



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

**OUTAPI
OMUSATI REGION**

28 JULY 2018

***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, Hon. Modestus Amutse and Mr. Niilo Taapopi;
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,
Comrade Ananias Nashilongo;
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Oswin Shifiona Mukulu, Elenga Enene lyAmbalantu;
Ootatekulu Aakwaniilwa noMalenga present here;
Esteemed Father Johannes Haufiku;
Distinguished Captains of Industry;
Distinguished Members of the Olufuko Preparatory Committee;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to be present at this special fundraising gala dinner for the Olufuko Cultural Festival in this fast growing town of Outapi.

This year marks the 7th Edition of Olufuko Festival and we have 3 years remaining before this cultural event turns 10 years old. Judging from the support that this event enjoyed during the last six years, I have no doubt in my mind that today we will again be successful in raising funds for Olufuko Cultural Festival that is scheduled to take place from 24th August 2018 to 4th September 2018.

Director of Ceremonies;

Olufuko is our common Cultural Heritage and as such we should celebrate it without fear or regret.

After independence the government of the Republic of Namibia came up with the policy of One Namibia, One Nation in order to promote our national identity. The cornerstone of this policy is to acknowledge and regard cultural diversity in Namibia as positive building blocks for a united but yet diverse culture.

In this regard, cultural diversity is recognized and promoted as an asset by the Namibian Constitution, under Article 19. Despite the fact that through cultural events such as Olufuko we are trying to go back to our roots and instill our rich cultural norms and values in our young girls to prepare them for the future, media reports reveal that there are few institutions that are trying to victimize and intimidate our people who are taking part or visiting Olufuko Festival.

History reminds us that any leadership that uses fearful tactics to control people will not last long such as those who made it their business to attack Olufuko Cultural Festival every year.

Indeed, some quarters of our society feel that our culture, more especially Olufuko, is satanic and an uncivilized practice. These are the same people who do not want to think independently but still rely on outdated western concepts that yesterday consider Africans as primitive without cultural values.

Needless to say, the way some of our fellow Africans express their views on Olufuko is worrisome as they seem to promote cultural enslavement in our society.

Against this background, I should emphasize that Olufuko Cultural Festival should be acknowledged as a genuine effort to prevent the process of cultural enslavement and as a way of decolonizing our minds.

Many countries in Africa are celebrating their initiation ceremonies without fear of retribution and I am sure that the Olufuko research's report that UNAM will distribute will provide the much needed information in this regard, as I am reliably informed that the UNAM Multidisciplinary Research Centre (MRC) has completed its report.

Last year you were informed that the study will also analyze Olufuko in line with the Namibian Constitution and lessons learnt elsewhere.

Most of the horrible things that are happening in our country today are due to the total disregard of our cultural norms and values. For instance, we now have men stabbing and killing women with knives and pangas in this country, something unheard of in the past.

Our traditional values never allowed us to harm innocent people in our society. We were obliged to respect each other and treat our leaders and elders with utmost respect, be it our biological parents, our neighbours, strangers, traditional and community leaders. This trend of killing women, including elderly people over their pension money, must come to an end.

Director of Ceremonies

Education is the key to knowledge and power, I therefore urge all our young girls who will take part in Olufuko to take their education seriously so that they will become engineers, medical doctors, scientists, pilots, agricultural experts, etc. They are future leaders of this country and will only succeed to manage this country if they are educated.

Apart from cultural aspects that visitors and participants will be engaged in, Olufuko Festival also provides an opportunity to our people to showcase their products and services to a larger public. I am aware that the economy worldwide is not performing well and Namibia is no exception but let us try our best to support each other socially and economically.

Tonight is another special occasion to raise funds to make the event a success, please let us dig deep in our pockets as we did in the past. It is equally important that we honour our commitment by fulfilling what we have pledged or promised.

In conclusion I would like to thank Olufuko Preparatory Committee for yet another well-organized event including the cultural groups that entertained us tonight. I would also like to thank our business community and the Captains of industry for their direct and indirect contributions. The same applies to our traditional leaders who are the custodians of our culture as well as those who will facilitate our cash contribution and pledges tonight.

Finally, allow me to thank all of you present here tonight for gracing this occasion with us.

We will overcome challenges when we work together as a team, as I always say: *A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of society, will always emerge victorious!*

Long Live Our Culture!
Long Live Our Heritage!

Bon Appetite!

I thank you!