funded by Standard Bank Namibia and RMB Namibia, was built in Norway by the Norwegian shipbuilders Kleven Verft.

Against this background, allow me to express my profound appreciation to Debmarine Namibia for bestowing upon me the honour to have my name placed on its Sixth state-of-the-art and most sophisticated and technologically advanced marine diamond sampling and exploration vessel in the world.

In accepting this honour, I reiterate my commitment to ensure that our mineral resources are used for the benefit of all our people and to the safeguarding and preservation of our marine resources.

Similarly, I remain an ardent believer that one of the critical factors in the achievement of Namibia's national development agenda is through beneficiation of our mineral resources.

Indeed, no longer content for mining companies to simply invest, extract and export, we seek to get more value out of our natural resources, both directly and indirectly through shareholding in these mining ventures, and greater value addition by processing these raw materials further down the value chain before exporting.

In addition, no country can progress unless it invests in the development of its youth. I applaud Debmarine Namibia for purposefully embarking on a strategic initiative to grow Namibian Captains to master the state-of-the art mining vessels and for Namibia to fully benefit from its marine resources.

In the same vein, I would like to encourage the management and directors of Debmarine Namibia to always take Corporate Social Responsibility seriously by sponsoring the youth, schools, hospitals etc and thereby playing a pivotal role to combat the problem of unemployment and contribute to economic growth and wealth creation in our country.

I also want to encourage continued strong relations between the Workers Union MUN and the management of Debmarine Namibia to work as partners in order to advance the common good of Namibia.

I am honoured to be the namesake of the first and only dedicated exploration and sampling vessel – the Motor Vessel (mv) SSNujoma. It is a magnificent vessel – technologically advanced – and carries a Green Passport – I am informed that the SS Nujoma is fitted with desalination systems with capacity to ensure that it is self-sufficient with regard to freshwater supplies. It is the most environmentally friendly vessel in the Debmarine Namibia fleet.

It is therefore my distinct honour and privilege to wish the Motor Vessel (mv) SSNujoma all the very best in its operations. In the same vein, allow me to pay a special tribute to all the employees of Debmarine Namibia – and especially the crew of the Motor Vessel (mv) SSNujoma.

I hope you continue to work safely and always remember that working for a company like Debmarine Namibia, is a national duty.

With these few words, I am most grateful for this distinct honour and I accept it with humility and pride, on behalf of the Namibian people for whom I was honoured and privileged to provide guidance during the last thirty years of foreign rule of our country until the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990.

I thank you!