



ADDRESS BY

**THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
OF WINDHOEK**

COUNCIL MEMBER NDESHIHAFELA LARANDJA

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE RENAMING CEREMONY OF FELD STRASSE
IN HONOUR OF SIR SERETSE KHAMA,
THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA**

Thursday, 9 October 2025

14:30

**Intersection of Feld Strasse and Julius K Nyerere Street,
Ausspannplatz**

- **Director of Ceremonies, Mr. Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek;**
- **Your Excellency, Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Your Excellency, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, President of the Republic of Botswana;**
- **Rt. Honourable Dr Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia**
- **Honourable Natangwe Ithete, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia**
- **Your Excellency, Lieutenant General Dr Seretse Khama Ian Khama, Former President of the Republic of Botswana and Representative of the Khama Family;**
- **Chief Tjinaani Maharero of the Maharero Traditional Authority;**
- **Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament, both from Botswana and Namibia;**
- **Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Your Worship, Councillor Clemencia Hanases, Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Windhoek residents;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Good afternoon,

It is with a profound sense of history and honour that I, on behalf of the City of Windhoek Council and all our residents, extend a warmest welcome to you this afternoon.

Today is a moment where we consciously shape our urban landscape to better reflect the values we cherish and the history that binds us. The decision to rename this street was not taken lightly, but followed a deliberate and consultative process, guided by our Council's Resolution and the impassioned application from the Maharero Traditional Authority. Today, we bring that vision to fruition and so it is fitting that we pause to honour a man whose leadership embodied stability, moral clarity, and a relentless pursuit of prosperity for his people. The renaming of this street, in the heart of our capital, serves as both a symbol of remembrance and a beacon of regional solidarity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here to honour a giant of our continent, the founding President of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama. The story of Sir Seretse is one of immense personal integrity and unwavering principle. He was a leader who, alongside his partner, Lady

Ruth, endured exile for justice and love, and who returned to lead his nation from being one of the poorest at independence to one of Africa's most stable and prosperous democracies. His intelligence, his humour, and his unyielding commitment to non-racialism and the rule of law are a legacy that inspires far beyond the borders of Botswana. But why here? Why in Windhoek?

Your Excellencies,

The connection is historically significant. For the people of Windhoek, this moment carries deep emotional significance. It reminds us of the bonds forged between the Maharero Traditional Authority and the Khama family, whose collaboration with figures like Reverend Michael Scott helped advance the cause of justice for Namibia and southern Africa. It is a story of compassion across borders. Of leaders who stood for what was right, even when it was not popular. Of families who sacrificed personal comfort for collective freedom. In honouring Sir Seretse Khama, we also honour those

connections that transcend geography and remind us that our destinies are interwoven.

As so eloquently detailed by Chief Maharero in his Traditional Authority's application for the street name change, our nations' fates have long been intertwined. In times of great struggle, during the dark days of the 1904 genocide and the subsequent fight for Namibia's liberation, the people of Botswana opened their arms and their homes to our people. They offered refuge and solidarity. Sir Seretse Khama himself, as a Front-Line President, was instrumental in the collective regional effort that championed the independence of Namibia and Zimbabwe, helping to forge the peaceful and democratic Southern African region we are building today through SADC, an institution he was key in founding.

Distinguished guests,

It is therefore not merely fitting, but necessary, that his name graces a street in our capital city, Windhoek. This act is a tangible affirmation of our shared history, our common struggles, and our collective aspirations. By naming this street

in his honour, the City of Windhoek affirms its alignment with an enduring vision, one that binds our nations through shared history and mutual respect. So, as the name "Feld Strasse" recedes into the annals of history, we proudly erect the new street sign for "Sir Seretse Khama Street." Let this street be more than just a thoroughfare; let it be a daily reminder to all who pass by - residents and visitors alike - of the power of visionary leadership, the strength found in unity, and the enduring bonds of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of Namibia and Botswana. May the legacy of Sir Seretse Khama inspire future generations to lead with courage, to govern with wisdom, and to always strive for a more just and united Africa.

Once again, I extend a heartfelt welcome to all our distinguished guests, especially our visiting delegations from Botswana. We are deeply honoured by your presence.

I thank you.

Ndeshihafela Larandja
Mayor