



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, THE FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE VOLUNTARY WORK ON THE NORTHERN RAILWAY EXTENSION

2ND JUNE 2016

THE ONDANGWA-OSHAKATI RAILWAY EXTENSION

OSHANA REGION

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It is a great pleasure for me to be here and address you today about the Northern Railway Extension.

Indeed, this is one of the most significant infrastructure development projects ever implemented by the Government of the Republic of Namibia which, once completed, will bring positive changes to our country as a whole.

It is against this background that I requested to carry out voluntary work, together with the National Youth Service, in order to motivate our youth so that they can make meaningful contribution to the development of our country.

Director of proceedings;

We have a reason to be proud because, with regard to the socio-economic development programmes, our Government has implemented development activities in all fourteen regions of the country.

These include the development of physical infrastructures such as the construction of roads and the deepening of our harbours at Walvis Bay and Luderitz.

Now we must embark upon the completion of the Northern Railway Extension which consists of Two Hundred and Forty Six Kilometers (246 km) of track between Tsumeb and Ondangwa, (Phase one), Fifty Seven Kilometers (57 km) of track between Ondangwa and Oshikango (Phase two), and Twenty Eight kilometers (28 km) of track between Ondangwa and Oshakati (Phase three).

Phase one was completed in the year Two Thousand and Six (2006) and Phase Two was completed in the year Two Thousands and Eleven (2011). Phase Three of this project is currently under construction and the anticipated date of completion is March Two Thousand and Twenty (2020).

Our Government declared this year as the year of implementation. In this regard, it is a year of renewed commitment and dedication to work harder to ensure that the Extension of the Northern Railway is completed from Ondangwa to Oshakati, to Elim-Okahao, from Okahao to Omugulugwombashe, from Omugulugwombashe to Opuwo and from Opuwo to Cape Fria.

Such connection will help create employment opportunities for all our people as well as promote economic growth and eradicate poverty.

It is also expected that this line will attract passengers and bulk goods from the roads and this will prolong the life of the roads and create a safer driving environment since there will be less vehicles on the roads.

Against this background, I wish to thank the residents of Oshana Region in general and the National Youth Service in particular, for volunteering to work on this Railway Extension.

It is my hope that this work that we have carried out today will go a long way to help in Nation building and I therefore encourage our youth who are not here today to participate in these important national events in the future.

The construction of the Railway demonstrates that we can achieve our development goals when we mobilize all our citizens to voluntarily actively participate in our nation building efforts.

However, I am disturbed about the increase of indiscipline and lack of respect for our leaders, and our Aakwaniilwa noMalenga.

I have received negative reports of undisciplined youth who instead of concentrating on their studies spend most of their valuable time abusing alcohol and drugs at a very tender age. Such youth also engage in unbecoming behavior by being rude to their teachers and vandalize government properties and infrastructures.

Indeed, our youth today after abusing alcohol and drugs, they commit criminal activities such as armed robbery and the killing of women and children. This must be condemned and rejected with the contempt it deserves as it is not in our tradition and culture to kill innocent women and children.

We must ensure that we respect our culture so that we can be respected by other nations. As you are all aware, our country is endowed with abundant natural resources and rich bio-diversities, we must fully harness these to improve the standards of living of all our citizens.

It is incumbent upon all of us to work harder and embark upon economic diversification so that more employment opportunities can be created.

Therefore, the Regional and Local Authorities Councilors must spare no effort in ensuring that they promote economic development, especially in the rural areas. We must continue to mobilize all peace loving Namibians to work for unity in the spirit of Harambee.

Remember, a people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious!

I thank you.