



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM
NUJOMA, FOUNDER PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF
THE NAMIBIAN NATION, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING
OF MAN OF ACTION ANNUAL SPORT TOURNAMENT

SHAANIKA NASHILONGO SENIOR SECONDARY
SCHOOL SPORTS FIELD

OKAHAO

OMUSATI REGION

30 MARCH 2018

*Check Against Delivery

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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;
Tatekulu Johannes Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa woshitunda shetunaNgandjera
(In absentia);
Hon. Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region (Represented by Rev. Phillipus
Kashima);
Hon. Immanuel Amutenya, Your Worship the Mayor of Okahao Town Council;
All Regional and Local Councillors present;
Chairperson of the Okahao Veterans Club, Mr Alexander Anguwo;
Distinguished Senior Traditional Leaders;
Senior Government Officials;
Distinguished Members of the Business Community;
Members of the Media;
Dear Community Members;

I am delighted to have been invited to this very important social event, The Man of Action Annual Sport Tournament for 2018, under the Theme: *Shaping the future of the Youth through Education, Sport and Culture*.

First of all, I would like to thank the management of Shaanika Sha Nashilongo Senior Secondary School for agreeing to the Tournament to be once again hosted on their school premises. My special thanks also go to the sponsors for rendering their support to this event, be it financially or in kind.

Your contribution bears testimony of your affirmation that sport is a critical element, not only to the wellbeing of the human body, but also to the social wellness and intellectual development of human being.

I am told that this event is declared to be an annual social event to take place every year in Ongandjera, specifically in Okahao Town. This annual event will not only benefit the members of the social club and those partaking in the different sports codes, but will also be beneficial to the town and the surrounding rural villages in terms of the opportunities that the event will create, especially to Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) their products and services.

More so, the event will benefit the youth, and learners in particular, as I am told that a portion of the funds generated from the event will be used to finance social activities such as providing educational materials to identified community based pre-primary schools and various coaching clinics for the school going children.

Director of Ceremonies;

Allow me to highlight some of the importance of sport in our lives and to the society at large:

- In addition to schooling, sport has the potential to instil a sense of belonging, and discipline in young people;
- Commitment to sports will keep young people away from destructive behaviours and activities such as committing crimes and excessive consumption of alcohol and drug abuse;

- Sport keeps a person physically and mentally fit, and thereby reducing illnesses and enhancing productivity among our people;
- Sporting events such as this one creates an opportunity for the people to come together and compete against each other in a peaceful environment;
- People that play sports are more likely to develop greater interpersonal skills and teamwork qualities, which are necessary to succeed in the work environment and business ventures; and
- Very important, sports' men and women who get a chance to participate and represent Namibia on international sporting events play a very critical role in marketing our country to the international community. This is significant to the growth of our tourism industry and attraction of foreign investment.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am particularly encouraged by the theme of this year's event. It is particularly important for the elder generation to pass on their knowledge and educate the younger generation of our rich cultural heritage. I say this because abandoning one's culture is like cutting the roots of a tree, the tree will eventually die. In the context of a society, a generation that has no idea where it is coming from will ultimately lack the direction and discipline it needs to charter its way through the complex world we live in today and as such, will not be able to play any meaningful role in the country's efforts to reach its national developmental goals.

It is disturbing that many of our youth seems to be fascinated and are influenced by destructive practices which are foreign to our traditions and cultural norms and values. Such practices are mostly presented through social media and they are detrimental to the socio-economic wellbeing of our society. Many young people unfortunately spend much of their valuable time copying and engaging in such practices instead of being productive. I am however positive that through events such as this one, we can give to our youth the necessary guidance for them to grow as productive members of our society and contribute to nation building.

Director of Ceremonies;

This time around we also pay tribute to the men and women who, with very little infrastructure and resources but armed only with dedication and love for their country, have contributed immensely to the promotion and development of sport in the under developed areas of Namibia, Okahao in particular. Amongst those, are the Late businessmen, Edward Katuta Wilbard (also known as Man of Action) and Tobias Kashanu. In their memories, we hereby acknowledge their valuable contribution to the community.

It goes without saying that country's rural areas remain largely lacking in terms of proper sports facilities, which hampers the development of rural youth into competitive sport's disciplines. I therefore wish to make use of this opportunity to urge local councillors and business community to emulate the work done by late businessmen that I have just

mentioned, and meet government halfway in its efforts to build sports facilities for the benefit of our rural community.

In conclusion, I wish the Okahao Veterans Club success in their endeavour to achieve the set goals and objectives.

I am convinced that this annual tournament will achieve its intended purpose of bringing people together and compete harmoniously in the spirit of sportsmanship, and that it will have a positive impact on the youth and children.

I now have the pleasure to declare the MAN OF ACTION ANNUAL TOURNAMENT for 2018 officially launched.

I thank you!