



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE FUNDRAISING GALA
DINNER OF OLUFUKO FESTIVAL**

**OUTAPI
OMUSATI REGION**

24 JULY 2015

***Check Against Delivery**

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Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma
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;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Members of Parliament present;
Honourable Erick Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region and other Governors present;
Your Worship, the Mayor of Outapi Town Council, and other Mayors present;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;
Tatekulu Oswin Shifiona Mukulu, Elenga Enene lyAmbalantu;
Distinguished Captains of Industry;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very much delighted to be here this evening to witness the official countdown of the launching of the fourth Olufuko Festival Fundraising Gala Dinner.

This fundraising Gala dinner is organized to mobilize resources for the fourth upcoming Annual Olufuko Festival and to celebrate the success of its third launch which was successfully held here last year.

As Olufuko Cultural Festival turns four years this year, we should not only celebrate our remarkable accomplishments from our humble beginnings but also look forward to another interesting, bigger and better event, while, at the same time, striving to overcome our numerous challenges.

Director of Ceremonies;

The Olufuko festival has its own mouth piece, called "The Olufuko Festival Magazine": which is not only striving to be informative but also aims to educate, entertain, document and celebrate our culture.

This is the platform that experts in culture and traditional norms can use to provide in-depth discussions in order to make the nation understands the Olufuko Festival in general and its cultural and nation building dimensions in particular, which are often misunderstood and stigmatized.

Despite all the challenges encountered so far since the launching of Olufuko Cultural Festival, I am reliably informed that the number of visitors and exhibitors are increasing every year. For this reason, the event is still the biggest Cultural Festival in the region and beyond, attracting a huge number of exhibitors and visitors alike.

The number of girls participating in Olufuko grew from 17 in 2012 to 82 in 2014, which indicates that Olufuko Festival is here to stay and instil a sense of pride into young Namibian girls, who are now very proud to take part in this important Cultural Practice.

Meanwhile, I am informed that the master plan and architectural drawings for the Olufuko Festival are also nearing completion, something we are all looking forward to with great joy.

Director of Ceremonies;

It has been observed that many parents neglect their homes and abandon their children. They spend their significant time drinking and abusing alcohol leaving the children to fend for themselves. In this environment of disorder, the children also follow in the footsteps of their parents.

I want to caution the youth and also the elders that a bad behaviour child will never become a future leader or useful citizen in the community. Therefore, as elders, we must make sure that we teach our children about good behaviours at home.

Indeed, the promotion of our cultural values, traditional norms and heritage is crucial for moulding our national identity. Against this background, I believe that as an African country, we must encourage our children to appreciate and develop interest in our cultural values and traditional norms.

It has been observed that a large number of our people, especially our youth have lost interest in our culture. In this regard, I would like to inform our youth that when they neglect their own cultural norms and values, they shall lose their identity and self-esteem. Let us therefore adopt the positive values of our culture and traditional norms so that we can mould and promote further our own cultural identity.

In the same vein, there is a still grave concern about escalating incidences of gender-based violence in Namibia. I appeal to all men in our country to stop this unheard of and shameful practice.

Director of Ceremonies;

It is worth noting here the support that the Olufuko Cultural Festival has received since its inception, starting from the community in general as well as from our traditional and national leaders in particular.

In addition, I would also like to thank our Traditional Leaders in Omusati Region, led by Tatakulu Oswin Shifiona Mukulu, being the Host of Olufuko Cultural Festival, for their invaluable support all these years.

Indeed, our traditional leaders are the pillars and cornerstones of our traditional norms and customs. They should therefore be respected as they strive to transmit these norms and values as well as inculcate them into our younger generation because a nation without culture is like a tree without roots.

Allowed me also to thank all those individuals and corporate business entities who always support the Olufuko Festival. I just wish to urge them to continue doing so in order to make this festival a resounding success.

I look forward to seeing you all at Olufuko Cultural Festival scheduled to take place from the 24th of August 2015 to the 4th of September 2015.

In conclusion, the purpose of tonight's gala dinner is to raise sufficient funds to ensure the successful hosting of the Fourth Edition of Olufuko Cultural Festival. Hence, I appeal to everyone to generously contribute towards this noble and worthwhile initiative.

Bon Appetite!

I thank you!