



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE LAUNCHING OF THE FUNDRAISING GALA DINNER OF OLUFUKO
FESTIVAL

OUTAPI
OMUSATI REGION

29 JULY 2016

*Check Against Delivery

Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my distinct honour to join you this evening at Olufuko Festival Fundraising Gala Dinner which is aimed at raising funds for the upcoming fifth Olufuko Festival in August 2016.

Your presence here speaks volume of working together in the spirit of harambee, and pulling in the same direction to achieve our goal of celebrating our culture and tradition.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am particularly delighted that our festival went from strength to strength since its inception in 2012. Indeed, in 2015 the girls who participated in Olufuko Festival were one hundred and four (104) which is clear testimony that our people are starting to realise that Olufuko is not a pagan festival as some people want the world to believe.

Those who are striving to colonize the mind of African people will never be happy to see people going back to their roots because they know once people manage to decolonize their mind they will be unstoppable. There is not just a restoration but a rejuvenation taking place among the younger generation that enacts and enables them to go back to their roots and discover themselves.

Indeed, once you break the back of fear, you are no longer scared, intimidated, bowing and scraping as they wanted to teach our people that they are less beautiful, less moral or less intelligent. The colonisers came to Africa in groups some were tasked to exploit the natural resources while some were tasked to confuse the minds and souls of our people in order to continue exploiting the African continent.

In line with this realization it is essential that we respect our traditional leaders as the custodians of our tradition in true African culture. In this regard, I would like to thank our Traditional Leaders in Omusati Region led by Tatekulu Oswin Shifiona Mukulu, being the Host of Olufuko Cultural Festival, for their commitment and invaluable support since the inception of this festival.

I therefore urge our youth to always respect the elders. It is not in our customs for the young ones to be disrespectful to the elders. Let us respect our customs and traditions and keep them alive.

However, in order to strengthen our position we should start to build physical infrastructures that will make Olufuko Centre relevant to the current and future generations.

In this regard I suggest that a museum be built at Olufuko Centre in order to conserve a collection of artefacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance and make them available for public viewing through exhibitions.

In the same vein, we should improve the Olufuko Centre and add value to it in order to create new job opportunities for our people and fight poverty and hunger.

In addition, since education is key to knowledge and power, the centre can also be used for educational purposes where community members will be empowered by invited experts on various aspects of our culture such as how to prevent diseases and curb violence, alcohol and drug abuse.

Against this background, I encourage the Olufuko Preparatory Committee to continue mobilizing resources for this good cause and urge them to stay focused on the original objectives of Olufuko Annual Festival.

There is a need to improve local knowledge and indigenous technologies. For instance we need factories for marula oil, animal fodders, sorghum stalks including making belts (omakwamo) and sandals (oongaku dhoongombe) from cattle hides as our forefathers and mothers used to do. We used to make these materials before the advent of foreigners in our country including hoes (omatemo), axes (omakuya), bows and arrows (uutati), spears (omagonga), daggers (omukonda) and many others.

I therefore urge our business people to partner with the Olufuko Preparatory Committee in order to establish these factories. There is nothing pagan to make household utensils and implements as well as clothing and adornments as some want us to believe.

In conclusion, allow me to thank all those individuals and corporate business entities who always come in large number and provide financial and material support to make the event a huge success. I look forward to seeing you all at Olufuko Cultural Festival scheduled to take place from the 24th of August 2016 to the 4th of September 2016.

Last but not least, I appeal to everyone present here to generously contribute towards this noble and worthwhile initiative this evening and surpass last year's figure.

Bon Appetite!

I thank you!