



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
ONDANGWA TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION**

02 MAY 2018

**ONDANGWA TRADE FAIR CENTRE
OSHANA REGION**

**Check Against Delivery*

Directors of Ceremonies;
Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers here present;
Honorable Members of Parliament here present;
Tatekulu Omukwaniilwa gwoshilongo sha Ndonga;
Ohamba yoshilongo shetu shaUkwanyama Meekulu
Martha Mwadinomho Kristian Nelumbu, Ootatekulu
Aakwaniilwa Nomalenga
Honorable Clemence Kashuupulwa, Governor of
Oshana Region and all Governors present;
Your Worship the Mayor of the Ondangwa Town,
Honourable Paavo Amwele and all Mayors present;
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councilors;
Distinguished Chief Executive Officer of Ondangwa
Town, Mr. Ismael Namgongo;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Members of the Clergy;
Distinguished Captains of Industry and all Members of
the Business Fraternity present here;
Distinguished Exhibitors;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning!

It is my singular honour and indeed a great pleasure to be with you this morning at this official opening of the annual Ondangwa Trade and Industrial Exhibition, 2018.

Generally, trade shows and exhibitions are held to primarily demonstrate and showcase latest services and products, encourage innovation and stimulate best market trends and opportunities available within various economic sectors.

In view of this, the Ondangwa Trade & Industrial Exhibition is a living testimony where the business community comes together for a common course in order to enhance sustainability and economic growth.

Director of Ceremonies;

Before I proceed further, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Preparatory Committee who prepared for this event which brought together businessmen and women from Oshana Region and beyond as well as other stakeholders.

In the same vein, let me also applaud the exhibitors for turning out in a good number and I am certainly confident that you have been and continue to showcase quality products and services in order to assist Namibia to realize its National Developmental Plans and Policies.

The decision taken by Ondangwa Town Council to organise and host this exhibition is commendable as this will go a milestone in ensuring an enabling environment for business activities to flourish in this town.

I am aware of the difficult economic circumstances the country is going through hence, it is up to all of us to coordinate our efforts and work together so that we improve our economic situation.

I am optimistic that given the economic and human resources acumen our country possesses, I have no doubt that we will emerge victorious and our national economy will recover rapidly.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am informed that this is the 8th time the Ondangwa Trade & Industrial Exhibition is taking place. Often, invention can be the foundation for wealth creation and economic growth. Many developed and great nations that are there today were developed through industrialization through difficult and humble beginnings. However, they managed to reach the level where they are through innovation and embracing information technology.

In addition, such countries invested in the development and building the capacity of their human resources through education and training.

A typical example is the Asian countries known as the Asian Tigers, such as Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea, who have little and limited natural resources but are giants in the world economies. Therefore, it is often found necessary that as a country we must promote productivity and competitiveness as critical tools in wealth creation and economic growth.

The competitiveness of an economy is not only as a result of improved infrastructure and administrative reforms, but it is heavily dependent on the innovativeness of the business community. Therefore, innovation should become the cornerstone of all our business strategies if we have to grow and contribute meaningfully to the growth of our national economy.

Added to this, our Government should promote public-private partnerships, especially in infrastructure development and investment, while at the same time we should invest in the training of human resources to enable our entrepreneurs to develop new products, add value to our raw resources, and enhance value chains that promote growth and investments.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am reliably informed that Ondangwa as a Town is making positive strides in the manufacturing industry and value addition, and what makes me proud is that most of the businesses referred to here are owned by Namibians.

Furthermore, I am equally happy by the rate at which the Ondangwa Town is developing into an economically vibrant urban area, offering diverse opportunities to its inhabitants, visitors and prospective investors alike. This is evidence that the Town is suitable and has positioned itself to attract more investors.

Allow me therefore, at this juncture, to congratulate the Ondangwa Town Council for their endeavors and encourage it to continue in that direction as it positions itself to be the industrial hub in northern Namibia.

In the same vein, I urge Namibian businesses to venture more into manufacturing and value addition as it is the only way we can grow our economy from the primary sector of extracting raw resources and to start processing our resources into finished goods for our own consumption and export too.

Director of Ceremonies;

I wish all the exhibitors and visitors a great stay and productive exchanges that take your businesses to greater heights.

With these few words, I now hereby declare the Annual Ondangwa Trade and Industrial Exhibition, 2018 officially open.

I thank you!