

KEY NOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY H.E STEVE VEMUNAVI KATJIUANJO, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NAMIBIA TO THE UK AND IRELAND ON THE OCCASION OF HEROES DAY COMMEMORATION ON 29 AUGUST 2015, MANCHESTER CITY, UK

Director of Ceremonies,
Mr. Petrus Undari, President of CNGB,
Mr. Big Ben Kandukira,
Mr. Overseas Tjongarero
Representatives of the various Flags,
Mr. Charles Kasuto,
Mr. Java Kahiha,
Mr. Hendrik Viakondo,
Mr. Undamuje Maamberua,
Madam Katjiuanjo,
Frau Tjipura,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Director of Ceremonies, I thank you for granting me the floor.

May I first thank the leadership of the Community of Namibians in Great Britain for organising this year's Heroes Day's commemorations and for inviting me to participate in the planned activities. As its motto proclaims: "Together we can make it".

I also take this opportunity to thank you all for sparing your precious time to attend and show case our rich culture on this special day. It is indeed satisfying to note that this year's commemoration has been organised across a wide spectrum of events aimed at ensuring the maximum participation of our country's citizens in the UK and Ireland.

Fellow Namibians,

It is my fervent desire and wish that this years' commemorations will be conducted with the view to uniting our people in the UK and Ireland. Today's commemoration should thus be a moment to reflect on, strengthen and deepen our collective desire for peace and prosperity for all our people. In this respect I urge the organisers in future to work towards forging a national culture out of our rich and diverse cultures.

The commemoration of Heroes Day is an occasion at which we pay homage to the many fallen brave sons and daughters of our Republic. Today we celebrate the proud tradition of heroism and resistance of our forefathers, Marenga, Kahimemua, Witbooi, Maharero, Ipumbu, Nehale, Mandume, Mungunda and many more. Their blood waters our freedom! We should use this solemn moment to remember thousands of our freedom fighters who have laid down their lives, shed their precious blood, suffered imprisonment, and endured a difficult life in foreign lands.

Fellow Namibians,

As we gather here, we are pleased to note that after a long and bitter struggle, our country is independent and our people are free forever. The independence of our country and the freedom of our people has been attained thanks to the heroism and tenacity with which our compatriots fought for our Country. The achievement of our independence has been obtained in part because of the unwavering and consistent support rendered to our cause by the international community. We express our sincere gratitude to the international community for its steadfast support to our cause.

Today our country is not only democratic, free and sovereign, but is pursuing an active

developmental agenda. Over the last twenty five years the Government has been working hard to tackle the various development challenges, such as education, health, unemployment, housing, and the provision of water, amongst others. Already a favourable climate for investment and business development is in place. I seize this opportunity to urge you to make use of all available opportunities to study, create wealth, and fully participate in our country's development.

Fellow Namibians,

In conclusion, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your impressive presence here and for your colourful attires. You have travelled many miles at your own expense to come and pay homage to our heroes. Well done!

Long live the Republic of Namibia! Long live!