



**Tribute in Honour of H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, Founding President  
and Father of the Namibian Nation**

**By**

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**Berlin**

Representative of the Federal Foreign Office.

Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Excellency Alice Mashingaidze, Ambassador of the Republic Zimbabwe  
and Chairperson of the SADC Ambassadors Group

Reverend Christopher Jage-Bowler

Honorary Consuls of the Republic of Namibia

Fellow Namibians,

We are gathered here today to pay homage to Dr. Sam Nujoma, Founding  
President and Father of the Namibian Nation, who passed away on 08  
February 2025.

President Nujoma led our country to freedom and independence after  
spending 30 years in exile. This was a long and arduous journey but he  
persevered until final victory was achieved. He was a fearless freedom  
fighter, a visionary leader who dedicated his life to the liberation of

Namibia. He organized and mobilized the Namibian people, especially the youth, and urged them to rise against the brutal colonial regime of apartheid South Africa. His decision to take up arms came from the realization that peaceful efforts alone through the United Nations and other international fora were yielding no results. He firmly believed that the armed struggle was the most effective way to bring about freedom and independence in Namibia. Therefore, in August 1966, he launched the armed liberation struggle.

President Nujoma was strategic, thorough and unwavering in his plans. His leadership was marked by fairness, strength and clarity of purpose. He knew what he wanted—a free and independent Namibia—and he pursued that objective with relentless determination. Every move he made was calculated, and his plans were always successfully implemented.

Growing up, I always wanted to meet President Nujoma in person. Eventually we met in 1978 in Lusaka, Zambia, when he came to address us as students at the United Nations Institute for Namibia. He encouraged us to study hard in preparation for Namibia's independence. He

emphasized that once our studies were complete, we would be expected to contribute to the struggle—whether through diplomatic and political efforts or military activities.

In 1984, I was called to work at the SWAPO Provisional Headquarters in Angola. I did not know how I had been selected, but I was honored to be chosen. When I arrived in Luanda, I was welcomed by leaders such as Peter Mweshihange, Maxton Joseph Mutongolume and Moses Garoeb, who are all late now. I was appointed to work in the Department of International Relations as a Senior Coordinator, a role that placed me under the Office of the President.

Shortly thereafter, I was asked to report to President Nujoma's office. Initially, I was anxious, wondering if I had done something wrong. However, upon arrival, I was warmly welcomed. The President informed me that I would accompany him on an important diplomatic mission and advised me to ensure my travel documents were in order. That trip, my first with him, took place in late 1984. We traveled extensively across Africa, meeting with Heads of State and other leaders from Congo-

Brazzaville, Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Mali, Libya and several other countries. The purpose of the trip was to garner support for Namibia's liberation struggle - securing humanitarian aid, military assistance and other critical resources for our people, particularly women and children in SWAPO camps.

President Nujoma used to engage us in discussions on the liberation struggle and how we saw Namibia after independence. During one of those discussions in Libya, he shared his grand vision for Namibia's future. He spoke about the stages of liberation - political independence, economic freedom, and self-sufficiency. He had a ground-breaking idea to tap electricity from the Inga dam and water from the Congo River and channel it through Angola into Namibia, ensuring energy and water security for agriculture and industrial development. At first, I was skeptical, but he pointed out that Europe had built extensive pipelines for oil and gas from the USSR, now Russia. "If they can do it, why can't Africa?" He challenged us. This idea eventually became a real project in the region, a testament to his visionary leadership.

President Nujoma was not only a liberation hero but also a Pan-Africanist. He worked closely with leaders such as Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Agostinho Neto of Angola, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela of the ANC and many other leaders from Africa. They had a collective vision to liberate Africa and ensure that African nations controlled their own resources, built industries and created employment opportunities for their people.

Education and training were at the core of his ideology. He constantly urged Namibians to pursue knowledge, particularly in science and technology. Despite not having access to quality education in colonial Namibia, he understood its importance. Even after stepping down as president, he led by example, enrolling at the University of Namibia and obtained a Masters Degree in geology. He also provided his own resources to deserving Namibians to take up further studies.

As his first Chief of Protocol at independence in 1990, I had the rare privilege of witnessing, first hand, his dedication to national reconciliation, democracy and effective governance. He was meticulous in his approach, ensuring that Namibia's interests were well represented on the international stage. His legacy is one of resilience, intelligence and unwavering commitment to his people.

President Nujoma was not just a leader; he was a visionary whose influence extended to the entire African continent and beyond. His contribution to liberation and socio-economic development continue to inspire generations. His dream of a self-reliant Africa remains a goal worth pursuing. His legacy will forever be remembered in the annals of history.

In 1996, he appointed me Namibia's Ambassador to the United Nations, serving as the second Ambassador to the UN. During my tenure, Namibia became a member of the UN Security Council. This was a major milestone for our nation. As a representative in the Security Council, I found myself sitting with Ambassadors from powerful countries. I was

determined to make Namibia's position known on major international issues, including the question of Palestine and Western Sahara.

Some Ambassadors from these powerful nations viewed me as being too revolutionary, because I was assertive in ensuring that Namibia's voice was heard. As a result, there were efforts from some quarters to have me removed. I was reported to President Nujoma on two occasions and to the Foreign Minister, the late Theo-Ben Gurirab. However, when President Nujoma inquired about the situation and I explained it to him, he simply said, "Is that the case? Then just go ahead. You're on the right path. Continue with your work." This is the leadership instilled in me by President Nujoma.

President Nujoma was a decisive and fearless leader. Even in the face of pressure from major global powers, he stood firm in defending Namibia's interests. He ensured that Namibia was respected and that our policies were clearly conveyed. Any country that attempted to challenge our position on any issue, quickly learned, that President Nujoma was a leader of great resolve, a visionary who knew exactly what he was doing.



He was my mentor. He moulded me. I will miss this gallant son of the Namibian Soil, but his legacy will endure forever.

On behalf of the government and people of Namibia, the staff of the Embassy, and indeed on my own behalf, we wish to thank you for taking the time to join us in celebrating the life of our late Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation.

May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.