



STATEMENT BY H. E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING  
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF OLUFUKO  
FESTIVAL 2018

28 AUGUST 2018

OLUFUKO CENTRE OUTAPI

OMUSATI REGION

\*Check Against Delivery

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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)

Directors of Ceremonies;  
H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Sutjie Mbumba;  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;  
Honourable Ms. Tandi Moraka, Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts and Culture, from the sister Republic of South Africa and her delegation, representing the Limpopo Premier, Mr. Chupu Mathabatha, Limpopo Province;  
Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region and other Governors present;  
Your Worship, Honourable Selma Nelago Asino, the Mayor of Outapi Town Council, and other Mayors present;  
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councilors;  
Esteemed Chief Executive Officer of Outapi Town Council, Comrade Ananias Nashilongo;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Oswin Mukulu, Elenga Enene Iyelelo Iyoshilongo ShaMbalantu;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Johannes Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa gwaNgandjera;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Josia Shikongo, Omukwaniilwa gwUukwaluudhi;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Herman Iipumbu, gwElelo IyUukwambi;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Mathias Walaula, gwElelo IyOmbandja;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Tjimbuare Tom, Chief of Vita Thom Royal House;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Paulus Tjavara, Chief of Otjikaako Traditional Authority;  
Esteemed Rev. Jesaya Hanghuwo and other Spiritual Leaders present;  
Esteemed Captains of Industry, Participants and Exhibitors;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my distinct honour to join you on this important occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of Olufuko Festival which was launched in 2012 here at Olufuko Centre amid wide spread condemnation by those who do not want people to practise their culture and tradition in an independent Namibia.

Despite such retrogressive efforts, the festival continues to grow and to attract a large number of visitors and exhibitors.

Indeed, your presence here today reinforces our genuine effort to restore our cultural heritage which was in the past forcibly removed and replaced with European traditions to assimilate indigenous children into western culture.

Director of Proceedings;

Allow me at the outset to commend the Olufuko Preparatory Committee for keeping up the momentum by making sure that the festival continues to grow and bring people from various backgrounds together. I am also delighted to learn that there is a representative of the Limpopo Premier from the sister republic of South Africa among us today, Ms Anna Tandi Moraka – Member of the Executive Committee (MEC) for Sport, Arts and Culture. I am told she is accompanied by Mr. Ismael Malale - Chief of Staff and Mr. Lithole Donald of the Heritage Unit, among others.

This should be the way for African countries to interact with each other and share different cultures for the benefit of our future generations as we pass on our culture from one generation to another.

Indeed, there is no doubt that there is much wisdom that we can learn from our ancestors through preservation and promotion of culture and traditions. Our forefathers and mothers left us with rich norms and values which would benefit us a great deal if we continue to uphold them.

Similarly, if we continue to maintain our culture, this would enable us to curb the evil scourges of domestic violence and other crimes that are disturbing peace and harmony in our country. People who are well cultured will not take knives and pangas to stab each other or even steal and insult each other.

People who value our traditional norms and values do respect their parents, their leaders and other human beings irrespective of their status in society. According to our traditional norms and values, one cannot just walk past a person without greeting him or her but today we have noted with dismay how some people walk past you without greeting you. This is un-African.

Director of Proceedings;

I wish to reiterate what I said at the recent Olufuko Fundraising Gala Dinner that Olufuko is our common Cultural Heritage and as such we should celebrate it without fear or regret.

Countries worldwide are celebrating their cultures and traditions unlike those people who do not want to decolonize their minds and are simply delighted to continue promoting foreign cultures while shamelessly looking down at their own.

Director of Proceedings;

Let me make it categorically clear that initiation is not marriage but the rite of passage from childhood into womanhood or adulthood. We are mindful of our young girls, the initiates, who are taking part in this process. Many of them will be our future leaders and have to be educated in various fields.

We all know that education is the key to knowledge and power and I therefore urge all of you who are taking part in Olufuko in particular and our youth in general to take your education seriously so that you will become engineers, medical doctors, scientists, pilots, agricultural experts, etc.

Marriage will come after you have finished with your study. Olufuko is only here to prepare you as person so that you will become a responsible and hard working citizen who is fully aware of her cultural norms and values.

In conclusion, to all the visitors and exhibitors, Olufuko Festival provides an opportunity for you to showcase your products and services to a larger public. This is good for the growth of our local economy as new employment opportunities can be created in the region and will discourage people from flocking to the capital city in search of employment.

I am extremely happy that our Vice-President, His Excellency Comrade Dr. Nangolo Mbumba is representing our Head of State, H. E. Dr. Hage Geingob who could not make it today.

I wish to urge our Government to continue celebrating our cultural diversity through the motto of One Namibia, One Nation as well as mobilise resources so that this place can be developed into a fully fledged exhibition centre.

My thanks go to all those present here today for making this event memorable. Victory is certain when we work together as I always say:

*A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of society, will always emerge victorious!*

Long Live Our Culture!  
Long Live Our Heritage!  
Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you!