



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; *NOTABLE QUOTES BY*  
*BISHOP KLEOPAS DUMENI*  
WRITTEN BY DR. PETRUS ANGULA MBENZI,

15 MARCH 2016

PARLIAMENT RESTAURANT

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

\*Check Against Delivery

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Director of Ceremonies;  
Your Excellency Dr. Nicky Iyambo, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;  
Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila – Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;  
Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia;  
Honorable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Katjavivi;  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;  
Honourable Members of Parliament present;  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
Retired Bishop Emeritus Kleopas Dumeni and other Spiritual Leaders present;  
Dr. Petrus Angula Mbenzi and other Academics present;  
Dr. Frans Aupa Indongo and other Captains of Industry;  
Distinguished Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my distinct and singular honour to have been invited at this auspicious occasion of the official launching of the book titled; **Notable quotes by Bishop Kleopas Dumeni**. As evidenced by the title, the book chronicles the life history of Bishop Kleopas Dumeni, an exceptional revolutionary church leader who contributed immensely towards the liberation struggle of Namibia.

The book also reveals the strategies used by the progressive churches in Namibia to break the shackles of colonialism in our country.

As a matter of fact, two years ago, I read a doctoral thesis on the decolonizing strategies of Bishop Kleopas Dumeni. The thesis correctly depicts the determination, courage and perseverance of Bishop Dumeni in telling the international community that suffering was the “daily bread in Namibia.”

This academic work by the University of Namibia was produced by non-other than Dr Petrus Mbenzi and appears to have culminated in the birth of this book.

There is no doubt that the story of Bishop Dumeni extends beyond our national borders because he spoke at various international gatherings calling and pleading for the independence of Namibia as well as exposing the brutality of the apartheid-colonial regime locally and internationally.

As a leader of one of the progressive churches in Namibia, Bishop Dumeni was aware that the colonial regime and its proponents were not pleased with his advocacy for freedom, but he stood his ground, unshaken and spoke the truth from the pulpit.

His contribution to the struggle for freedom and independence in Namibia speaks volumes. Therefore it is worth collecting his notable quotations which form part of our historical treasure to pass on to the young generation.

I am happy that the quotes are in both English and Oshiwambo, which makes it easier for many people to read them. For this reason, I strongly believe this book is a must read for every patriotic Namibian, as it enriches our knowledge about the history of our country.

Director of Ceremonies;

The history of our liberation struggle is relatively invisible globally, thus there is critical need to produce books of this magnitude that ensure the visibility of our history in the international domain.

What is presented in this book is a commendable effort, but this is just the tip of the iceberg as there are several unrecorded events about the contribution by Bishop Dumeni in particular and the contribution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN) in general and many others.

Furthermore, the book serves as a challenge to the academics in the field of history and political science to research these notable quotes and turn them into scholarly articles.

Against this background, I particularly would like to commend Dr Petrus Angula Mbenzi for collecting these memorable quotes and for making them accessible to the entire Namibian nation, and indeed to the global readership.

It is my hope that these notable quotes will inspire prospective writers to collate notable quotes of various leaders in Namibia so that their contribution may be entered in the annals of Namibian history.

It is also my sincere hope that our children will, in all likelihood, emulate the examples of Bishop Dumeni and read these notable quotations in order to benefit from the past actions and rich history of one of our gallant sons of the soil as well as tap from his wisdom and vast experience.

In conclusion, I am calling each one of you present here to buy yourself a copy of this book and get inspired.

With these few words, it is now my distinct pleasure and honour to declare the book "**Notable quotes by Bishop Kleopas Dumeni**" officially launched.

I thank you.