



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND FATHER
OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION AS WELL AS FIRST
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA, AT THE
OCCASION OF HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

**14 MAY 2016
ETUNDA TRUST FARM NEAR OTAVI
OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

** Check against delivery*

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Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Hon. Erkki Nghimtina, Ms. Febronia Nelago Shapaka
(Reg No 8208)

I am honoured and humbled that Namibians from all walks of life have gathered here today to celebrate my 87th birthday anniversary.

Allow me therefore first and foremost, on behalf of the Nujoma Family and indeed on my own behalf, to extend a cordial warm welcome to all the distinguished guests, friends and comrades who have travelled long distances to celebrate with us.

Allow me also to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciations for this Birthday Party that is hosted in my honour. In this regard, I particularly wish to single out the members of the business fraternity for not only spearheading but also contributing immensely for the successful hosting of this event.

In the same vein, I wish to applaud the members of the business fraternity for their efforts in raising funds in order for me to complete the Etunda Farm Primary School and Clinic project.

Similarly, I would like to thank various companies and individuals who have provided financial support which enabled the project to reach stage two (2) and three (3) respectively. I commend you all for your valuable effort and appreciate your generous contributions.

Director of Ceremonies;

This year's celebration of my birthday is anchored on the theme: "*The Day of Rededication to Service.*"

This is a befitting theme as it implores us to selflessly rededicate ourselves to delivering affordable and quality services to all our people.

From what I have been told, our recently graduated medical doctors have been trained in the context of where they will practice and have also been instilled with a sense of duty and dedication to service.

For this reason, I have decided to dedicate this year's celebration of my birthday to our first homegrown 35 solidly educated and trained medical doctors who are among us today.

The 35 graduates, of whom 23 are women and 12, are men, who hail from all 14 regions of the country, are among the first 57 candidates who enrolled for the programme in 2010, when the University of Namibia's School of Medicine first opened its doors.

This is indeed a major milestone in the history of our country in general and the University of Namibia in particular, considering that six years ago, we opened doors to our state of the art School of Medicine with only 57 students and now we have almost 500 students in our School of Medicine.

I therefore extend my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to our first homegrown medical doctors for a job well done!

As I have indicated on numerous occasions, our legacy must be measured in the education of our present and future generations.

It is for this reason that as a country we must continue to train an adequate number of doctors, engineers, marine biologists, geologists, agriculturalists, etc. who will be fully equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills in order to help our country become an exporter of valued added technological products.

This represents our hope and manifests our aspiration for a Namibia that is able to feed itself; produce for itself; manufacture for itself and industrialize on its own.

Director of Ceremonies;

As we are all aware, climate change is one of the most pressing global issues of our time. Its negative impact is greatly felt in the SADC countries such as Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa.

In Namibia, the effects of climate change have become more evident in the past ten years as the country continues to witness increased and recurrent droughts that affect both human and animals.

I therefore believe that if we, together with the International Community, are going to address the challenge of climate change, then we seriously need to make it one of our priorities.

Against this background, as a country, we need to consider alternative ways in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as setting up desalination plants along the Namib Desert.

In this regard, environmental assessments along the desert need to be carried out to determine the suitability and sustainability of such desalination plants. These will help to supply water to the mainland where there is a critical shortage of such a precious commodity for both human and animal consumption as well as for developmental purposes.

Director of Ceremonies;

I always urged our youth to ensure that the celebrations of events such as this one are dedicated to remembering and paying homage to all those who lost their precious lives for the liberation of our country.

Against this background, allow me to pay tribute to the sacrifices and patriotism of many of our brave sons and daughters who made an important contribution to our common quest for self-determination and genuine independence.

In conclusion, history has taught us how the enemies of peace, freedom and social progress have caused division, political instability and economic sabotage in order to reverse the hard-won gains of freedom and independence in some sisterly countries on the African continent.

As Namibians, we must therefore be on the full alert and remain vigilant twenty four hours around the clock so that we are not divided through political maneuvers and machinations.

Our strength has always been built on the strong foundation of unity of purpose and action. We must therefore continue to promote unity. It is only in this manner that we will be able to build a strong, united and prosperous nation, in the spirit of Harambee.

Remember, *“A people united, striving to achieve common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious.”*

Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.