



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR**

**THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE DELIVERED BY THE KHOMAS REGIONAL GOVERNOR HONOURABLE LAURA MCLEOD – KATJIRUA AT THE KHOMAS REGIONAL TRIBUTE CEREMONY HELD AT SAM NUJOMA STADIUM KATUTURA ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRAUARY 2025, SUNDAY, 14H30 IN WINDHOEK, KHOMAS REGION.**

- Director of Ceremonies, Honourable Emma Tangi Muteka, MP, Councillor of Windhoek West constituency and Honourable Sade Gawanas, City of Windhoek,
- Honourable Members of Cabinet present,
- Honourable Members of Parliament present,
- Honourable Chairperson Khomas regional Council Shaalukeni John Moonde,
- Her Worship the Mayor, Ndesihafela Larandja City of Windhoek,
- Honourable Richard !Gauseb, MP, Councillor for Katutura East,
- Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors Present,
- Comrade Elliot Mbako, Khomas SWAPO PARTY Regional Coordinator,
- Respected Chief Juliana Gawa-!nas, //Khomanin Traditional Authority,
- Reverend Dolly Nengushe, ACCN (Alliance of Christian Churches in Namibia ) and Reverend Joseph Hanghome, St. Michael Anglican Parish
- All Respected Religious and Community leaders present,
- Captains of Industries,
- All performing groups present,
- Media Houses present,
- All protocol Observed

**Director of Ceremonies**, I am convinced you will agree with me that no time on this earth will be enough for us to fully describe the late Founding father **Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma**. Whether we are given a week or a month we won't be able to finish presenting the full late **Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma**.

After “**95 years**” of loyal and patriotic citizenship the Republic of Namibia, the beloved land of the brave and the entire African continent is shaken and has only “**5 days left**” to bid farewell to its gallant son of the soil **Dr. the late Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma**.

As if it is not painful enough, our great Khomas region equally have the same 5 days left and this tribute ceremony of today marks the official sent-off of our beloved resident of our great Khomas region the late **Tatekulu Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma**.

As a region through his visionary leadership he left us with many visible and tangible inheritance of significant institutions such as UNAM, NUST, Bank of Namibia, Statehouse, National Museum, and Heroes Acre to mention but a few.

**Fellow Namibians**, our beloved gallant son of the soil the **late Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma** is silently visiting regions not to escape from the South African apartheid regime but to bid farewell to his beloved Namibian nation on his way to accomplish his final mission of responding to the call of his Creator.

In as much as we remember that he stated that he is “**even prepared to die in the struggle**” today we are all convinced that he is happy to die as a free man and to be buried on the soil of a free and independent Namibia.

This the victory **the late Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma** dreamed about, the victory he sacrificed his youth and the victory he ultimately attained and the victory he celebrated during his lifetime.

I am proud to state that even in his death he is demonstrating his victory, freedom and independence because he is not flying the regions as a freedom fighter displayed by the apartheid regime on the Capers but he is flying as a “**victorious, retired and departed founding President**”

**and founding father of the Namibian nation”** with the Namibian flag flying high.

**Director of ceremonies**, even in our bereavement the nation is celebrating this victory as we receive and bid farewell to the father of the Namibian revolution, the founding President of the Republic of Namibia, the father of the Namibian national reconciliation, the founding father of the Namibian nation. This is real victory as he confirmed at the Independence Day, 21 March 1990 and I quote **“For the Namibian people, the realisation of our most cherished goal, namely the independence of our country and the freedom of our people, is a fitting tribute to the heroism and tenacity with which our people fought for this long-awaited day.”** end of quote

Today we are celebrating an accomplished mission; he steered a victorious liberation war, a powerful independence consolidation process, he witnessed our current economic emancipation course and above all he left us as masters of our own destiny and he stated this on the Independence Day, 21 March 1990 and I quote ,” **Our nation blazed the trail to freedom. It has arisen to its feet. As of today, we are masters of this vast**

***land of our ancestors. The destiny of this country is now fully in our own hands. We should, therefore, look forward to the future with confidence and hope.***” end of quote

We are celebrating an exceptional life of a highly inspired person who regarded Namibia as an unexchangeable gift from God and our forefathers. A person who believed that nothing will come between him and his country Namibia and a person who believed in the power of our culture, tradition, unity and solidarity, and he confidently stated this during the liberation struggle and I quote

***“Namibia is our God-gifted country; we have no other one but Namibia, and we have to be there. Those who are trying to stand in our way to freedom; it’s obvious we will smash them to pieces. Whether Botha/Reagan want it or not, Namibia shall be free. We will seize it from the hands of the Boers.”***

***“Unity is a precondition for peace and development. Without peace, it is not possible for the best and most talented citizens of our country to realise their potential.”*** end of quotes

Our departed Founding President and Founding Father had a special attachment to the plight of the Namibian child and regarded the Namibian child as a protected asset and the owners of the future Namibia. The Founding President at times advocated the elders to fasten their belt and to eat one meal per day and the children must have three meals per day and he always emphasized this and I can quote, **“An opportunity should always be for the future generation. We should not talk for our own interests.”** end of quote

As we mourn this rich legacy we must make an oath and assure our Founding President that we will uphold his vision of defending our hard-won independence, the maintenance of peace and stability to live as united Namibians in our only beloved Namibia we have as he always reminded us in following quotes and I quote ,

**“Our achievement of independence imposes upon us a heavy responsibility, not only to defend our hard-won liberty, but also to set ourselves higher standards of equality, justice and opportunity for all without regard to race, creed or colour. These are the standards from which all who seek to emulate us shall draw inspiration.”** and

***“The maintenance of peace and stability in the country is imperative for socio-economic development. Where there is no peace and stability, surely there will be no meaningful development. Therefore, we must ensure the smooth transition, from generation to generation, to build on past successes and progress to the new generation.”***

**Fellow Namibians,** let this commitment be our little joint sacrifice and the appropriate package for the decent sent-off of our one and only father of the Namibian revolution, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, father of the Namibian national reconciliation, and Founding father of the Namibian nation.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, comrades and friends in this difficult time of despondence. We pray that in this difficult time, the love of God will shelter you and mend the pain as you move forward.

We share that sadness and pain, May our prayers, comforting messages and expression of sincere genuine sympathy from various mourners today

give you the peace and everlasting comfort you deserve.

Go well!! Go in peace, father of the Namibian revolution, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, Father of the Namibian national reconciliation, and Founding Father of the Namibian nation.

We are convinced that as a nation we have given you all the praises and **awards** for your good work during your lifetime but **God** will give you your lasting **reward** at **HIS** right time.

We bid farewell to you with the understanding that ***“Death takes the body. God takes the soul. Our mind holds the memories .Our hearts keeps the love. Our faith lets us know we will meet again”.***

**May your soul rest in eternal peace!!!!**