



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION, YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

REMARKS

OF HON. DINO BALLOTTI

**DEPUTY MINISTER: EDUCATION, INNOVATION,
YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS & CULTURE**

AT THE

**THE OFFICIAL HAND OVER CEREMONY OF
ETUNDA FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CLINIC**

ETUNDA, OTJOZONDJUPA| 07 NOVEMBER 2025

- Director of proceedings, my sister, Me. Julia, you asked us to be brief, please grant me permission to use the 10 minutes allocated on the program, also, I am a politician now, and as such, I can not fully rest on your established salutation list. Therefore, please permit me to acknowledge the high table.
- **Her Excellency, Lucia Witbooi, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia,**
- **Your Excellency, Nangolo Mbumba, former Education minister from 1995 to 2005,**
- **Right Honorable Dr Nahas Angula; my leadership, and with his permission now, my older brother, doesn't feel right. 35 years ago when I was 3 years old, you were the inaugural Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, where His Excellency Dr. Mbumba succeeded you - today I deputise my Minister and stand on the shoulders of giants such as those I am seated next to,**
- **The entire Nujoma Family, seated here Mr. Sacky Nujoma, special mention my mum, Usuta and my brother Honorable Shafishuna Nujoma, my Governor seated in the front row,**
- **Honourable John Julius Khamuseb, Governor of the beautiful Otozondjupa Region, I also call you my Governor,**
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- **My seniors and my fellow Namibians present here this morning, especially our school learners seated at the back,**

Good morning.

Please accept my apologies for my voice. I have come down with the flu, however, that was not going to keep me away from this historical moment.

In the briefing meeting earlier this morning I was sat among giants, seated next to our former head of state, opposite our former prime minister and chaired by Her Excellency, our VP. I will use the words of Right Honorable Dr. Nahas Angula when he said and I quote, we stand on the shoulders of giants to see further.

It is with a great sense of pride and a deep sense of national duty that I share a short statement here today in this beautiful school hall at this Etunda Farm Primary School, as we mark a historic moment in our national identity.

Similar to our governor, who asked to defer from the prepared speech for a moment, when I drove here this morning, I had goosebumps as we entered this premises. Yesterday and early this morning I have been reflecting on the unwavering dedication to liberation of our founding father. How selfless one must be to go to war for the liberation of a people. This school and clinic will receive the heritage status it deserves, where we must further supplement the selfless gesture of our founding father and ensure that this school is of the very

best in country in terms of infrastructure and output of educational excellence. We may receive it voetstoets, but we will now treat it as our own home and do what needs to be done.

My Minister, Honorable Dr Sanet Steenkamp wishes that she could have been here, where she extends her heartfelt well wishes to all and has informed me that she will personally visit this school in the coming months, when we operationalise this school.

As we formalise the transition of a dream born right here, on the Etunda Farm, we reflect on a vision that inspired this project, to bring the light of education and the stability of health to the farm workers and their families, ensuring that no Namibian is left behind.

This initial, humble aspiration, the brainchild of our Founding Father, H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, has now matured into a magnificent national asset and one that we as a line Ministry are proud and honoured to support.

Through this initiative, the Nujoma Foundation has demonstrated that true leadership is not only measured by words spoken, but by the tangible improvements made in the daily lives of ordinary people. As His Excellency Dr. Nujoma once reminded us and I quote “The future of our country will be secured only when every Namibian child, wherever they are, can read, write and think for themselves.”

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport and Culture, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the Nujoma Foundation for this invaluable contribution. The handover of this school and clinic to the Government signifies a partnership between public institutions and private foundations, anchored in our shared mission of national development. This collaboration is a shining example of what can be achieved when we unite around a common purpose: to ensure that every Namibian child, has access to quality education and that every family has access to basic healthcare services.

In the briefing meeting earlier, I was given strict instructions by our Chair of the foundation, Right Honorable Dr. Nahas Angula. We have to ensure that we fence this space as a matter of urgency, we need to ensure water security with the geological dynamics and we need to bring learners from all corners of the country to this school, even those as far as Okalumba village in the Onyaanya constituency.

Right Honorable, you have my word that these asks shall be executed and with speed.

To the teachers who will serve here, I say this: you are the torchbearers of His Excellencies vision. Through your dedication and passion, you will continue his mission of empowering the next generation of Namibians with knowledge, discipline and pride.

To the learners, I urge you to cherish this opportunity. This school was born from love and sacrifice, make the most of it. Study hard, dream boldly and remember that your success will be the continuation of the legacy we celebrate today. The next president of the republic of Namibia can very well come from this very school.

To the parents and community leaders of Etunda: the ultimate success of these institutions rests in your hands. Value this investment, utilise these facilities fully and participate actively in its growth. As our director of proceedings, my sister and neighbour, Me. Julia said, the responsibility belongs to all of us.

As I conclude, let us carry forward the spirit of self-reliance and dedication exemplified by our Founding Father. This is his legacy; it is now our collective responsibility to expand. I look forward to seeing young people learning and playing right here. As His Excellency, Dr. Nujoma so wisely reminded us, "A nation that does not educate its youth is a nation without a future."

Today, we renew that sacred commitment to educate our youth, to empower our communities and to safeguard the future of our beloved Namibia.

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Allow me now to fulfil my other duty, to call on our Keynote speaker; hailing from the southern part of Namibia, the great //Karas and Hardap regions.

Our Keynote Speaker is someone I have the utmost respect for, as a servant leader. Someone that I have first hand seen care for everyone in her ambit, whether that be cooking for the full support team, to making time to engage the youth, to doing needle work while having some tea, with members of the community.

Her Excellency, our Vice President was an educator for 27 years at schools in Gibeon, Maltahohe and Mariental. Having served as a Member of the National Assembly from March 2010 until March 2025, where she has equally occupied various leadership roles.

On the 21st March 2025, Her Excellency, our President, Dr Netumbo Nandi Ndaibwa saw it right and fit to appoint Madame Lucia Witbooi as the fifth Vice President of the Republic of Namibia. I now ask that we all rise as we welcome to the podium our keynote speaker, Her Excellency, our Vice President, Madame Lucia Witbooi.