



**STATEMENT BY H.E DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT
AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION
OF A COMMUNITY MEETING WITH THE RESIDENTS OF OTAVI**

OTAVI

19 NOVEMBER 2016

Check against delivery

Director of Ceremonies;
Your Worship the Mayor of Otavi Town Council,
Hon. Martha Shipanga;
Distinguished Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Distinguished Members of Otavi Community;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to be present here at this special community meeting in this beautiful Town of Otavi. The aim of this gathering is basically to visit you and to share information, since I am also living in this area, but sometimes it is not easy to find time to sit with you and share ideas of common interest.

I am really delighted that the community leaders of this town managed to organise this gathering in order to discuss issues affecting our people and to encourage you to work hard in order to overcome various challenges that face our people in their quest to achieve economic independence. We are all aware that we have achieved our genuine freedom and independence on 21st of March 1990, but now we are in the second phase of the struggle for economic independence.

In order to win the second phase of the struggle we still have to unite and work as a team in order to achieve this goal.

Director of Ceremony;
Otavi has a great potential to grow and all residents need to get ready and work together to embrace new developments and investments opportunities that are coming to your town. The full participation of all our people in the development process is imperative in order to eradicate poverty, hunger, diseases and under-development. We can only realize Vision 2030 through hard work and dedication for the well-being of the Namibian people. Therefore, as leaders we must continue listen to our people and mobilize them to plan together and work hard in order to overcome any challenge that come our way.

Allow me, therefore to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the organisers of this platform for the job well-done. In the same vein, allow me also to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of all the residents of Otavi who are present at this gathering and to extend a cordial warm welcome to all the distinguished guests and friends of this town who are among us to share information of mutual interest.

As leaders we need to meet with our people from time to time in order to intensify the spirit of unit and Harambee. Harambee means pulling together in one direction in order to achieve desired objectives. In doing so we can maintain peace and stability in our country.

Director of Ceremonies;
We should always continue to promote unity. It is only through unity that we will be able to build a strong and prosperous nation. There are countless of problems in other countries where people are not living in peace because of disagreements and lack of unity and we should guard against that in Namibia.

I can assure you that you cannot develop a country or town for that matter, if you are not working together and investors will not be attracted to your country or to your town if they see that people in your town are not planning and working together. They will take their investment elsewhere because cooperation, peace and stability are key to economic development and growth.

Otavi has a great potential to grow economically because it is strategically located and there is land available for those who would like to invest. Otavi needs to grow fast and create job opportunities for our people. Therefore, let us work as a united team in order to attract good investments to our town. I therefore call on all the people of Otavi especially those who have been given the mandate through elections to lead by example and take this town to greater heights. I am sure that if the leadership and residents of this town keep working together in few years to come Otavi will be one of the fastest developing towns in Namibia.

In addition we should make sure that children receive education because education is key to knowledge and power. All children must go to school because the government has resolved to provide free primary and secondary education.

Furthermore we should fight against alcohol and drug abuse as well as gender-based violence in our towns and our country as a whole. If you read newspapers these days they are full of horror stories. Men killing women and people driving under the influence of alcohol. We have beautiful roads but people do drive recklessly which causes unnecessary deaths on our roads. We certainly need to improve on this because our people's lives are precious to be lost just like that.

Director of Ceremonies;

The key issues that I am trying to emphasise at this gathering are unity, hard work, economic development and education, because these are key aspects that will help us to find lasting solutions to our problems and eradicate the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality in our country.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage the entire Community of Otavi to continue working together for the economic development of this beautiful town because without unity there will be no progress. We should support our government's efforts to achieve prosperity for all. Let us work together and promote prosperity in our country.

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

Long Live President Hange Geingob!

Long live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.