



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM  
SHAFIISHUNA NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER  
OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION AT THE  
LAUNCH OF THE UNIVERSAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

15 OCTOBER 2018

UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA (UNAM) LEISURE CENTRE  
WINDHOEK  
KHOMAS REGION

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

Director of Ceremonies;

Distinguished Professor Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia;  
Mr. Hiskia Asino, Chairperson of the Universal Aquaculture Association;  
Distinguished members of the Association;  
Distinguished invited guests;  
Esteemed members of the media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to express my profound delight for having been invited to take part at this historic occasion, marking the official launch of the Universal Aquaculture Association.

I am indeed very happy that various players in this young industry of fish farming saw the need to organise themselves into a formidable organisation that can promote investments into fish farming activities thereby growing aquaculture into a sizeable sector and a significant contributor to our economy.

There is no doubt that aquaculture has enormous potential in Namibia because of the increase in the demand for fish and fish products in the global market at a time when wild fish stock is declining globally including in the Namibian waters. People around the world are yearning to eat healthier food such as fish and without an increase in the supply of such food products, there will be shortage in the market.

That creates an opportunity for fish farmers to close the gap in the market by producing and supplying fish and fish products to the growing fish market locally and outside our borders.

As a fishing nation with very rich wild fishing grounds, we have been a significant player in the global fish market for a long time. It is unfortunate that prior to our attainment of independence, there had been severe, uncontrolled overfishing in our sea which reduced our wild fish stock in a very significant way.

Upon the attainment of independence the legislative instruments and law enforcement mechanisms which we put in place, proved effective in ensuring that our fish and marine resources were sustainably managed and harvested. Unfortunately, the unfavourable and unpredicted climatic conditions brought about by climate change and global warming put enormous pressure on our fish stock and marine resources.

It has thus become very clear that Namibia needs to develop a growing and competitive aquaculture sector if we are to continue being a significant supplier of fish and fish products to the world market.

It is unfortunate that while it has been recognised that Africa has the potential to produce more fish from farming activities, we still contribute far too less to the world farmed fish production compared to other regions.

In 2016 for example, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reported that Africa's total production amounted to one point six million tons of fresh water fish and just below twenty-two thousand tons of marine aquaculture against global production of forty-seven million tons from freshwater fish farming and twenty-six point six million tons from marine aquaculture. These represent only three point six percent and zero point zero eight percent as Africa's contribution to global production.

It goes without saying that increased production of fish will go a long way in improving our food security and self-reliance. It will also contribute positively towards national efforts aimed at reducing imports and improve our balance of payment. It is important to note that the reliance on food imports weakens our food security and trade balance. It is therefore of critical importance that the private sector invests in fish farming opportunities which our country has to offer not only to improve food security but to close the gap in the global food market as the world population grows bigger.

The creation of the Universal Aquaculture Association must be seen as a clear attempt by players in the sector to stimulate and promote interests in the development of aquaculture in Namibia. This must be embraced as a strategy to put Namibia at the centre of continental and global fish farming development. Key stakeholders such as universities, scholars and researchers should complement these efforts by intensifying research and development initiatives in the area of aquaculture so that we improve our products quality and competitiveness.

We these few words, I have a singular honour to declare the Universal Aquaculture Association officially launched. 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.