



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY

DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 13TH
GRADUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT (IUM)

SAFARI COURT HOTEL,

WINDHOEK,

29 SEPTEMBER 2017

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Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma
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(Reg No 8208)

Director of Proceedings;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;

Honourable Members of Parliament present;

Bishop Emeritus Dr. Kleopas Dumeni, Chancellor of the International University of Management;

Dr. David Richard Namwandi, Founder and Chairperson of the International University of Management Governing Council;

Professor Kingo Mchombu, IUM's Acting Vice Chancellor,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Distinguished Members of the Governing Council of the IUM;

Distinguished Captains of Commerce and Industry;

Distinguished Management and Staff of the IUM;

President of the Students Representative Council of IUM;

Distinguished Graduands and Class of 2017;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This opportunity affords me the pleasure to be with you today and to address you on this, the 13th Graduation Ceremony of The International University of Management.

On the onset, before I proceed further, let me once again commend Dr. David Namwandi and his very capable and motivated team for the enormous progress you have made at the IUM.

I want to thank you all for taking up the challenge in 2002, through my invitation to the Private Sector, to join with government to make Namibia an education-driven and knowledge-based economy.

As a private sector initiative, and more so, as a 100% Namibian investment, all of us throughout Namibia are proud to witness and share in IUM's success. I know very well that the journey was not easy but as we all know, success will always follow hard work, commitment and staying true to the course.

In fact, this is my main message to all of you who are graduating today, and to those of you who didn't or haven't make it on the graduation list today.

Director of Proceedings;

Today, I would like to throw out another challenge to all of us, especially to our business community, to urge you to make your involvement and investment in Namibia's education not an option, but an integral part of your corporate and social responsibility.

I can assure you that the investment you will make will pay back multifold and when you will look back, you will be proud and glad for what you have achieved.

Fifteen years ago, on 26 October 2002, as the then President of the Republic of Namibia, I was greatly honored to officiate at first congregation of IUM. On that momentous occasion, I

commended the IUM Council, Management and Staff on their effort to transform the then Institute of Higher Education into the International University of Management (IUM) which it has become.

I must hasten to underline at the onset what we heard earlier, that this institution is a home-grown initiative which started with only one student and a meager budget of Five Hundred Namibian Dollars only (N\$500.00).

Today, I understand that the student population stands around ten thousand with six (6) campuses nation-wide and impacting over 18 countries outside of Namibia.

To our esteemed graduands, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your hard work, your commitment to stay the course and finish the race. You will graduate today, some of you cum laude, which is excellent.

You must now put to test your new skills and qualifications to improve yourself, your company, your family, your community and your country. This is the challenge as you step out of these protected halls into the world of labour.

I want to commend your parents, your guardians, sponsors, and your siblings for supporting you during this time of personal sacrifice and financial struggle. May you never forget them as you climb the ladder of success.

Without prejudice, let me also highly commend those who were involved, in one way or another, in preparing you along the way through their lectures, advice, counseling, mentoring, financial, technical and psychological support. You all have done a great job, and the Namibian nation is proud of you and your products as dedicated lecturers, trainers and researchers.

I wish to say another big thank you to the numerous institutions and their captains and teams that shared responsibility for exercising supervision for performance, efficacy, standards and quality. I can only urge you to continue with your development task with the same vigour for higher results.

As I look back and reflect, I must tell you that I am somewhat disheartened to note that there are still some Namibians today who do not appreciate patriotic efforts of our people such as this one.

The IUM project not only trains Namibians but also provides employment to hundreds of Namibians. This is laudable and should be appreciated by all of us. I therefore want to urge all Namibian citizens to support and encourage patriotic efforts of our people, and to assist when and wherever needs be.

Lastly, distinguished graduands, the world we are living in today is quite complex. To succeed, you will need to remain vigilant, focused, ethical and disciplined. The tools and skills you have acquired during the past four years or so will be useful and critical but they will not be sufficient.

You will need to complement them with other skills such as teamwork, interpersonal relations, respect, courtesy, honesty and professionalism in order to succeed.

In conclusion, let the certificates, diplomas and degrees that you have received here today, urge and drive you to widen your horizons and instill in you a spirit of serving the nation-as well as open doors to a better tomorrow for yourselves, your family and your nation at large! I wish you all the very best.

I thank you!