



ADDRESS BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND  
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION AND PATRON OF OLUFUKO  
CULTURAL FESTIVAL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING  
OF THE ANNUAL OLUFUKO CULTURAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, 29 JUNE 2024

OLUFUKO CULTURAL FESTIVAL CENTER

OUTAPI

OMUSATI REGION

\*Check Against Delivery

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Mr. Niilo Taupopi, Ms Valelian Valerie Aron, Mr. Hendrik Ismael Witbooi and Ms Febronia Nelao Shapuka

Director of Ceremonies, Hon. Andreas Shintama;  
Hon. Dr. Itah Kandji-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training & Innovation;  
Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;  
Hon. Sophia Shaningwa, MP and Secretary General of SWAPO Party;  
Hon. Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region and other Governors present;  
Your Worship Selma N. Asino, Mayor of Outapi Town Council and other Mayors present;  
Hon. Regional and Local Authority Councilors present;  
Your Excellency, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
The Chief Executive Officer of Outapi Town Council;  
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Oswin Mukulu of Ombalantu Traditional Authority;  
Aasimanekwa ooTatekulu Aakwaniilwa nOmalenga goMalelo gopathigululwakalo;  
Esteemed Reverend Jesaja Hanghuwo and All Members of the Clergy present;  
Distinguished Captains of Industry;  
Distinguished Olufuko Initiates;  
Distinguished Participants and Exhibitors;  
Distinguished Invited Guests;  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is truly an honor to stand here before you today, on this special occasion of the Official opening of the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Annual Olufuko Cultural Festival. I am therefore filled with gratitude as I address this unique Cultural Festival.

It is a day of celebration, reflection, and anticipation for the future as we come together in unity to appreciate the journey that has brought us to this point. The challenges we have faced, the obstacles we have overcome, and the lessons we have learned along the way have shaped this festival into what it is today.

This event marks the Official opening of the Annual Olufuko Cultural Festival, which, once again, demonstrates consistency and growth of Olufuko since its inception. This annual event also embodies the essence of our traditions and serves as a testament to the legacy passed down through generations.

Against this background, there is no doubt that culture is the lifeblood of a vibrant society and it helps maintain continuity between generations. It therefore gives me great pleasure, as a patron of Olufuko, to see a good number of initiates with their parents as well as many people from different parts of the country who have come to grace the occasion with their presence.

Indeed, Olufuko Cultural Festival is an old tradition when older women teach young girls, who have to be virgins in order to participate, about how they should act as grown up women. Nowadays this has become an opportunity to teach school girls about their culture. As part of this, Olufuko promotes celibacy until marriage and teaches the girls respect for their bodies.

Today, we once again gather here to celebrate the vibrant tapestry of Namibian culture at the Olufuko Cultural Festival. Nobody will promote and maintain our own culture except ourselves.

The Olufuko Cultural Festival is a melting pot of diverse cultures, languages, and customs. It provides a platform for all Namibians to come together, embracing our diverse cultures and celebrating our shared values, thus fostering unity and understanding among our communities.

Through cultural exchange activities and interactions, participants have the unique opportunity to learn from each other's traditions, fostering mutual respect, appreciation, and a deeper understanding of the diverse cultural tapestry of Namibia.

Thus, this festival is a testament to the power of community engagement. The collaborative effort of local communities, organizations, and volunteers in organizing and participating in the event underscores the shared commitment to preserving and promoting our cultural values.

At the heart of this festival lays a profound educational value. Through interactive workshops, performances, and cultural displays, attendees, especially the younger generation, have the opportunity to learn about and appreciate the rich cultural history of Namibia.

One of the key pillars of the Olufuko Cultural Festival is the empowerment of women and girls because initiatives such as the Olufuko programs play a crucial role in empowering them to embrace their cultural identity and uphold traditional practices. Thus, with this year, a total of 85 girls are taking part in the Olufuko initiatives.

Similarly, environmental conservation is a core value of the Olufuko Cultural Festival. Emphasizing eco-friendly practices and initiatives, the festival is committed to promoting sustainability and raising awareness about the importance of preserving our natural environment.

Engaging youth in cultural activities at the festival is instrumental in instilling a sense of pride in their heritage and empowering them to become cultural ambassadors. The festival provides a platform for young generations to showcase their talents and leadership potential.

Let us also remember that the Olufuko Cultural Festival plays a vital role in preserving traditional art forms, music, dance, storytelling, and various cultural practices. By safeguarding these traditions, we ensure their continuation for future generations to embrace and celebrate.

Beyond its cultural significance, the Olufuko Cultural Festival also brings tangible economic benefits to the region. Like other expositions and trade fairs that provide SMEs opportunity to make income, local businesses, vendors, and the tourism industry benefit from the increased activity during the festival, contributing to the growth and development of the local economy.

In this regard, I am delighted to hear that the new Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill was in its final stages of consultation and is expected to be promulgated this year.

This was revealed by the Minister responsible for Industrialization and Trade during a consultative meeting to provide an update on the bill and the implementation of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regime, which government intends to implement in favour of the discontinued Export Processing Zone (EPZ) region.

I understand that the new Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill is designed to create an environment that encourages and supports investment, streamlining processes to make it easier for businesses to operate in Namibia while ensuring that there are checks and balances in terms of investment portfolios and compliance.

Indeed, a transparent, predictable and investor-friendly regulatory framework is essential for attracting the capital necessary for infrastructure development, job creation and technological advancements. In addition, on the envisaged Special Economic Zone (SEZ) regime, it is noted that the concept has proven to be a catalyst for economic transformation in various parts of the world. It is true that by creating designated areas with favourable business conditions and incentives, governments aim to attract both domestic and foreign investments, foster innovation and generate employment opportunities.

In view of the above, I am looking forward to an accelerated tabling and implementation of these laws that will trigger economic growth and support to local entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that Culture and tradition are imperative in the modern society due to their significance in shaping individual and collective behaviors and actions among various communities. Hence our continued effort with cultural festivals like this one to benefit our youth so that they can respect elders and maintain peace in all the 14 regions of our country.

As I always say “without the knowledge of where we come from, we would not know where we are going and a nation without culture is like a tree without roots.” We must therefore be vigilant of the new religion of moral relativism telling us to move away from all the things that give us purpose, identity and meaning.

Their aim is the creation of an entire generation of androgynous and hybrid human beings without culture, without identity, without spirituality and who are gender neutral or thinking that gender is a choice.

Their final goal is to make us believe in a dystopian reality, according to George Orwell’s 1984 dystopian novel, and direct human beings towards a post-human reality, under the ideology of transhumanism, with the ultimate aim to eradicate humanity.

Let us therefore continue to support this festival by working together with all stakeholders, as I always say: *“A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious!”*

Long Live Our Culture!  
Long Live Our Heritage!

I thank you.