



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA,  
FOUNDING FATHER OF THE NATION AND PATRON OF THE  
HENTIES BAY DEVELOPMENT EXPO, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS  
OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2016

HENTIES BAY SME CENTRE

ERONGO REGION

\*Check Against Delivery

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Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma  
Board of Trustees: Hon. Nahas Angula (Chairperson), Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana,  
Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Hon. Erkki Nghimtina, Ms. Febronia Nelago Shapaka  
(Reg No 8208)

Director of Proceedings;  
Honourable Retired Major General Charles Ndaxu Namoloh, Minister of Safety and Security;  
Honourable Christine //Hoebes, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office;  
Honourable Sylvia Makgone, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development;  
Honourable Engel Nawatiseb, Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises;  
Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of Erongo Region;  
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors present here today;  
Your Worship, Councillor Hermann Hosabe /Honeb, the Mayor of Henties Bay and other Mayors present;  
Distinguished Chief Executive Officers and Senior Government Officials present;  
Distinguished Captains of Industry;  
Distinguished Traditional, Spiritual and Community Leaders;  
Distinguished Exhibitors;  
Distinguished Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Being a resident of this beautiful coastal town, the welcoming remarks by His Worship the Mayor as well as the introduction a few minutes ago has already overwhelmingly made me feel at home and welcomed.

Allow me therefore first and foremost to express my appreciations towards the entire Community of the Town of Henties Bay for the honour bestowed on me to be the Patron of this year's Development Expo.

I am indeed pleased at the rate at which the town is fast developing into an economically vibrant urban area, offering diverse opportunities to its inhabitants, the visitors and to prospective investors alike.

Given that this was a small coastal town with a mere population of 4500 by then and today the population has increased to about 10 000 people, this development expo could not have come at the right time.

Director of Proceedings;

We are all aware that an Expo is an exhibition organized to enable corporations, institutions and individuals involved in business to showcase and demonstrate their latest products and services.

The Henties Bay Town Council, as the organizer, together with all Stakeholders, had a successful resources mobilization campaign and a good marketing strategy. Let me therefore use this opportunity to convey my appreciation to all the Stakeholders for their generous contribution and support towards the hosting of this event.

I am informed that the Tourism Association of Henties Bay is one of the committees that are working hand in hand with the Municipality and the community at large to attract tourism and assist with various civics activities. I applaud them for the good working relationship for the benefit of the town.

In addition, I am reliably informed that this Expo is being held under the Theme: *Unlocking Potential in Henties Bay*. In keeping with this theme, I am informed that the Henties Bay Development Expo is inviting key players from government, private sector and local authorities to engage on how to develop this town.

For this reason, this is a befitting theme whose primary focus is to unlock the economic potential of Henties Bay in order to deliver quality services to the residents, the tourist and the visitors alike.

Secondly, this is a befitting theme because it attracts prospective investors to Henties Bay in order to ease the financial constraints which usually pose a challenge to our Local Authorities in general.

We are all aware that one of the critical challenges facing our country is how to overcome constraints to wealth creation and economic growth. This means that we should address such constraints head on.

It is imperative therefore to examine our country's capacity and potential to produce goods and services. Production is the basis for wealth creation and economic growth. Wealth creation and economic growth are in turn the bases for employment creation and poverty eradication.

In this regard, it is imperative that as a nation we must promote productivity and competitiveness as critical elements in wealth creation and economic growth.

Moreover, it is imperative that as a country we must create infrastructure for knowledge creation through scientific research and development.

We all know that because of lack of investment opportunities, Namibia is a net exporter of capital. In order to mitigate this untenable state of affairs, it is critical that the country must invest more in education and training, especially in the fields of Sciences and Technology to be able to develop new products and add value to our economy.

Against this background, as the patron of this Expo, I am delighted to hear that the leadership of this town has come up with innovative strategies to develop the town. This is evidenced by investment opportunities identified in areas such as tourism, logistic, infrastructure development as well as in sanitation, housing and education, in line with the Harambee Prosperity Plan and the recently concluded Namibia Investment Conference.

We therefore applaud the pro-activeness of the Henties Bay Municipality with regards to the Waterfront Development initiative as one of the priority projects of the Ministry of Public Enterprises and the upgrading of the B1 road from Henties Bay to Swakopmund as well as from Henties Bay via Uis /Kamanjab.

Indeed, the revived Henties Bay Waterfront Development Project should receive the necessary funding and support from all stakeholders in order to ensure its immediate implementation without any further delay. With this development, I have no doubt in my mind that a lot of prospective investors will be attracted to Henties Bay.

However, I wish to urge all prospective investors, employer and employees to forge good working relationship in order to secure employments and investments. I should also encourage the existing businesses to upgrade and transform their businesses in order to meet the required standards.

It is also important that we look at constructing a Public Health facility and other amenities to bring services closer to our people.

In conclusion, I wish the Henties Bay Development Expo to grow from strength to strength and become a successful and prominent trade event in Namibia and beyond. With these few words, it is now my pleasure to declare the Henties Bay Investment Expo Officially opened.

I thank you