



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE PRESIDENCY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY LUCIA

WITBOOI,

**VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HAND OVER OF THE
ETUNDA PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CLINIC**

ETUNDA FARM

OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

7 NOVEMBER 2025

Director of Ceremonies;

Your Excellency, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Fourth President of our Republic;

Honourable Nahas Angula, Former Prime Minister and Chairperson of the Sam Nujoma Foundation;

Honourable Dino Ballotti, Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture;

Honourable Members of Parliament present;

Honourable John //Khamuseb, Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region;

Honourable Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Governor of the Khomas Region;

Honourable Kornelia Shilunga, Presidential Senior Advisor and Head of the Upstream Petroleum Unit;

Mr. Shen Jian, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China;

Honourable George !Garab, Regional Councillor for Otavi Constituency and Other Regional Councillors present;

**Your Worship Mr. Isaac !Hoaeb, Mayor of Otavi
and Local Authority Councillors present;**

**Tatekulu Johannes Mupiya, the King of
Ongandjera Traditional Authority and his wife;
Comrade Sacky Nefungo Nujoma and the entire
Nujoma Family;**

**Distinguished Veterans of the National Liberation
Struggle;**

**Respected Captains of Industry, representing
sponsors of these projects;**

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Senior Government Officials;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning

**It is with profound gratitude and humility that I
welcome you all to this historic occasion. Your
presence here today is a testament to the
enduring legacy of our Founding President, the**

late Dr. Sam Shaafishuna Nujoma, whose vision and compassion continue to shape our nation. Today, we gather to witness the official handover of the Etunda Farm Primary School and Clinic, which is a monumental gift to the people of Namibia. In this regard, the Etunda Farm Primary School and Clinic were initiated by the late Founding President on his private farm Etunda near Otavi, named after his birthplace. His dream was to uplift the children of farm workers and rural communities through access to education and healthcare. The clinic operational since 2017, has served the local population and passersby, while the school and hostel were still under construction but nearly completion. This project was born out of a deep desire to address the needs of the previously disadvantaged.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the Namibian people, and especially the Otjozondjupa Region, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Nujoma Family for this generous donation, close to 16 hectares of land and fully equipped facilities valued at over N\$25 million. The clinic accommodates 12 staff members including a medical doctor. The school has capacity for 240 learners, a principal, head of department, six teachers, an administrative officer, and two cleaners. The hostel can house 100 boarders and includes accommodation for four hostel matrons, a chief matron, and four catering matrons.

President Nujoma believed that every child should be educated from kindergarten to university. He was deeply moved by the plight of farm workers and their children, and he took a personal initiative to break the cycle of generational poverty through education. He used his own

resources to buy bricks from Combat Mines and mobilized support from Namport, B2Gold, Paragon Investment Holdings, Ohorongo Cement, Swakop Uranium, Cheetah Cement, the Chinese Embassy, and Rani Group, among others.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let this be a shining example for all farms and corporate entities. We must unite to complete this noble project and uphold the legacy of the Father of the Namibian Nation. Now that he has departed, it is our collective duty to ensure his dream is realized. The Founding President intended to donate this project to the Government upon completion. Though he is no longer with us, we must honour his vision and ensure its full realization.

This project aligns with our national goals to provide healthcare and education to all, especially

the marginalized communities, and contributes directly to Vision 2030. It complements our government's efforts to empower the children of farm labourers and marginalized communities, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to our country's development.

We call upon all stakeholders to assist in completing the remaining infrastructure: fencing (N\$1.7 million), boreholes (N\$3 million), and civil, mechanical, and electrical works (N\$15 million). The Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture must collaborate with all role players to ensure the school opens its doors fully in 2026. This should be a national priority.

Vision 2030 aims to transform Namibia into a healthy, food-secure nation with high living standards and access to quality services. This project is a direct contribution to that vision. The

inclusion of a clinic alongside the school reflects a holistic approach. Since 2017, the clinic has served the community, with many children born there, a true symbol of life and hope.

Similarly, Vision 2030 emphasizes partnerships as essential for sustainable development. This project is a model of such collaboration. We must foster partnerships between government, civil society, private sector, and international allies. This is how we build a resilient and inclusive Namibia.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As the Founding President reminded us: "A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious." Education is a shared responsibility. It is the key to opportunity, the greatest equalizer,

and as the African proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Let us remember the words of Nelson Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” And of Kofi Annan: “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the foundation of progress.” These words echo the values that guided the Founding President’s actions.

Against this background, I urge all stakeholders—government, private sector, NGOs, and communities—to rally behind this initiative and ensure its completion and sustainability. This facility will empower hundreds of children, giving them a chance to dream, learn, and contribute meaningfully to our society.

Good health is the greatest wealth a nation can possess. Without a healthy population, no country

can achieve its full potential. The First President of the Republic of Namibia understood this deeply, that is why he ensured that the Etunda Farm Primary School and Clinic Project included not only a school but also a health clinic. A healthy child is a learning child, and a healthy community is a productive community. We must continue to invest in healthcare infrastructure and services, especially in rural areas, to ensure that no Namibian is left behind.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In the same spirit, we must promote healthy lifestyles to defeat the rise of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

These conditions are preventable through education, proper nutrition, physical activity, and regular medical check-ups. The Etunda Clinic is not just a place for treatment—it must become a center for health education and wellness

promotion. Let us encourage our people to adopt habits that support long and vibrant lives.

The late Founding President Nujoma repeatedly called upon Namibians to plant trees and produce food. He believed that food security begins at home, in our gardens and fields. This project must also serve as a model for integrating agriculture into education. Let the learners of Etunda Primary School grow their own vegetables, plant fruit trees, and learn the value of self-reliance and environmental stewardship. In doing so, we honour his call and build resilience against hunger and climate change. We are going to plant some trees today, to celebrate his legacy.

This project reminds the nation, that we must unite to pave the way for sustainable development. The example set by the Founding Father is one of selflessness, vision, and action. He did not wait for others to act, he led by doing. Let

us emulate his example by working together across sectors and regions, putting aside differences, and focusing on what unites us: the desire to build a better Namibia for all.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

In conclusion, let us remember the powerful words of our Founding President, Dr. Sam Nujoma: “Educate your children, for they are the future leaders of this country.”

“A nation that does not invest in the education of its youth is a nation that has no future.”

“Let us build schools, not prisons; let us build clinics, not battlefields.”

May these words guide us as we move forward with purpose, unity, and determination to complete this noble project and continue building the Namibia he dreamed of. Let us honour the

legacy of Dr. Sam Nujoma not just with words, but with action. Let us build, support, and sustain what he has started.

Lastly, I thank the Nujoma Family, the Sam Nujoma Foundation, and all cooperating partners. May this project stand as a beacon of hope, unity, and progress for generations to come.

I thank you.