



**REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF
THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HAND OVER CEREMONY OF
THE ETUNDA FARM CLINIC AND PLEDGES TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF THE
ETUNDA FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**ETUNDA TRUST FARM,
OTAVI, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION
SATURDAY, 13 MAY 2017**

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

On behalf of the Etunda Trust Farm and indeed on my own behalf, allow me first and foremost to express our profound and most sincere gratitude to you all for honouring our invitation to come and witness the completion and handover of the Etunda Farm Clinic to the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Most importantly, I wish to thank you for your valuable contributions towards the completion of Etunda Farm Clinic and Phases 1 and 2 of its Primary School.

I am indeed, privileged to have received various contributions in the form of finances and all kind of material support towards the completion of the Etunda Farm Clinic and Primary school.

Allow me therefore to express my profound gratitude and appreciations for this goodwill gesture of support and commitment to the education of our children as future leaders. Without your support this project could not have achieved so much within such a short time.

Director of Ceremony;

Due to inadequacy of space and time I am unable to list all the names of our donors who have contributed in cash or in kind to the success of this project. However, I made sure that their names should be written down in a list that you will find on the desks or tables where you are seated.

We thank each and every one of you for your valuable and generous financial support and urge you to please continue to partner with us and complement our government's efforts in educating all our people, especially the children of the marginalized communities and the farm workers, in order for them to be able to contribute to our country's long-term Vision 2030.

Indeed, in 2004, our country adopted Vision 2030 that clearly spells out Namibia's development programmes and strategies to achieve its national objectives.

The main aim of the Vision is to transform Namibia into a healthy and food-secure nation, in which people enjoy high standards of living, a good quality of life and have access to quality education, health and other vital services.

One of the major principles upon which Vision 2030 is based is "partnerships", which is recognised as a major prerequisite for the achievement of dynamic, efficient and sustainable development.

This involves partnership between government, communities and civil society, partnership between different branches of government, with the private sector, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and the international community, partnership between urban and rural societies and, ultimately between all members of the Namibian society.

To this end, it is critical that we forge partnership and synergies with private entities to help in the socio economic development of our country.

Therefore, your generous financial contributions testify to your resolve, through your corporate social responsibilities and patriotisms, to assist and complement our Government's efforts in the socio-economic development of our country.

Director of Ceremonies;

As I have stated on numerous occasions, the importance of education in the development of human resources in Namibia cannot be overemphasized. Education is the key to a prosperous future. No country can meaningfully develop without adequate knowledgeable and skilled human resources.

I was therefore deeply troubled by the plight of our farm workers and especially their children and decided to embark on this project. I recall that at the inception of the project, I bought all bricks from Combat Mines by committing my personal finance before I embarked upon soliciting funds from individuals and corporate entities.

Thanks to Ohorongo Cement who made a donation of 32 tones of bags of cements and First Wall Commercial Development who also donated roofing sheets, to mention but a few, the projected started and the response from companies and individuals to complete the project was overwhelming.

I must equally give my appreciation to Marley Tjitjo Architects, Denchi Engineering, Jordaan Oosthuysen Nangolo Quantity Surveyors; Direct Construction & Design Lab, for volunteering their services of their expertise at their own companies' costs. This had indeed lessen the financial cost to the project drastically.

Against this background, I am glad to inform you that the primary school Phases one and two that consist of classrooms and 2 Teachers Houses plus an Administration Office Block has been completed. Most importantly, the construction of the clinic has also been completed together with one Registered Nurse's Home.

However, priority areas that require urgent intervention in terms of funding to complete the entire project after the completion of the clinic are the Kitchen and Dining Hall as well as the Boys and Girls Hostels for the amount mentioned in the presentation.

The number of farm workers' children to attend this school is based on factual outcry of parents in the surrounding commercial farms. Hence, this is a national problem as most if not all farm owners do not make education accessible to their workers' children.

Even our President, Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob concurs with me when he said in his State Of The Nation Address this year that he was concerned by the plight of farm workers and said the deplorable conditions that many of them face is not acceptable in a free Namibia, which prides itself on upholding the values of human dignity and decency.

Director of Ceremonies;

Today as I turn 88 years yesterday, I am proud that I am going to hand over the Etunda Farm Clinic to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services in our country, Hon. Dr. Bernard Haufiku.

Director of Ceremonies;

To counter this state of affairs in order to meet the community demands for accessible, affordable services, I thought of including a Clinic in the school project to cater for the children of Farm workers in the surrounding areas, long distance travellers and the community at large.

This I did because I strongly believe that Health care facilities should be within easy walking distance of the community, particularly for women and children.

Similarly, I believe that when community health care services are established, it is essential that the primary health care be effective and efficient. For this reason, I lobbied local service providers, through the Ministry of Health and Social Services to put primary health care workers on the farm to cater for these children and provide them with health advice.

With these few remarks and without further ado, it is now my pleasure to handover the Etunda Farm Clinic to the Minister of Health and Social Services as my gift on this occasion of my 88th birthday anniversary.

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

Once again, I thank you!