



STATE FUNERAL OF A NATIONAL HERO

EULOGY BY HON. NAHAS ANGULA, FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SAM NUJOMA FOUNDATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE FUNERAL OF A NATIONAL HERO'S MEMORIAL SERVICE IN HONOUR OF H.E. DR. SAM SHAFIISHUNA NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION

***Sunrise:** 12 May 1929
+Sunset: 08 February 2025

THEME: "CELEBRATING A REVOLUTIONARY, HONOURING AN AFRICAN ICON"

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Independence Stadium
Windhoek
Friday, 28 February 2025 at 11h00

BURIAL SERVICE

Heroes Acre
Windhoek
Saturday, 01 March 2025 at 10h00

Directors of Ceremonies; Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-
Amadhila
Hon. Frans Kapofi, Minister of Defence and Veterans
Affairs

Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia,
Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, Chief Mourner, and
Madame Mbumba, First Lady;

Madame Kovambo Nujoma, Widow, Children, Grandchildren and
Representatives of the Family;

Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President and Madame
Pohamba;

Your Excellency Heads of State and Government;

Your Excellency Foreign Dignitaries;

Your Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice President and President-
Elect of the Republic of Namibia and Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Ndaitwah;

Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly;

His Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Judge Shivute;

Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, Chairperson of the National Council and Madame
Muha;

Hon. John Mutorwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and
Transport, and Madame Mutorwa;

Hon. Cabinet Ministers;

Hon. Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;

Hon. McHenry Venaani, MP and Leader of the Official Opposition;

Hon. Members of the Parliament;

Madame Monica Geingos, Former First Lady;

Madame Johanna Iyambo, Spouse of Former Vice President;

Madame Joan Guriras, Spouse of Former Speaker of the National Assembly;

Hon. Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region and Other
Regional Governors;

Her Worship Ndesihafela Larandja, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;

Dr. George Simataa, Secretary to the Cabinet;

Distinguished Government Executive Directors;

Esteemed Gaob Immanuel /Gaseb, Chairperson of the Council of Traditional
Leaders;

Your Excellency Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Distinguished Dignitaries;

Distinguished Service Chiefs;

Distinguished Former Service Chiefs;

Distinguished Members of the Guard of Honour;

Distinguished Members of the General Public;

Fellow Mourners,

On Sunday, 09 February 2025, Namibia woke up to the sad news that Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, was no more as he passed on at 23H45, on Saturday, 08 February 2025.

The whole nation was saddened and devastated by this sad news. The name Sam Nujoma is a household name. It symbolises our resilience in the crucible of our national liberation struggle for freedom and independence. Founding President was the epitome and embodiment of our liberation struggle. The world came to know Namibia through him and SWAPO, which he led for 47 years.

In Namibia's first democratic elections for a Constituent Assembly in 1989, SWAPO won the elections. After the adoption of the Namibian Constitution, on 09 February 1990, President Nujoma was unanimously elected by the National Assembly as the First President of the Republic of Namibia, on 16th February 1990.

On 21st March 1990, President Nujoma was sworn in as the First President of the Republic of Namibia by the UN Secretary General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. He was re-elected for two more terms of office in 1994 and 1999 respectively, in recognition of his wise and dynamic leadership.

On the occasion of his inaugural speech President Nujoma said the following; *“For the Namibian people and for myself, this day, the 21st of March, 1990, is the most memorable and indeed the most emotional moment in the annals of our history. This solemn hour is the moment which our people have been waiting for, for more than a century. This is the day for which tens of thousands of Namibian patriots laid down their lives, shed their precious blood, suffered imprisonment and a difficult life in exile”.*

President Nujoma also stated on that solemn occasion that *“Our nation blazed the trail to freedom. It has arisen to its feet. As of today, we are masters of this vast land of our ancestors. The destiny of this country is now fully in our own hands. We should, therefore, look forward to the future with confidence and hope.”*

In conclusion, President Nujoma moved, *“in the name of our people, to declare that Namibia is forever free, sovereign and independent!”*

Six (6) months after independence, President Nujoma became one of the first African Heads of State to sign and ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child, demonstrating his commitment to the survival, growth and development of the future generations.

On the 1st of March 1994, through the visionary leadership of President Nujoma, South Africa formally transferred the sovereignty of Walvis Bay and the Offshore Islands to Namibia.

Similarly, through President Nujoma's foresightedness, the Government of the Republic of Namibia adopted the Policy of National Reconciliation, amplifying one of SWAPO's popular slogans under the Motto: ONE NAMIBIA, ONE NATION. Thus, he successfully united all Namibians into a peaceful, tolerant and democratic society governed by the rule of law.

President Nujoma stepped down on 21st March 2005, handing over the instruments of power to his successor, H.E. President Hifikepunye Pohamba. In recognition of his dedication and selfless sacrifice to the National Liberation Struggle and Nation-Building, in 2005, the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia enacted a legislation conferring on him the Status of Founding Father of the Namibian Nation through an Act of Parliament (Act 16 of 2005).

President Nujoma also served as the leader of the SWAPO Party for 47 years and the only Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

After 47 years at the helm of the SWAPO Party, President Nujoma also stepped down as the first President of the SWAPO Party on 30th November 2007, handing over the reins of power to his successor, H.E. Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba.

In recognition of his outstanding work, selfless sacrifices, unwavering commitment and service to humanity, he was bestowed the title of Leader of the Namibian Revolution by the SWAPO Party's 4th Congress of 2007.

Founding President Nujoma was born on 12 May 1929 at Etunda village, in Omusati Region to Tatekulu Daniel Utoni Nujoma and Meekulu Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo. President Nujoma's parents, like his grandfather and many generations before them, were born in Uukwambi district and were both from the royal families of that area. He was the firstborn in a family of 11 siblings in the following order;

Sam Shafiishuna
Maria Nandingolo
Frieda Nandjala

Sofia Naapopye
Hiskia Asino
Munoshisho
Noah Malima
Stefanus Omagano
David Elago
Elia Shivute
and Julia Namukuwa

His sister Maria, who was born after him, unfortunately passed on when she was a small child. Dr. Nujoma also lost his sister Meme Sofia Asino (Née Nujoma) to COVID-19 in September 2020 and in June 2024 he lost another sister, Meme Frieda Nandjala Shikongo (Née Nujoma).

They were six males in total. One of his younger brothers, Elia Shivute (Kanjeka), who also joined the Liberation Struggle in exile, unfortunately died in the struggle as a combatant of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

With the passing of President Nujoma himself, there are now two males left, Tate Hiskia Asino Nujoma and Tate Noah Malima Nujoma. There were also five females and now there is only one left, their last-born Meme Julia Namukuwa Iyambo (Née Nujoma).

As the eldest son, President Nujoma had to look after his siblings, even carrying the little ones on his back. Like all boys of those days, he also looked after his parent's livestock and assisted with home chores, including cultivating millet (known as omahangu in the local language).

President Nujoma received his primary education from Okahao Finnish Mission School from 1937 to 1945. In 1946, he moved to the coastal town of Walvis Bay to live with his aunt Julia Gebhart Nandjule. The following year, at the age of 17, he got his first employment in a store where he was earning a monthly salary of 10 Shillings.

It was in Walvis Bay that President Nujoma got exposed to modern world politics when he met soldiers from Argentina, Norway and other parts of Europe who had been brought there during World War II.

At the beginning of 1949, President Nujoma went to live in Windhoek with his uncle Hiskia Kondombolo, after the passing of his aunt Julia Gebhart Nandjule and started working for the South African Railways. During this period, he attended adult night school at St. Barnabas in the Windhoek Old Location. He further studied for his junior Certificate through correspondence at the Trans-Africa correspondence college in South Africa.

On 6 May 1956, President Nujoma got married to his dear wife, Madame Kovambo Theopoldine Katjimune, in Windhoek. They were blessed with many children, namely: Utoni Daniel Nujoma, John Ndeshipanda Nujoma, Nefungo Nujoma, Nelago Nujoma, and Usuta Nujoma.

With a deep passion for politics and yearning to see his people free from the restricted pass law system and confined according to Ethnic groupings, President Nujoma resigned from the South African Railways in 1957 at the age of 29.

He did so with the purpose of devoting his time to politics and follow in the footsteps of Namibia's forefathers and heroes of the anti-colonial wars of resistance such as Chief Hendrik Witbooi, Chief Jacob Morenga, Chief Samuel Maharero, Chief Kahimemua Nguvauva, Chief Nehale Iya Mpingana, Chief Mandume ya Ndemufayo, and Chief Iipumbu ya Tshilongo, among others.

At that time, the idea of South West African politics was still developing from 1947, when Chief Hosea Kutako – the Paramount Chief of the Ovaherero people - was visited by Reverend Michael Scott, who worked as a British Clergyman with the Anglican Church in South Africa, and spoke genuinely to the indigenous people as equals.

Reverend Michael Scott became the first link of the indigenous people with the outside world and helped to start the long struggle for South West African Freedom and Independence by demanding the end of the South African colonial occupation and placing the then South West Africa (SWA) under the UN Trusteeship system.

Through this, President Nujoma petitioned the UN in the late fifties, together with Chief Hosea Kutako, Samuel Witbooi, Theophilus Hamutumbangela, Andimba Herman Toivo ya Toivo, among others.

On 19 April 1959, President Nujoma co-founded the Ovamboland People's Organisation (OPO) in Windhoek, together with Jacob Kuhangua, and was elected as the President of OPO, marking a new chapter of organised resistance against settler-colonial rule.

At the time, African residents in the capital Windhoek lived mainly in the so-called Old Location which was close to the centre of town, while contract workers were accommodated in a separate compound. Their residents were supposed to relocate to a distant new township called Katutura.

Subsequently, President Nujoma, together with Uatja Kaukuetu of SWANU and Moses //Garoëb and others, organized resistance against the forced removal of the inhabitants of the Old Location to the new township of Katutura, which was based on the apartheid policy of tribal and racial segregation.

Protests against the forced removal escalated on 10 December 1959, when the Police opened fire killing 12 innocent people, among them Anna “Kakurukaze” Mungunda, and wounding 44 others. After the massacre, President Nujoma was arrested and charged for organizing the resistance as the President of OPO, and was instrumental in mobilizing the workers to join OPO.

By the directive of the OPO leadership and in collaboration with Chief Hosea Kutako, President Nujoma went into exile. In the morning of 29 February 1960, he jumped bail and was driven from Windhoek Old Location to Gobabis by Johannes Karuaihe who was going to Otjinene and Epukiro.

From Gobabis, he continued after midnight to the border between South West Africa and the British Bechuanaland Protectorate. He was given a lift in a truck driven by a man named Ludwig Stanley, who dropped him about 20 kilometres from the border post, where he went on foot until he had to crawl under the border fence into the British Bechuanaland Protectorate, on the 1st March 1960.

From Bechuanaland, with the assistance of Daniel Munamava, whom he had met when he used to accompany Chief Munjuku Nguvauva of the Mbanderu during his visits to Windhoek, President Nujoma proceeded into Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, then into Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia and then into Tanganyika, now the United Republic of Tanzania. He then went through Kenya and Sudan and in April 1960, he arrived in Accra, Ghana.

While in Accra, there was a Positive Action Conference in progress, organised by President Kwame Nkrumah, against the French government’s testing of the atomic bomb in the Sahara Desert, at the time when the Algerians were fighting for their independence. President Nujoma later attended the All-African People’s Conference organized by President Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, where he also met Patrice Lumumba and Josef Kasavubu from the Congo, as well as Frantz Fanon representing the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN).

After Ghana, President Sam Nujoma proceeded to Liberia and finally reached the United States of America in June 1960, where he joined the late Mburumba Kerina who was already in New York with Reverend Michael Scott and Fanuel Kozonguizi, appearing before the UN Committee on South West Africa. He then petitioned before the UN Fourth Committee of the General Assembly demanding the end of the South African colonial administration of South West Africa.

Other Namibians who petitioned at that time were Reverend Markus Kooper from Hoachanas, Hans Beukes and Ismael Fortune. Moses //Garoëb and Zedekia Ngavirue reached the United Nation the following year in 1961. They all acted as a group and not as representatives of different parties.

Meanwhile, OPO was renamed the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) on the 19th of April 1960 and President Nujoma was elected as the President of the movement in absentia. Early in January 1961, President Nujoma returned to Africa after he spent six months in New York and started to open SWAPO's external offices starting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

At the beginning of March 1961, President Nujoma attended the Third All-African People's Conference in Cairo, Egypt which was hosted by President Gamal Abdel Nasser. President Nujoma requested President Nasser to offer the opportunity of Military Training to SWAPO members and Nasser assured him of such opportunities.

During the course of the conference, President Nujoma met a representative from the Yugoslav Government who invited him to Belgrade to meet President Josip Broz Tito. He later attended the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961.

That same year, President Mwalimu Kabarange Julius Nyerere formed the Pan-African Freedom Movement of East, Central and Southern Africa, known as PAFMECSA, which played an important role by uniting the African Liberation Movements.

In May 1963, President Nujoma went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to witness the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25th May 1963. The OAU was formed by 32 African states. Later on, the OAU set up the African Liberation Committee, the OAU's co-ordinating committee for the Liberation of Africa, with Headquarters in Dar-es-Salaam.

The same year, President Nujoma opened SWAPO's office in Algiers, Algeria at the invitation of Ahmed Ben-Bella, the first Prime Minister of Independent Algeria. President Nujoma used that opportunity to lobby for military assistance for SWAPO.

President Nujoma was given four weapons, two 'pepesha' sub-machine guns and two 'TT' pistols with spare magazines, which he carried in a bag all the way from Algeria to Dar-es-Salaam.

With those weapons, SWAPO was able to launch the first action of the Armed Liberation Struggle on 26 August 1966, at Omugulu-gwOmbashe in Omusati Region with SWAPO's guerrilla fighters under the Commander of the Commandos, the Late John Otto Nankudhu (Koshiuanda).

In March 1966, in a bid to test South Africa's claims at the International Court of Justice at The Hague that Namibians in exile were free to return, President Nujoma, accompanied by former President Hifikepunye Pohamba, chartered a plane to Windhoek. On arrival at the airport, they were arrested and deported back to Zambia on 21st March 1966.

After the battle of Omugulu-gOmbashe, many SWAPO leaders were detained and put on trial under the South African Terrorism Act, which was rushed through Parliament in June and gazetted retrospectively to 1962 to enable the South African courts to sentence SWAPO's Freedom Fighters to death. Among them were the late Comrades Eliaser Tuhadeleni (Kaxumba KaNdola) and Andimba Herman Toivo ya Toivo, who was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, and spent 18 of those on Robben Island.

Under President Nujoma's leadership, from 26 December 1969 to 2nd January 1970, SWAPO held its Consultative Congress at Tanga in Tanzania which helped the Movement to have proper structures such as the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing, SWAPO Women Council, SWAPO Elders Council and SWAPO Youth League, including the affiliated workers unions.

This helped SWAPO to carry out the Liberation Struggle effectively based on its three pronged strategy of the political front, the diplomatic front and the Armed Liberation Struggle. On the diplomatic front, SWAPO was closely working with the OAU and the Non-Aligned Movement as well as all progressive countries, the anti-apartheid Movement and the Pan-Africanist Movement of those at home and those in the diaspora in order to isolate the white minority South African Regime.

Against this background, through President Nujoma as a strategist, SWAPO was recognized as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people and was granted observer status at many international forums as well as embassies, especially in India and Iran.

On the political front, SWAPO was able to mobilize the people of Namibia to join the Liberation Struggle. This came after President Nujoma, in May 1962, asked for two volunteers to go on a mission to carry out political mass mobilization inside Namibia. Comrade Lucas Hifikepunye Pohamba and Eliader Muatale, volunteered first.

On the military front, again under the capable leadership of President Nujoma, SWAPO was able to effectively use modern guerrilla warfare tactics causing heavy casualties on the enemy forces of the South African apartheid regime, including its stooges of the so called South West Africa Territorial Forces (SWATF) and the Koevoets, by the gallant combatants of PLAN commanded by people such as the Late Tobias Hainyeko, Peter Nanyemba and Dimo Hamaambo, under the strategic leadership of President Nujoma as the only Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

From 1977 to 1978, President Nujoma led the SWAPO negotiations team between the Western Five Contact Group and South Africa on the one hand, and the Frontline States, Nigeria, on the other, which culminated in the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 (1978).

However, the Reagan administration tried by all means to prevent the implementation of Resolution 435 and linked the issue of the Independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of the Cuban Internationalist Forces from Angola.

The war culminated in the historic and decisive battle of Cuito Cuanavale, where the combined FAPLA Forces of Angola together with the Cuban Internationalist Forces and the Combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy forces forcing the apartheid regime to the negotiation table. Thereafter, on 19th March 1989, the signing of the cease-fire agreement with South Africa took place, which resulted in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 in 1989.

Throughout his 95 years, President Nujoma has accumulated a treasure trove of experiences, successes, and lessons that have shaped him into a remarkable individual that he was. His affectionate laughter and smile, his profound wisdom, and his enduring love for those around him served as a beacon of light, inspiring all who crossed his path to live with joy, gratitude, and a heart full of love.

President Nujoma's legacy stretches across all generations, forming a formidable bridge between the 20th and 21st centuries, between old and young, between the generation of the liberation struggle and the born-free. His journey through the nine and a half decades is a testament to the power of human resilience and the wisdom that comes with age.

During his lifetime, President Nujoma was bestowed with numerous honours and awards, more than 30 in total, for his outstanding leadership, courage and total commitment towards the creation of a non-racial society in Namibia.

In addition, President Nujoma was awarded numerous Honorary Doctorate Degrees, fifteen (15) in total, as well as four (4) Honorary Citizenship of the Cities of Atlanta, San Francisco, New York and the City of East Palo Alto, in the United States of America.

Similarly, on 24 April 2009, after his retirement from Office and at the age of 75, President Nujoma obtained his Master of Science Degree in Geology, after four (4) years of study and research at the University of Namibia, in Windhoek.

He did this with the aim to motivate young Namibians to study and become Geologists, Medical Doctors, Engineers, Marine Biologists, Agriculturists, Pharmacists, Teachers, Nurses, etc.

President Nujoma is survived by his dear wife, Madame Theopoldine Kovambo Nujoma and three (3) children, namely; Utoni Daniel Nujoma, Nefungo Nujoma and Usuta Nujoma. They were also blessed with 24 grand-children and 11 great grand-children.

President Nujoma is also survived by three (3) siblings, namely; Tate Hiskia Asino Nujoma, Tate Noah Malima Nujoma and their last-born Meme Julia Namukuwa Iiyambo (Née Nujoma) as well as many nieces and nephews, including many adopted children.

Go well Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation!

Go well the Leader of the Namibian Revolution!

May the Soul of H.E. Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma Rest in Eternal Peace!

Among the Honours and Awards bestowed on him are;

- Lenin Peace Prize. 1973 USSR
- Frederic Joliot Curie Gold Medal. 1980
- Medaglia Pontificia (Pope's Medal) Anno VI, The Vatican City, Italy. 1984 Italy
- Grant Master Order Merit, the Grant Cruz, Highest Order. 1988 Brazil
- Ho Chi Minh Peace Award. 1988 Vietnam
- Namibia Freedom Award (California State University) for his leadership role in the struggle against apartheid 1988 USA
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for Disarmament and Development in recognition of his outstanding contribution in leading the people of Namibia to freedom. 1990 India
- Anno XIII, The Vatican City, Italy. 1991 Italy
- José Marti (Highest Award). 1991 Cuba
- Ordre du Merite Congo. 1991 Congo
- Chief of the Golden Heart. 1992 Kenya
- Order of the National Flag, First Class. 1992 DPRK
- "Grand Cordon" Decoration 1994 Tunisia
- Grand Master of the Order of Welwitschia. 1995 Namibia
- Order of Liberty, Highest Cross 1995 Portugal
- Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. 1995 New York USA
- Order of Good Hope, Gold 1996 South Africa Doctor of Laws, Atlanta 1996 USA
- Order of Friendship Award 2002 Vietnam
- B.F.F.S. 2003 Romania
- Recipient of the Fellowship Award of the Institute of Governance and Social Research Award (FIGSR) at The Institute of Governance and Social Research (IGSR), in recognition of his contribution to the liberation 2003 Nigeria of his country, the establishment of Democratic foundation, peace and Political stability in Namibia, and the Enhancement of the dignity of the Black Man.
- Recipient of the Ghana National Highest Award "The Companion of the Order of the Star of Ghana" as an expression of respect and admiration of the Government and people of Ghana. June 2004 Ghana
- Conferred the title of Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Father of the Namibian Nation by the Namibian Parliament. March 2004 Namibia
- Awarded International KIM IL Sung Prize Certificate 10 April 2008 India
- Obtained his Master of Science Degree in Geology (After 4 years study and research at the University of Namibia) Windhoek 24 April 2009 Namibia
- Recipient of Sir Seretse Khama SADC Medal 17 Aug 2010 Windhoek Namibia
- Bestowed the highest Medal and Diploma by MPLA at its first International Colloquium, Conference, as an extra-ordinary friend who helped, inspired and collaborated with the MPLA and enabled it to survive the countless challenges it faced in its mammoth efforts to achieve, maintain and consolidate the independence of Angola and the sovereignty of its people. 6-8 Dec. 2011 Luanda, Angola
- The Government of the Republic of Namibia bestowed upon him the honour by featuring his portrait on the upgraded N\$ 10 (Ten Namibia Dollars) and N\$ 20 (Twenty Namibia Dollars) Banknotes. 21 March 2012 Mariental, Hardap Region
- The SWAPO party conferred H.E. Dr Nujoma, the title of the leader of the Namibian Revolution and granted him permanent membership with the right to attend all party's top structures, at the 4th Congress in 2007 and the 5th Congress in 2012, respectively.
- Honoured with the African Union 'Son of Africa' Award for his lifetime achievement in the promotion of peace and dignity on the African continent. 21 October 2015 Windhoek, Namibia
- H.E President Sam Nujoma received the Mehdi Ben Barca Solidarity order, the

highest honour to be awarded by the Organisation of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAAL) on 30 September 2016, Havana, Cuba.

- H.E President Sam Nujoma received the Award of the Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo In Gold by H.E Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, for his opposition to the then government of apartheid South Africa, on 28 April 2018, Pretoria, South Africa.
- H.E President Sam Nujoma received an award from the Kemet Boutros Ghali Foundation in Egypt, Cairo for his outstanding achievements in the field of Diplomacy for Peaceful Conflict Resolution and Strengthening of Cooperation and Peace between civilisations, on 16 November 2020, Egypt, Cairo.
- H.E. President Sam Nujoma was honoured by the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela with the Francisco de Miranda Order, in its first class on 3 March 2021. The award was instituted in 1930 to recognise Venezuelan citizens and foreigners who have contributed to the sciences, the progress of the country or humanity.

Iconic quotes by H.E. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma

Founding President Sam Nujoma was a towering, unparalleled figure in Namibian and world history, Dr. Nujoma was the last of his generation of African leaders who unchained their nations from the yoke of repugnant colonial regimes and white minority rule, which included Nelson Mandela (South Africa), Samora Machel (Mozambique), Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe) and Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda. Let us go down memory lane to look at some of his iconic quotes.

“Our nation blazed the trail to freedom. It has arisen to its feet. As of today, we are masters of this vast land of our ancestors. The destiny of this country is now fully in our own hands. We should, therefore, look forward to the future with confidence and hope.” – Independence Day, 21 March 1990.

“For the Namibian people, the realisation of our most cherished goal, namely the independence of our country and the freedom of our people, is a fitting tribute to the heroism and tenacity with which our people fought for this long-awaited day. – Independence Day, 21 March 1990.

“A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all the members of society, will always emerge victorious.” – Heroes Day Commemoration.

“A nation without culture is like a tree without roots. When the wind blows, it uproots that tree.”

“This is precisely what we have been fighting for. Shedding our blood in order to give the Namibian people the opportunity to democratically elect their own government.”

“We must remain united on the continent to ensure that every African child attends a school. From kindergarten, primary school and secondary school, up to the university level. This should be the commitment of all of us on the continent.”

“Taking the destiny of our country in our own hands meant, among other things, making a great effort to forge a national identity based on a common resolve and unity of purpose and action, as well as setting for ourselves higher standards of equality, justice and opportunity for all our people, irrespective of colour, race, ethnicity or place of origin.” Inaugural speech (21 March 1990)

“Unity is a precondition for peace and development. Without peace, it is not possible for the best and most talented citizens of our country to realise their potential.”

“An opportunity should always be for the future generation. We should not talk for our own interests.”

“We must maintain unity of purpose and action. We must remain vigilant and disciplined too, and we must have respect amongst ourselves. A nation without respect amongst its rank and file will never be able to stand on its own feet.”

“Namibia is our God-gifted country; we have no other one but Namibia, and we have to be there. Those who are trying to stand in our way to freedom; it’s obvious we will smash them to pieces. Whether Botha/Reagan want it or not, Namibia shall be free. We will seize it from the hands of the Boers.”

“In any people’s war, it is not the armament that is a decisive factor in a people’s war. It is the people’s willingness to make sacrifices.”

“Without concrete and sustained peace and stability, Africa’s economic growth and poverty eradication will remain unfulfilled dreams. They will make our promises empty and a betrayal to the African masses. We must act collectively to nurture their hopes and make their dreams come true.” – 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 22 September 2004.

“The best way in which we can address social and economic inequalities in our country is by ensuring that all our people, especially the youth, are provided with quality education.” 83rd birthday celebration, 12 May 2012.

“I also urge our youth to reject tribalism and the social evils of alcohol and drug abuse, violence against women and children, as well as to remain focused on pursuits that are aimed at building a better future for themselves and our country.” 83rd birthday celebration, 12 May 2012.

“It is important for us to preserve and promote our cultural values, traditional norms and heritage in order to mould our national identity. In this regard, I believe that as an African country, we must encourage our children to appreciate and develop interest in our cultural values and traditional norms.” – Inauguration of the Palace of Ongandjera, 26 September 2015.

“History has taught us how the enemies of peace, freedom and social progress have caused division, political instability and economic sabotage in some sisterly countries on the African continent, and embarked upon manoeuvres and machinations in order to mislead and convert some of our fellow African compatriots and turn them against their own people with the view to reverse the gains of our freedom and independence.” – Kwame Nkrumah memorial, 24 February 2012.

“When the Founding Fathers were calling for African unity, they were calling for economic emancipation, cooperation and integration of the entire African continent because they fully understood that political freedom would remain insufficient and meaningless unless it was accompanied by genuine economic independence.” – Kwame Nkrumah memorial, 24 February 2012.

“Our achievement of independence imposes upon us a heavy responsibility, not only to defend our hard-won liberty, but also to set ourselves higher standards of equality, justice and opportunity for all without regard to race, creed or colour. These are the standards from which all who seek to emulate us shall draw inspiration.” Inaugural speech, 21 March 1990.

“The maintenance of peace and stability in the country is imperative for socio-economic development. Where there is no peace and stability, surely there will be no meaningful development. Therefore, we must ensure the smooth transition, from generation to generation, to build on past successes and progress to the new generation.” 86th birthday anniversary, 16 May 2015.

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