

the Sam Nujoma
foundation



In Pursuit of Self-reliance and Capacity Building

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA,
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN
NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 15TH POLYTECHNIC
CULTURAL FESTIVAL, 2010

POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA, WINDHOEK

10TH AUGUST 2010

Private Bag 13220, Windhoek, Namibia, Tel: +264 61 377700, Fax: +264 61 53098, Email: jnauta@iway.na, website: www.samnujomafoundation.org

Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma
Board of Trustees: Rt. Hon. Nahas Angula (Chairperson), Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana,
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(Reg No 8208)

Director of Ceremonies;
Dr. Tjama Tjivikua, Rector of the Polytechnic of Namibia;
Management and Staff of the Polytechnic of Namibia;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Distinguished Members of the Media;
Dear Students;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very pleased to have been accorded this opportunity by the Management of the Polytechnic of Namibia to address you on the occasion of the 15th Polytechnic Cultural Festival under the theme, "*Omushiinda Gwoye Esipa Lyothingo*", which means "*Your Neighbour is Your Neckckbone*".

Indeed, culture is the backbone of any nation. A nation without culture is without a strong foundation. A nation rich in culture manifests a strong cultural heritage, which can be passed on to many generations.

The Polytechnic Cultural Festival has long been a ful-colour tradition that brings all the cultures together. It manifests itself in terms of the various traditional dances, conversational pieces, debates, the international cuisine, games and competitions, gospel music, live bands and sports.

I am also very happy to note that the Polytechnic's international students and staff are all part and parcel of the Cultural Festival. It is my understanding that on Wednesday, 11 August 2011, you will host the International Cuisine Event, in which different foreign Embassies in Namibia will also participate. It is commendable to add international flavour to your event. As the world has become a global village, we all learn from each other's cultures. We all need to taste each other's food and learn about each other's habits and customs.

Director of Ceremonies;

I am reliably informed that no alcohol is allowed at the Polytechnic Cultural Festival or on campus. Fourteen years ago, this was a serious issue in which students took action against Management. I always supported Management and I thus want to congratulate the Polytechnic for the ban of alcohol from its campus since 1996. My message to the students is that they are here to study. They are not here to learn how to drink or consume alcohol and engage in irresponsible behaviour which normally carries serious consequences.

The core business of the Polytechnic is to train, educate and graduate responsible citizens. I, therefore, urge students to stay away from alcohol because it will destroy your bright future.

Director of Ceremonies;

I must use this platform to acknowledge and commend the Polytechnic of Namibia's dedication to nation building through training, especially in science technology fields. We in the Namibian society appreciate this tremendously. It is through training and education that we will eradicate poverty, hunger, ignorance. Namibia needs well qualified engineers, medical doctors, information technologists, land surveyors, geologists, marine biologists, aircraft pilots and highly qualified scientists in other fields. Our country is endowed with rich mineral resources, but we do not have the technical know-how and capacity to process these mineral resources into finished products.

We need highly skilled people so that when we extract our minerals, we can process them in Namibia and not in some other countries abroad.

Director of Ceremonies;

As you enjoy your Cultural Festival, I want to encourage all the students to study hard and be successful in their academic pursuits. The festival is a stage on which we train our students, helping to shape and mould their behaviour for tomorrow. This is the stage where we should cultivate in our students the best of the African culture, a culture of values, a culture of respect and a culture of mutual appreciation. This is the stage on which we train and prepare the present generation to become responsible leaders of society tomorrow.

In conclusion, allow me to wish the Polytechnic of Namibia happy 15th anniversary. I trust that you will have a fantastic week of cultural festivities. Enjoy the many diverse cultural and traditional performances, which display our rich cultural heritage.

I thank you.