

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR  
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBAMBA, PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE  
OCCASION OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
NOMINATION AS CHANCELLOR OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA**

**18 NOVEMBER 2011**

**WINDHOEK**

*\*Check Against Delivery*

Director of Ceremonies,  
Your Excellency, Dr Sam ShafiishunaNujoma, Founding President, Father of the  
Namibian Nation and Outgoing Chancellor of UNAM,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Founding Vice Chancellor of University of  
Namibia,  
Honourable Members of Parliament,  
Honourable Governor of Khomas Region, Cde Samuel Nuuyoma,  
Your Worship the Major of Windhoek, Councillor Ellaine Trepper,  
Esteemed Chairman of the University of Council, Prof. Phillemon Amaambo and  
Members of the Council,  
Esteemed Vice Chancellor of UNAM, Professor Lazarus Angula,  
Esteemed Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs and Research, Professor Osmund  
Mwandemele,  
Esteemed Reverend Gotthard Gurirab,  
Distinguished Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by expressing my profound appreciation to the University Council  
for bestowing upon me the honour to serve as Chancellor of this national institution, the  
University of Namibia.

In accepting this honour, I reiterate my commitment to the strengthening of our education  
system in general, and to the promotion of academic excellence here at the University of  
Namibia, in particular.

I am a firm believer that one of the critical factors in the achievement of Namibia's  
national development agenda is through a stronger education system. Thus, we must  
build and maintain an education system that delivers desired results by equipping our  
youth with the skills and competencies required by the economy.

As an institution of tertiary education, the University of Namibia must position itself and  
stand ready to play a critical role in the production of knowledge and the training of  
graduates who will contribute to the development of the nation.

Namibia needs engineers, medical doctors, social scientists, electricians, accountants,  
economists, public administrators, teachers, nurses and other professionals. These  
professionals and indeed many more, can be trained here at UNAM.

By training such professionals, the University is doing its part to help our country combat  
the problem of unemployment because these graduates will go on to become  
entrepreneurs, business leaders and managers of successful businesses that can create  
new employment opportunities for our people and contribute to economic growth and  
wealth creation.

I intend to use my tenure as Chancellor of UNAM to encourage the Management of this institution, and the students alike, to do their best in order to make UNAM one of the best Universities in Africa. Our professors, lecturers and administrators should all join hands to ensure that proper plans and curricula are put in place in all faculties in order to achieve the best academic results. The achievement of such results should be sustained consistently across all the faculties. This should become the norm.

Director of Ceremonies,

The success of this University depends on the cultivation, inculcation and promotion of values such as discipline, dedication, hard work and self-respect on the part of the management of the University, the professors, the lecturers and the students alike. The fact of the matter is that, there is no short-cut to academic success and to the repositioning of UNAM as an institution of academic excellence.

All around the world, countries that perform well economically and improve the living conditions of their people, are those that are allocating resources to research, innovation, value addition and commercialization of research outputs and products. Namibia must develop local research and development (R&D) capacity and innovation system in order to harness the natural resources of our country.

While on this point, I would like to acknowledge the role played by UNAM in the production of rice at Kalimbeza Rice Project. This is one best example of how academic research can address the needs of the nation. I am pleased that UNAM has managed to produce crop scientists who are now helping our country to produce rice. This is indeed a positive development which must be applauded.

Director of Ceremonies,

An African University must take knowledge to the people. The overwhelming majority of our people live in rural areas and are engaged in agriculture as the basis of their livelihood. UNAM should continue to focus on this area of knowledge development and generation with a view to transform agro-economic production and thereby improve the quality of life of the majority of our people.

The University Community must work together to create a proud identity that all of you can be proud of. In that manner, you can help to make this University a place where students and professors would want to come to learn and teach.

As Government leaders and members of the community, we expect this institution to lead by example. It is, therefore, critical to ensure that students and university officials behave themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. Moreover, I encourage the University to engage in staff development programmes whereby Namibians can be groomed to become first class academicians. In this manner, we can improve the quality of education, research and student performance at this University.

As titular head of this institution, I would also like to see improvements in the day-to-day administration of the University at all its campuses. I am mentioning this because concerns have been raised, now and then, about the maintenance of student records, the quality of food at the student cafeteria and the lengthy process of student registration. I would also like to see improvement in the maintenance of campus buildings and surroundings.

A culture of cleanliness and tidiness must be inculcated so that the physical appearance of the University is enhanced. It does not portray a good image if the campus environment is not kept clean and tidy. It is a duty of all members of the University community to ensure that our campuses in all parts of the country are kept in an impeccable condition at all times.

Equally importantly, all members of the University community must ensure that they do not engage in activities that would attract negative publicity for the institution. Such negative publicity detracts the attention and the focus of the University from concentrating on its core mission of training the students.

Director of Ceremonies,

I take this opportunity to acknowledge to groundbreaking work done by His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, the outgoing Chancellor of UNAM over the years. As the Founding Chancellor of our University, Dr Nujoma has laid a strong foundation of which we are continuing to build. His dedication to the promotion of education in our country is a source of inspiration that will continue to shine upon this nation for many years to come.

As a practical demonstration of this commitment, he enrolled as a student at this very institution and completed a Masters in Geology. This, I believe is a unique feat, that has only been achieved here at UNAM. For that, we thank you very much for your hard work.

I wish to once again thank the University Council for bestowing this honour upon me. I undertake to work with the Management and the entire University community to help this institution to become a center of academic excellence in southern Africa and beyond.

I thank you.