



**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, THE
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF NAMIBIAN NATION AND FOUNDING
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CHANCELLOR OF UNAM, H. E. COMRADE
NANGOLO MBUMBA, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

NIPAM CAMPUS

WINDHOEK

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***Check Against Delivery**

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Director of Ceremonies;
Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia and out-going Chancellor of the University of Namibia;
Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia and incoming Chancellor of the University of Namibia;
Right Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila;
Honourable Margareth Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council;
Honorable Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation;
Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers here present;
Honorable Members of Parliament;
Chairperson of the UNAM Council, Sam Shivute;
Distinguished Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Professor Lazarus Hangula;
Distinguished Professor Keto E. Mshigeni;
Distinguished Members of the University Council and UNAM Management;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Honorable Laura McLeod Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region;
His Worship Muesee Kazapua, the Mayor of the City of Windhoek;
Members of the University Community;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:
I am personally extremely delighted to witness yet another milestone in the history of our country, and in particular that of the University of Namibia.

Having proudly served as UNAM's Founding Chancellor, I am happy that we are gathered here today to celebrate the inauguration of the new Chancellor of our national institution, the University of Namibia.

When we took up arms to wage the liberation struggle, it was not just for the sake of freedom and independence, but also because we had seen a trend in colonial rule that was deliberately poised on the permanent marginalization of our people.

The children of the indigenous owners of this country were relegated to ill-equipped schools and had to make do with few ill-equipped health facilities that made them extremely vulnerable to even the most preventable and curable illnesses.

As we waged the liberation war, my dream was that one day we would have a new liberated country in which all people are treated equally with dignity and without any form of discrimination. I dreamt of a country with well-developed and fairly distributed national institutions that are well-equipped to provide services to the people of Namibia.

Looking back to where we have come from since the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990, I am pleased to note that these dreams have steadily but surely been becoming a reality.

Now we can say with pride that we have education and health systems that provide services to all our children without any form of discrimination.

When we finally liberated our country, we had only an academy as the highest education institution in the country. Today, I am happy to note that we have two public universities, and one private university and a number of training institutions in the field of education.

In the same vein, when we transformed the academy in 1992 into a University that is now popularly known as UNAM, we had a student population of only three thousands seven hundreds and ninety two (3792). Now it gives me great pleasure to note that our student enrollment stands at more than twenty five thousand (25,000) students.

In 1992 we had only four Faculties. Today we have eight Faculties and 9 Schools, offering more than 120 academic programmes and this number has continued to increase over the years in order to address the human resource needs of our country in line with Vision 2030.

Today, the University of Namibia has 12 campuses in different parts of the country to bring education closer to the people. For this reason, I wish to thank the out-going Chancellor, His Excellency Comrade Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba for a job well done.

This is because, as you have all heard, there have been very significant developments and expansion of the institution during the six years he has served as the Chancellor of the University.

I also wish to thank the UNAM Council and Management for having provided the out-going Chancellor with great support during his tenure.

Director of Ceremonies;

Let me now take this opportunity to most sincerely congratulate the in-coming new Chancellor of the University of Namibia. I am particularly happy that the new Chancellor is none other than Comrade Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, who is an education professional himself.

I have full confidence that with his stewardship and wisdom, this great institution will grow from strength to strength. It is also my sincere hope that Comrade Dr. Mbumba will get the support from staff and management as well as students at UNAM. Comrade Dr. Mbumba, Congratulations!

In-coming new Chancellor, Comrade Dr. Nangolo Mbumba;

Although Former President Comrade Dr. Pohamba has pointed out great successes and strides, however, with all these achievements, UNAM is still facing a number of challenges that need to be addressed.

Allow me therefore to highlight only two of these challenges even though I am sure both the University Council and Management will brief you in detail with respect to the many challenges the university may be facing so that you can guide them on how to address them.

One of these challenges is the high student to lecturer ratios. In some faculties, lecturers are still handling unacceptably large numbers of students, which suggests that at such faculties, staff complements need to be drastically increased.

Another very serious challenge UNAM is faced with is the mismatch between growth in student population and growth in basic infrastructure to adequately take care of the students.

While I acknowledge the fact that there is no university in the world that accommodates all its students in university halls of residents, I also know that a large number of our students are staying very far from the main campus under very poor living conditions, and walking long distances to and from UNAM campus.

It is equally disturbing that many of these students are being exposed to exploitation by unscrupulous and mean-spirited landlords and landladies who are trying to profit from the fact that the university cannot house most of its students.

Against this background, the need for expansion of basic infrastructure at the University to take care of the fast increasing number of students cannot be over-emphasised. Of course, all of these challenges have to be looked at in a holistic manner within the framework of the country's budgetary constraints.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

We need to acknowledge the one important fact, namely, that our government cannot address all these challenges alone. Countries that have made good progress towards developing their universities to high standards have managed to do so only by forging partnerships with their private sectors.

UNAM needs to emulate this approach by making use of the Friends of UNAM from both the private sector and the Banking Industry in order to forge such important linkages.

In conclusion, the University of Namibia should continue to strive to be a center of excellence as per the Vision Statement of the institution. With the guidance from the Chancellor, I believe UNAM can collectively work together towards attaining such goal.

As I always say; *“A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious!”*

Once again, congratulations to His Excellency, Comrade Dr. Nangolo Mbumba.

I THANK YOU