

**TRIBUTE BY HER WORSHIP OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, CLLR NDESHIFELA LARANDJA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE KHOMAS REGION MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE HE DR. SAM SHAFIISHUNA NUJOMA FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION**

**SAM NUJOMA STADIUM**

**23 FEBRUARY 2025, 09H00**

Directors of Ceremonies, Honourable Anna Muteka, Constituency Councillor of the Windhoek West Constituency, and Cllr. Sade Gawanas, Council Member of the City of Windhoek,  
Bereaved Family Members Present,  
Honourable Laura MCleod Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region,  
Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament present,  
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Honourable Shaalukeni John Monde, Chairperson of Khomas Regional Council,  
Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present,  
Queen Gaoses Juliana Gawa-!Nas, /Khomanin Traditional Authority,  
Chiefs of Service Present,  
Fellow Mourners,  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good Afternoon.

It is with sadness and sorrow that I have to stand before you on behalf of the entire residents of the City of Windhoek, at this dark hour as Windhoek and Namibia are mourning with grief the passing on of the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Father of the Namibian Nation and Leader of the Namibia Revolution for Independence, HE. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma.

Sam Nujoma played a crucial leadership role in Namibia's protracted liberation struggle and laid a solid basis for a strongly independent and democratic nation. His life-long dedication to the country's sovereignty and the upliftment of our people will be remembered as a defining chapter in the history of Windhoek and Namibia at large.

We are deeply thankful for the solid foundational leadership taken during our Founding President Nujoma's time in office to champion an inclusive Namibian identity, restore deeply divided societal divisions, establish Namibia's strong democratic institutions, and uphold constitutionality. His invaluable contributions to nation-building and unity of purpose to our country's progression will continue to be treasured, premeditated, and deliberated as part of the evolving journey of our nation's unity in diversity.

At this juncture allow me to quote the words of our sitting President Nangolo Mbumba on the day of the announcement of the passing of our Founding President, "Our founding father lived a long and consequential life, during which he served the people of his beloved country. Our founding father heroically marshalled the Namibian people during the darkest hours of our liberation struggle

until the attainment of freedom and independence from apartheid South Africa on 21 March 1990". Indeed, our Founding President led Namibia's revolution without wavering the revolution, enduring the test of time, moments of reckoning, and times when the ultimate was inevitable. Yes, he knew that even though it was not written in black and white; combat engagement with the notorious apartheid forces, death was part of the mission. Yet he instilled morals and the spirit of Namibia in many of us.

He was a true fighter, a Pan African, and a revolutionary visionary leader. Today, Windhoek is mourning and bidding farewell to the Father of the Namibian Nation whose revolutionary spirit was awakened in forced contract railway labour and nurtured in our capital city Windhoek.

**Honourable Governor, Windhoek Residents,**

The beginning of our rebirth as a Nation and Country must be the rediscovery of our soul. The anti-apartheid struggle constituted a historic step away from centuries of a past during which many in the world had accepted the assertion of the sub-humanity of Africans as a self-evident truth. Therefore, we must continue to resurrect the heroes and legends of our history, tradition, and culture, so that our region and city represent the people who lived or live here. For this reason, Windhoek has named one of its prominent streets Sam Nujoma Avenue.

In addition to leading our country to independence, Founding President Nujoma relinquished political power, returning to his

homeland to live simply within his communities, becoming one of the rare examples of our times.

We must draw lessons from the life of our departed Founding Father, who had put the interests of the nation above his own. Let us return to the values upon which our nation was founded. Let us remind ourselves, as he always did, that our society will never be truly free unless we can advance the cause of the poor and improve their condition.

We can only make progress when we are a united nation and not divided into factionalism, tribalism, regionalism, and other evils. He has left this mortal world, but his work and his legacy is all around us and will endure forever.

May our Founding President Live in Eternal Peace!