



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

26 JULY 2018

OTSHIKUKU TOWN LODGE

OMUSATI REGION

Director of proceedings;
Honourable Lucia Iipumbu, Deputy Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development and Patron of Otshikuku Trade Association;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region and other Governors present;
Honourable Modestus Amutse, Chairperson of Omusati Regional Council and Management Committee and other regional Councillors in attendance;
Your Worship Councilor Mbokoma Mungandjera, the Mayor of Oshikuku Town Council and other Mayors present;
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Ndilimani Iipumbu, Gwelelo lyOshilongo shUukwambi and other Leaders of Traditional Authorities present;
Comrade Martin Inkumbi, Managing Director of the Development Bank of Namibia;
Comrade Dr. Tshali Iithete, Managing Director of Ongwediva Medipark;
Comrade Tomas Iindji, Chairperson of Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Northern branches;
Chairperson of the Otshikuku Trade Association Mr. Paratus Nepolo and other Directors present;
Distinguished Captains of Industry and Members of the Business Fraternity;
Esteemed Religious and Community leaders present;
Distinguished Exhibitors;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am delighted to have been invited to officiate at this auspicious occasion of the official opening of Otshikuku Trade Fair.

This event promotes trades in Omusati Region in general and Otshikuku Constituency particular in order to fight poverty, hunger, disease and ignorance and I am pleased that the fight against poverty and economic emancipation is championed by the sons and daughters of the soil as you see them here today.

Director of Proceedings;

The Otshikuku Trade Fair aims to ensure stimulations of economic activities in the region and nationally. In this regard, business opportunities like these should be exploited in order to create employments opportunities for our people and ensure that they are economically self-reliant.

Indeed, trade fairs are business platforms meant to exhibit the goods and services belonging to a specific industry to the potential buyers and businesses. They can prove to be brilliant ways to promote individual business as well as collective trade.

They also play a pivotal role in helping businesses meet with other industry players and foster networking in order to grow their customer base.

Against this background, the Otshikuku Trade Fair offers an unparalleled opportunity for face-to-face interactions with a wide array of potential customers and an opportunity to showcase one business service or products.

I therefore encourage the business community to tap in the immense potential that Otshikuku Trade Fair offers, for your respective business to grow and prosper as well as an immense opportunity to stimulate economic growth and create value for local people.

At this juncture, allow me to salute the exhibitors at this trade fair for their commitment to grow our economy and make a prosperous Namibia.

The world economy at large and the Namibian economy in particular, have not been performing at its anticipated level and a lot of workers and families are still struggling to recover from the worst economic crisis in generations.

As a result, many people have lost their jobs and this call for innovations to ensure that our local economy is not solely dependent on foreign businesses to survive.

Director of Proceedings;

The SWAPO Party government has over the years made tremendous efforts to fight the legacy of colonialism and apartheid and also achieving a better life for the masses of our people.

In the same vein, the SWAPO Government has done so well over the years to maintain peace and stability because without peace in our country, business will not prosper. Without peace, we cannot achieve sustained development which is the fundamental condition for the realisation of the objective of providing a better life for all our people.

We should act together as a country to ensure that our people have capacity and entrepreneurial skills to take advantage of the opportunities presented by trade fairs and also to increase trade at different trade fairs in the country and abroad.

The Namibian Government has recently signed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) which is expected to remove barriers to trade, such as tariffs and import quotas and allow the free flow of goods and services between African Union member States.

With the removing of such barriers as stipulated the Namibian business community should hence tap on the opportunities presented and derive significant value by expanding their businesses beyond the boundaries.

I equally believe that we would commit a grave and unforgivable strategic mistake if we do not tap in the marketing opportunities presented by technology and social media and therefore urge business people to enhance their clients reach using social media platform to ultimately grow their businesses.

Director of Proceedings;

I want to encourage parents to send our children to school, because without a skilled and educated workforce, we cannot achieve the development objectives we pursue.

One of the realities we have to recognise is that relative to the developed countries of the world, we remain exporters of minerals resources and other primary products.

We are therefore confronted with the challenge to radically modernise our economies by expanding the manufacturing sector and accessing modern technology.

One of the advantages we must offer to people who want to invest in our region and trade with these markets must surely be that we have the people who have the skill and knowledge to work within a modern economy.

The economic challenges we all face demand that we work together as citizen of Namibia. I therefore want to seriously warn those Namibians, especially men who are busy killing our women and girl children with pangas and knives as if they are cutting meat at butcheries.

In conclusion, I have the honour and privilege to declare the 1st Otshikuku Trade Fair officially open.

I thank you.