



STATEMENT BY H. E. DR. SAM SHAFIISHUNA
NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF
THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
MAYORAL DINNER ORGANIZED BY OKAHAO TOWN
COUNCIL

31st MARCH 2018

OKAHAO TOWN

OMUSATI REGION

*Check Against Delivery

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

Director of Ceremonies;
Honorable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region (Represented by Rev. Phillipus Kashima);
Honorable Modestus Amutse, Chairperson of Omusati Regional Council;
Honorable Immanuel Amutenya, His Worship the Mayor of Okahao Town Council and other Mayors from other towns;
Tatekulu Johannes Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa gwoshilongo shAngandjera (in absentia);
Honorable Regional and Local Authority Councilors present;
Comrade Sacky Kayone, SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator for Omusati Region;
Distinguished Business Community present;
Reverend Jeremia Ekanjo of Okahao Lutheran Parish;
Invited Traditional Leaders and Spiritual Leaders;
Distinguished Invited guests;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Evening;

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening on the occasion of this historical Mayoral dinner, which is a remarkable platform to share ideas. I am tempted to call our gathering here today as "Oshungi polupale" where we can network and strategize together on how best we should continue to collectively develop the town of Okahao.

Indeed, initiatives of this nature serve as a great platform where members of the society work together in a spirit of cooperation to find lasting solutions to the challenges facing our people as well as opportunities that may come as a result of this network event.

In this regard, your presence here this evening demonstrates your support to help the Okahao Town Council to grow and prosper in a very competitive business environment.

It is our responsibility to continue to carry the hopes and aspirations of the people of this town in particular and the country in general to be the masters of our own destiny when it comes to economic development.

Director of Ceremonies;

The Okahao Local Authority was established to provide urban services and a conducive environment for Local Economic Development within the principles of good governance. However, we can only develop this town if we are working together as stakeholders, particularly the residents and the business community.

Therefore, Okahao Town Council can only succeed in developing this town if the stakeholders and the community in general are working in unison as one dedicated team that is geared towards the attainment of its set vision to be an economically viable and socially stable town.

Indeed, the town can only be stable if the residents are happy about the services they are receiving not only from the Town Council itself but also from other stakeholders. These include the creation of local employment opportunities, attracting more financial institutions such as banks and insurances entities, providing access and an enabling environment to access social services, availability of sport and recreational facilities, to mention but a few.

This noble task requires the involvement of the business community to explore untapped local economic development opportunities and invest in those sectors.

Some of the undeveloped economic sectors which are available in Okahao town include, manufacturing, agronomic based industries, peri-urban agriculture and tourism.

Against this background, I am pleading with you this evening, to invest in these business sectors, so that we can provide employment opportunities and develop our local economy by always thinking big and aiming higher as we are navigating ahead with our efforts to achieve our long-term Vision 2030.

Similarly, we should be prepared to invest in education and training which is key to knowledge and power if we are to become economically independent.

In this regard, I am reliably informed that the Town Council of Okahao will continue to provide a conducive business investment environment to support and sustain your investment.

Director of Ceremonies;

As highlighted during the introduction of the Five Year Strategic Plan of Okahao Town Council, the Town is faced with the developmental challenges of the provision of serviced land delivery both for housing and business as well as for other uses.

The challenge is always to reach a compromise for fair compensation between homestead owners and Town Council as Traditional Homestead Owners become hesitant or in some instances may refuse to accept the compensation packages offered by Government as per the Approved National Compensation Policy.

This is one of the challenges that the Town Councils need to overcome in order to acquire land for urban development purpose. On the other hand the Town Council cannot do much without the support of Stakeholders, especially in the era of economic downturn.

His Worship the Mayor of Okahao town has indicated in his statement earlier that the Town Council intends to undertake and complete certain project activities under the Mayoral Development Programs in town, such as the construction of a maternity shelter, the construction of a sport facility and other social investment initiatives.

However, due to financial limitations these good initiatives may not be achieved without our involvement as stakeholders. Therefore, I am pleading with everyone present here tonight to support the Town Council's development efforts either in kind or in cash so that His Worship the Mayor can complete those projects for the benefit of our community.

In conclusion, allow me to use this opportunity in order to wish you a blessed Easter filled with joy and peace. May I also take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyful evening and fruitful discussion as we continue to share information, experiences and contacts for the common purpose of developing Okahao Town and our beautiful country, Namibia.

I believe that no challenge is impossible to overcome if people work together. As I always emphasise: *“A people united, striving to achieve common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious!”*

I thank you!!