



**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 2017**

\*Check Against Delivery

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Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma  
Board of Trustees: Hon. Nahas Angula (Chairperson), Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana,  
Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Hon. Erkki Nghimtina, Ms. Febronia Nelago Shapaka  
(Reg No 8208)

Director of Ceremonies; Honourable Modestus Amutse  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;  
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 Councillors;  
Distinguished Chief Executive Officer of Outapi Town Council,  
Mr Ananias Nashilongo;  
Distinguished Deacon Comrade Ambrosius Shalumbu;  
Distinguished Captains of Industry;  
Distinguished Members of the Olufuko Preparatory Committee;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for inviting me to address this fundraising gala dinner.

As we are going to mark the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of Olufuko Festival, we will do so with great pride and anticipation that our festival is growing in leaps and bounds. It is because of this growth that I am very grateful to be with you tonight in order to raise the much needed funds for Olufuko Cultural Festival that is scheduled to take place from 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Director of Ceremonies;

I keep on saying that a nation without culture is like a tree without roots. In this regard, the active public participation in the cultural festival should be encouraged in order to sustain this event on our annual national calendar.

Similarly, the presence of our respected Traditional Leaders at this event cannot be over emphasized. Their involvement and unwavering support since the inception of Olufuko is highly appreciated and is always a welcomed gesture because they are the custodians of our cultural heritage.

I am aware that there is still much to be done in order to achieve our set goals such as educating our people to appreciate and respect our rich cultural norms and values. The construction of the Olufuko Centre is a step in the right direction so that our people can embark upon applied research in order to enrich our proud history and traditions.

In this regard, I am grateful to learn from Olufuko Preparatory Committee that the Outapi Town Council, with the assistance of UNAM Multidisciplinary Research Centre (MRC), is busy carrying out a comprehensive socio-cultural study of Olufuko before and after the advent of colonialism.

The study intends to contextualize the present situation in Ombalantu with specific reference to historical, religious, legal formalization of family relations including comparative case analyses of the impact of Christianity on similar practices among other traditional communities in Namibia and across Africa.

In addition, the study will also analyze Olufuko in line with the Namibian Constitution and lessons learnt elsewhere.

Indeed, as a country, Namibia emerged from centuries of a political climate that ensured that social groups were classified and had heritage that was not freely appreciated and promoted due to a false impression that was created that our cultural and traditional norms and practice were backward.

As a result of this history, one of the country's main problems is lack of social cohesion which manifests itself in terms of lack of appreciation for cultural diversity. In the same vein, this lack of social cohesion manifests itself in the growing socio-economic disparities. There is therefore a need to harness the potential for our people to celebrate their mutual social existence by safeguarding their cultural heritage and celebrating their equal entitlement to it.

Against this background, there is no doubt that tradition and culture are very important and should therefore be celebrated and preserved for the future generations.

As we continue with our journey of maintaining our culture and tradition there will always be challenges posed by external forces which are trying to prevent people to practise their cultural beliefs freely. However, there are some exceptions in this regard.

At this juncture, allow me therefore to single out and thank the Roman Catholic church for its understanding and not denying their members their constitutional rights to practise their cultural right as citizens of the Republic of Namibia by taking part in Olufuko Cultural Festival activities.

I also wish to encourage our business community to continue supporting the cultural festival by providing the necessary funds and materials needed to make Olufuko Festival a great success. I particularly wish to encourage the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) to become actively involved by showcasing their products and services as they are the backbone of the economy of our country.

Similarly, I would like to urge the Olufuko Preparatory Committee to seriously take up the issue of establishing a Museum in Olufuko Festival Centre. This museum would provide information about Olufuko History and display all relevant cultural artefacts for the benefit of our future generations.

In this regard, I am reliably informed that a separate Bank Account has been opened where money that is earmarked for this specific project can be deposited. This is a good start and a commendable effort.

I should emphasize here that it is our responsibility as parents to teach our children to show respect to our elders and this can only be achieved if we maintain our culture and tradition, by teaching our children our accepted cultural behaviours and norms.

In this regard, we are fortunate to have traditional leaders in our country such as Tatekulu Oswin Shifiona Mukulu, Takekulu Johannes Mupiya, Tatekulu Josia Shikongo, Tatekulu Herman Ipumbu, Tatekulu Mathias Walaula, Tatekulu Daniel Shooya, Tatekulu Tjimbuare Tom, Tatekulu Paulus Tjavara and many others who provide invaluable cultural knowledge and guidance in their areas of traditional and cultural norms. These are great pillars in our society as far as tradition and culture is concerned and they deserve respect at all times.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all those who made this evening a great success. It is because of you that we are sitting here tonight. I wish to encourage every one of us here to dig deep in his or her pocket in order to make the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of Olufuko Cultural Festival a success.

Let me also make it categorically clear that we must honour our pledges and contribute sincerely from the bottom of our hearts and not just pledge as a bargaining chip or unnecessary conditions which Outapi Town Council cannot meet.

Last but not least, I would like to thank and recognize the presence of members of our business community and captains of industries at this important gathering. I would like to urge you to forge unity of purpose as you strive to meaningfully contribute to the socio-economic development of our country. Kindly take note that a business can only be successful when one works with other fellow business colleagues and learn from them.

It is important that business people, particularly those from the same region, coordinate their business activities in order to enhance their potential and grow further. It is crucial that we stay united, because I believe that;

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

Bon Appetite!

I thank you!