SPECIAL ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, AT THE OCCASION OF THE 1st PAN-AFRIKAN RENAISSANCE (PAR) SUMMIT IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

22ND JUNE 2018
HOTEL SAFARI
WINDHOEK
KHOMAS REGION
Director of Ceremonies;
Madam Mildred Jantjies, Executive Secretary of the Pan-Afrikan Women’s Organization (PAWO) and Matron of the Pan-Afrikan Renaissance (PAR);
Representative of the Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;
Honourable Nahas Angula, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of the Sam Nujoma Foundation;
Professor Serote of the Thabo Mbeki Foundation in the Republic of South Afrika;
Dr. Victor Tonchi, Chairperson of the Pan-Afrikan Centre of Namibia (PACON) (in absentia);
Madam Sarah-Leigh Elago, President of the Afrikan Youth Union and Chairperson of the Pan-Afrikan Renaissance;
Mr. Thomas Keller, Konrad Adenuer Stiftung Country Representative for Namibia and Angola;
Members of the Pan-Afrikan Renaissance Executive Committee Present;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media Present;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to have been invited to this auspicious occasion of the First Pan-Afrikan Renaissance Summit in Windhoek.
Over five decades ago, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was founded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25 May 1963 by our Founding Fathers such as Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Modibo Keita of Mali, Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt, Sekou Touré of Guinea Conackry, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and many others.

These Founding Fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), collectively had a vision for Africa inspired by the ideals of Pan Africanism as an attempt to create a sense of brotherhood and collaboration among all people of African descent whether they live inside or outside of the African continent.

Historically therefore, Pan Africanism was not only government-based but also through grassroots. We pay tribute to the advocates of Pan Africanism such as Julius Nyerere who provided us with our first office in Dar-es-Salaam, Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt where our first combatants were trained in guerilla warfare, Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria who supported us with our first weapons of two PPSH sub-machine guns and two TT Pistols, including Kwame Nkrumah, Haile Selassie, Ahmed Sékou Touré, Thomas Sankara, Muammar Gaddafi, among others.

We also pay tribute to the grassroots organisers such as Marcus Garvey, Malcom X, and academics like W.E.B. Du Bois, Henry Sylvester Williams, George Padmore, Frantz Fanon, and others.

Most importantly as Pan Africanists, we must advocate in practical terms and beyond words, that solidarity will enable the African continent to fulfill its potential to independently eradicate poverty, disease and ignorance from the face of the African continent.
According to estimates by the European Union (EU) in a study in 2011, Africa produces over 60 metals and minerals, such as diamonds, gold, iron-ore, cobalt, uranium, copper and silver, petroleum including sugar, salt, woods and tropical fruits.

In recent months, we have witnessed imperialist countries imposing tariffs against each other on steel in particular. Africa is the home of world raw materials. Imagine what could happen if all African countries, through the African Union (AU), were to equally place the interest of Africa first by imposing tariffs or additional levies on all our raw materials or without sharing them with foreign countries?

Director of Ceremonies;

I speak of the Solidarity of Pan Africanism as above with full knowledge that the vision of our Founding Fathers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which was established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with 32 signatory governments, has been relatively achieved.

Today we have an Africa that is politically independent and united, with over 50 Member States under the umbrella of the African Union (AU). As you may all know, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was renamed as the African Union (AU) on 9 July 2002.

I am, however, aware of the unfinished business of the African Economic integration and the general expectation for economic development of the African continent.

I strongly believe that this unfinished business, of economic integration and economic development, is the responsibility of our young people and future generation on the continent and those in the diaspora.

It is therefore imperative that all decisions taken by the member States of the African Union (AU) must include the youth who will be the future leaders of our continent.

Even the creation of the African Union’s (AU) Agenda 2063, implies that by that year all Africans should have made significant strides in transforming the continent and uplifting the standard of living for all Africans on the continent and those in the diaspora.

Indeed, there are still far too many nations and people being left behind, especially women and youth and inequality remains a challenge, not only for Africa, but the world at large.

My generation will not be there in 2063, but you the African youth will be there. Our expectation is that you will be there to complete what we have started. You will be there to realize the African citizenship wherein future generations will freely travel Africa from Cape to Cairo and from Dakar to Mogadishu with a single passport and a single currency.

You will be there to ensure that the planes and cars used in Africa will be produced in Africa. You will be there to ensure that the land of Africa is in the hands of Africans. You will be there to tell the real African story through continental African television and radio with the aim of fighting once and for all the cultural imperialism. You will be there to ensure that every child in
Africa will attend kindergarten, primary and secondary school as well as the university to ensure that no African child will live in poverty. Yes, you will be there and it will be done! This is our hope in you young leaders in the Afrikan Youth Union, the Pan-Afrikan Renaissance and all other progressive organisations by young people of Africa on the continent and those in the diaspora.

The time is now to make sure that we appeal to our governments to render all necessary support in the realization of African Renaissance. But the dream of Afrikan Renaissance cannot be achieved if our young male comrades are busy killing their female counterparts with knives and pangas. Who will be able to produce children if you are killing our female comrades? This must come to an end!

In conclusion, I wish you all fruitful deliberations and urge you to keep the vision of Pan-Afrikanism alive and remain united. Youth of Africa remember: “United we stand, divided we fall”

As I always say; “A people UNITED, striving to achieve a COMMON GOOD for all members of the society, will always emerge VICTORIOUS”.

Long Live Pan-Africanism!

Long Live the African Union!

I thank you all.