



ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND  
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE INSTALLATION OF CHIEF GLONY  
ARNOLD AS THE CHIEF DESIGNATE OF THE !KUNG  
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

TSUMKWE  
OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

28 MARCH 2015

\*Check Against Delivery

Director of Ceremonies;  
Honourable Samuel Nuuyoma, Governor of Otjozondjupa Region;  
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;  
Distinguished Traditional and Spiritual Leaders;  
Members of the !Kung Traditional Authority;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

I would like to start by thanking the Chief designate Glony Arnold of the !Kung Traditional Authority, for the invitation extended to me to witness her official installation. Therefore, my presence here today holds historical significance, especially for the !Kung Traditional Authority and Community at large.

In the same vein, allow me to acknowledge and appreciate the presence in our midst of our Traditional Leaders.

Indeed, Traditional Authorities and Leaders are important custodians of our cultural heritage and traditional norms and values. We, therefore, recognise the fact that Traditional Authorities play an important role in the daily lives of our people.

In this context, they continue to serve as important social partners in the process of nation building.

Director of Ceremonies;

The tragic deaths of Chief John Arnold, his wife Maria !Nushe and their grandson Tugeri came as a shock to all of us. The late Chief Arnold and his wife were seen as a symbol of unity and stability, a silent force which knitted people from different ethnic and social backgrounds together.

With the passing away of Chief John Arnold, who led his community since 1989, the !Kung Community has lost a visionary leader who worked hard to unite the people and encouraged them to improve their living conditions. He was a dedicated traditional leader who worked hard for the upliftment of the communities under his jurisdiction.

In honour of his memory, the !Kung Community should continue with the work that the late Chief Arnold had started.

I am confident that our SWAPO Party led-government, under the leadership of His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, will continue to pay special attention to the socio-economic challenges of the San Community and implement development programmes and projects aimed at empowering them, so that they can have access to more economic opportunities and public services.

Director of Ceremonies;

Cultural regeneration in Namibia and Africa at large must begin with a return to our abandoned roots in order to harness our resources for development in all areas of our life and in our societies.

The loss of the underlying values of human compassion and solidarity that bind us together, has led to a deepening moral degeneration that manifests in such evil behaviors as the violence against women and children, drug and alcohol abuse, etc. Let us therefore return to our abandoned cultural values because a nation without culture is like a tree without roots.

Long before the advent of colonialism on the African continent, African women have been entrusted with positions of authority and even led armies to war. In this regard, we remember that in 17<sup>th</sup> century Angola, a woman led her kingdom in a 40 year struggle for freedom and independence. Her name is Queen Njinga who became queen at the age of 50 with the aim of ensuring her people were kept safe from the Portuguese slave traders.

For this reason, we should not be surprised when women take their rightful position, including as leaders.

It is against this background, that at the January Heads of State Summit, the AU declared 2015 as the “Year of women’s Empowerment and Development” towards Africa’s Agenda 2063, in order to fight gender inequity.

I am pleased to say that here in Namibia; we have taken steps to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. I am also pleased to state that the Constitution of the SWAPO Party, the ruling Party in this country, has been amended to provide for the 50/50 representation of women and men in all organs of the Party at different levels.

I am therefore happy that the next Chief of the !Kung community is a woman and urge the entire community to rally behind her and give her full support in carrying out her responsibilities.

I have no doubt that, going forward, Chief Glony Arnold will continue to serve and promote the well-being of her community.

I thank you