

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



THE PRESIDENCY

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB ON THE OCCASION OF THE 91st
BIRTHDAY OF THE FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAMIBIA, H.E SAM SHAFIISHUNA NUJOMA**

12 May 2020

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Fellow Namibians,

Today, I join you in extending best wishes to His Excellency Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma as he celebrates his 91st Birthday.

The 12th of May is a significant day to remember for Namibians. This is the day on which the leader of our revolution and founding President of our Republic was born.

As we join President Nujoma and his family in celebrating this special day, we also pause to reflect on his uncompromising leadership during and after the liberation struggle for Namibia's independence. President Nujoma led the armed struggle during difficult times. Despite this, the leadership of SWAPO mobilized resources for military activities, political and diplomatic wings as well as for the education of Namibians in exile. This prepared Namibians to take over the running of the affairs of their country upon independence. Many Namibians, especially those who

were in the leadership of SWAPO, including myself, benefited greatly from President Nujoma's leadership, wisdom and mentorship during the liberation struggle and after independence.

Upon attainment of independence, President Nujoma, as the first President of our republic, had the insurmountable responsibility to unite the nation, a nation divided by war and on tribal lines as a result of laws of apartheid. The policy of National Reconciliation adopted during the Presidency of President Nujoma contributed greatly in uniting the people of Namibia and paved the way for the peace and stability that Namibia is enjoying today. He is, indeed, a distinguished son of the Namibian soil, an extraordinary first wave leader of our revolution, a visionary and fearless leader of our continent.

President Nujoma's leadership and the collective sacrifices made by many Namibians in pursuit of freedom and independence of our Motherland should remind us about the long journey we have travelled.

This day should serve as a reminder that we have not come this far to become complacent, but to continue the fight against challenges facing our nation.

Over the years, this day, 12 May, has been characterized by Namibians from all walks of life coming together to celebrate President Nujoma's birthday. This year, President Nujoma's birthday is being celebrated at a time when Namibia and rest of the world are grappling to contain and stop the spread of COVID-19.

The best gift we can give President Nujoma on this day is to emulate his leadership and perseverance by being leaders in our own rights, leading the way in the fight to stop the spread of this deadly virus in our country.

We will continue with your legacy of self-less leadership.

On behalf of the Namibian people and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, I wish you, Comrade Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, continued health and a happy 91st Birthday.

Many Happy Returns!