



OPENING REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR SAM SHAFIISHUNA
NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN
NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

15 NOVEMBER 2018

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Private Bag 13220, Windhoek, Namibia, Tel: +264 61 377700, Fax: +264 61 253098, Email: jnauta@iway.na, website: www.samnujomafoundation.org

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Director of Ceremonies;
Distinguished Professor Kenneth Matengu, Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia;
Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy;
Distinguished Professor Fredrik Kamona, Founding Lecturer of the Geology Department;
Distinguished UNAM Management and Staff Members;
Distinguished Mr. Veston Malango, CEO Chamber of Mines;
Distinguished Invited Guests and Presenters;
Distinguished UNAM Students;
Esteemed Members of the media;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure to be with you on this historic day of the 20th Anniversary of the UNAM Geology Department which was established in 1998 with the first intake of six (6) geology students and one (1) geology lecturer.

I am delighted to note that since its inception in 1998, the geology department has grown from the initial one staff to 16 staff members consisting of eleven (11) male and six (6) female staff.

In addition, I am very much aware that you have produced a great number of geologists (including myself) who are now making a positive contribution to our Namibian economy in various sectors, including those in mineral exploration, mining, environmental assessment, hydrogeology, consultancy, as well as in government institutions such as the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

Similarly, I am aware of the financial difficulties and challenges that many exploration and mining companies are facing in Namibia due to the global recession which has affected many countries, including Namibia.

Unfortunately, this economic downturn has negative impacts on many world economies resulting in numerous job losses and the lack of job opportunities for our university graduates, not only in the mining and exploration sectors, but also in other commercial and manufacturing industries.

Nevertheless, during these difficult times it is important that we identify new opportunities which can be exploited in order to initiate new initiatives and ventures based on the largely untapped mineral and energy resources in Namibia, such as dimension stones and gemstones as well as solar energy whose exploitation can result in the generation of new job opportunities and wealth.

I therefore challenge all UNAM graduates to focus on new potential opportunities which are out there and need to be discovered and exploited for the benefit of our nation.

I wish you all the best in your quest to develop the geology department to the level of an internationally recognized institution.

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

I thank you.

