

07 February 2026

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE SAM NUJOMA FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Fellow Namibians, Friends of Namibia across the world,

Today, the 8th of February, we gather in solemn reflection and collective resolve as a nation. We mark one year since the passing of the Founding President, and Father of the Namibian nation, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, a giant of African liberation and the principal architect of the Namibian state.

The name, Sam Nujoma remains a beacon of hope for our nation. Though no longer physically among us, the name endures as our oasis, offering inspiration, optimism, and a clear path through hardship, darkness, and challenge.

That name remains our guiding light, ushering in opportunities, shaping solutions to our national challenges, and serving as a source of unwavering encouragement. His powerful and unmistakable voice continues to echo across time, reminding us of the daunting yet necessary tasks before us. Chief among these, is the unfinished mission of economic emancipation, which must be intensified on all fronts.

His warm and majestic smile awakened national love and care. Indeed, Dr. Nujoma's name is engraved in our hills, valleys, savannas, our mountains, our waters, our clear blue skies, and in the very soul of the Namibian people, as a revolutionary icon whose life defined purpose, sacrifice, and courage.

As we honour his remarkable life and commemorate the anniversary of his passing, we do so guided by the core values and principles that shaped his leadership and vision.

Fellow Namibians.

The life of the Founding President was ethical, steadfast, and anchored in an unshakeable belief in a just, united, and sovereign Namibia. His journey challenges every succeeding generation to act with courage, humility, and integrity in the task of building a strong and resilient Namibia, one borne from the uncrushable bravery of our forefathers and foremothers. Legacy, as he taught us, is not memory alone, it is responsibility.

The Founding President envisioned a Namibia where dignity is not a privilege but a right; where inequality, poverty, and exclusion are confronted with urgency and resolve. Persistent disparities in wealth, access to quality education, healthcare, and opportunity stand in direct contradiction to his vision.

To ignore these realities is to betray the promise of independence. To confront them boldly is to honour his life's work.

Dr Nujoma believed deeply in dialogue across difference, ethnicity, ideology, class, and political persuasion. In a world increasingly fractured by divisions and coercion through military force, his belief in reconciliation remains a timeless lesson: that peace and stability are only sustainable when built through honest engagement and mutual respect.

The Founding President called upon citizens, institutions, and leaders alike to move beyond admiration to participation. Values must be translated into action. Patriotism must be measured by service. Nationhood must be sustained by the everyday choices of ordinary people committed to the common good.

His vision extended far beyond Namibia. A committed Pan-Africanist, the Founding President understood that Africa's liberation, the dignity of its people, and economic transformation are inseparable. His principles remain relevant across our continent, where development, sovereignty, and human rights continue to be contested and defended.

Compatriot and fellow citizens.

As we mark this anniversary, we do so in a moment of profound national sorrow. February month is entered in our national calendar as a sorrowful month. In two consecutive years but in February month, Namibia lost two prominent leaders; Dr.Hage G. Geingob, the 3rd President and first Prime Minister of the Republic, who passed away on the 4th of February 2024 while in office.

A devoted disciple of the Founding President, Dr. Geingob dedicated his life to the service of the Namibian people, championing constitutionalism, democracy, inclusivity, and the fight against inequality. His passing, so close in time to this anniversary, reminds us of the continuity of leadership, sacrifice, and duty that defines our nation's journey. We honour him with gratitude, respect, and a renewed commitment to the ideals for which he stood.

Fellow Namibians.

As we reflect today, let us affirm our unwavering commitment to the attainment of genuine economic freedom, for all Namibians, and for Africa at large.

The legacy of the Founding President does not rest in monuments or ceremonies alone. It lives through our actions, the daily choices of ordinary Namibians, through how we treat one another as children of the same home called Namibia, and through our collective resolve to leave no one behind.

As the Founding President always reminded us that: “A people united striving to achieve common good for all members of society will always emerge victorious”let us head that clarion call.The struggle for economic emancipation continues, and victory belongs to those who remain faithful to the ideals of common good and shared prosperity.

May his spirit continue to guide us.

May his legacy continue to inspire us.

And may Namibia forever remain united, peaceful, and sovereign. Long live the Republic of Namibia.

I thank you.