



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE NAHAS ANGULA FORMER PRIME
MINISTER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE SAM NUJOMA FOUNDATION**

12 MAY 2025

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WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

Director of Proceedings; Ms Christine //Hoebes, Senior Presidential Advisor in the Presidency
Your Excellency, Comrade Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia and Lieutenant General (Rtd) Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah, First Gentleman of the Republic of Namibia;
Madame Kovambo Nujoma, Widow, Children, Grandchildren and Representatives of the Family;
Right Honourable Dr. Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament;
Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly;
His Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Judge Shivute;
Hon. Natangwe lithete, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Cabinet Ministers;
Hon. Members of the Parliament;
Madame Monica Geingos, Former First Lady;
Hon. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Governor of the Khomas Region
Distinguished Dignitaries;
Distinguished Service Chiefs;
Distinguished Members of the General Public;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today should have been the 96th Birthday Celebration of H.E. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, the First President of the Republic of Namibia and Father of the Namibian Nation. Instead, we gather with hearts both heavy and hopeful – marking the first commemoration of May 12th without the physical presence of our beloved Founding President and Leader of the Namibian Revolution. I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for honouring this occasion with your presence. Your attendance speaks volumes about the enduring impact of a man whose name is inseparable from the story of our nation. As we all know, the name Nujoma is synonymous with SWAPO and Namibia itself – a bond forged through decades of unwavering commitment to our freedom and prosperity.

Last year, when Tatekulu Nujoma turned 95, we held a modest celebration, already planning for what would have been today's grand tribute to his selfless contributions and sacrifices. Though circumstances have changed, our purpose remains steadfast: to honour the man who led our liberation struggle until Namibia finally claimed her independence on March 21, 1990.

In the tapestry of our nation's history, Dr. Nujoma's thread runs strongest and most vibrant. We stand committed to preserving and celebrating his legacy for present and future generations. As we embark on this journey of remembrance, we look to sister nations who have walked this path before us, learning how best to honour our Founding Father in ways that capture his spirit and vision.

There are many ways to pay tribute to Founding Fathers and in Namibia we are at the beginning of this journey as we try to learn from other sister countries who have had experience in this regard.

As people were putting their heads together at the Foundation level of what can be done to commemorate the birthday of the Founding Father on the 12 May. One of the ideas that we thought befitting to his character is planting of trees.

H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, the Founding President and Father of the Nation, was not only a revered statesman and revolutionary leader but also a passionate environmentalist and global citizen. His unwavering commitment to Namibia's natural heritage was reflected in his lifelong advocacy for tree planting and environmental conservation. His final act of planting a tree on 04 July 2023 at the Olufuko homestead remains a powerful symbol of his enduring dedication to sustainability and the empowerment of future generations.

Of course there will be other ways of remembering the brave acts and good deeds of our beloved Founding President as I mentioned earlier that we are just at the beginning of this journey.

Furthermore the passing of H.E. Dr. Nujoma is likened to the fall of a majestic baobab tree. This tree is one of Africa's iconic gracious and majestic trees, which are thought to signify the wisdom and resilience of Africa's ancient arks across the African landscape enduring for millennia as they are steadfast and deep rooted as the late Founding President Nujoma was. It is an enduring symbol of strength, resilience, and decisiveness.

Yet, just as the baobab regenerates through its deep-rooted foundation, his vision and values continue to flourish through the generations he inspired. In honouring his profound legacy.

Director of Proceedings;

The planting act which is symbolic and historic is to be carried out under the theme "The Baobab Tree Has Fallen, but Its Roots Endure." Has been well received by the Head of State and she will lead it and needs public participation countrywide.

There are four key objectives that guide the national tree planting day

- Promote a Culture of Environmental Stewardship
- Enhance Public Awareness and Community Engagement
- Support Climate Action and Biodiversity Conservation
- Empower Youth and Rural Communities

Members of the public may wish to plant a tree at their residences or any locations of their choice.

The proposed indigenous trees, among others, are:

1. Marula Tree
2. Camelthorn Tree
3. Quiver Tree
4. Baobab Tree
5. Mopane Tree

Nevertheless, the proposed trees to be planted are not limited to the above list.

Furthermore, the Sam Nujoma Foundation aims to actively engage the Namibian youth through a social media campaign that encourages them to plant trees and share their actions and messages online in celebration of this important initiative. Let's make Namibia green as he had a vision even to plant trees in our deserts.

As we continue to pay tribute to the selfless sacrifices, unwavering commitment and service to humanity of revered Founding President, let us unite and work together for the better Namibia that he envisioned.

Similarly, we should look at some of his initiatives that he did not complete so that we complete them such as the Etunda Farm Primary School that he intended to donate to government in order to provide education to children of farm labourers in the district of Otavi and beyond.

I am optimistic that if we work together and combine resources we will be able to achieve our set objective as he always used to say:

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

Long Live the Legacy of the Founding President, Dr. Sam Nujoma!

Long Live The Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.