



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
THE PRESIDENCY**

STATEMENT BY

**HER EXCELLENCY DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE DR.
NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH SCIENCE EXHIBITION HALL
AND THE DONATION OF THE UPGRADED RÖSSING
FOUNDATION ONDANGWA DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY HUB**

ONDANGWA, OSHANA REGION

24 JUNE 2026

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Dr. Sanet Steenkamp, Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture;
Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Members of Parliament;
Honourable Hofni Iiping, Governor of the Oshana Region, and other Governors present;
His Excellency Mr. Zhao Weiping, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Namibia;
Your Excellencies, Heads of Diplomatic Missions;
Her Worship Councilor Ester Auala, Mayor of Ondangwa Town, and other Mayors present;
Regional and Local Authority Councillors;
Gaob Immanuel |Gaseb, Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Authorities;
Omukwaniilwa Fillemon Shuumbwa Nangolo, Chief of the Ondonga Traditional Authority;
Mr. Steve Galloway, Chairman of Rössing Uranium Limited and the entire Executive Committee and Management Team;
Heads of the China National Nuclear Corporation and China National Uranium Corporation;
Head of the Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in China;

**Ms. Gida Sekandi, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
of the Rössing Foundation and Fellow Trustees;**

**Mr. Chris Movirongo, Chief Executive Officer of the
Rössing Foundation;**

Traditional and Religious Leaders;

Invited Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its established, the Rössing Foundation, among others has contributed significantly to the human capital development in Namibia to the extent that it has touched and transformed countless lives. Its pioneering work in adult literacy, science, mathematics, agriculture, small-scale mining and community development. It has contributed significantly to national development. The opening of this Science Center today is another landmark in the right direction.

As we all may know, science is known as a well-organized study of both the physical and natural world, through observation and experience, in different endeavours of human survival and development.

At every stage of human development, science has played a great role, knowingly or unknowingly. Therefore, in the world of high technology, science or scientific knowledge does make it possible for us to develop new technologies, solve practical problems and make informed decisions. Therefore, the establishment of the Science Center to be opened today is a highly appreciated.

This Center has come at a time when our Government has moved to another level in our programs for youth development and empowerment, to enable them to lead our national development agenda for prosperity to be realised in our country. It is a fact that every nation that aspires to prosperity must invest in its people. It must invest in education, science, technology, and innovation. Above all, it must create opportunities for young people to realize their full potential.

The facilities we are to inaugurate today are a practical demonstration of that commitment. They represent an investment in knowledge, an investment in opportunity, and an investment in the future of our country.

As we celebrate this remarkable achievement, I am reminded of the vision of our Founding President, Father of the Namibian Nation and the Leader of our Revolution, His Excellency Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma. In the years following Independence, he called upon the Rössing Foundation and other partners to work alongside the Government in advancing education and sustainable development. Today, we are witnessing the continued realisation of that vision.

I therefore wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Rössing Foundation, Rössing Uranium Limited, China National Nuclear Corporation, Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in China and all stakeholders who contributed to making this project a reality. I also wish to acknowledge the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Namibia, under the leadership of His Excellency Zhao Weiping, for its

continued support in strengthening cooperation between our two countries.

The relationship between Namibia and China is founded on mutual respect, shared interests, and a common commitment to development. We look forward to further strengthening this cooperation for the benefit of future generations.

In a few days, I will undertake a State Visit to the People's Republic of China, and I will be accompanied by Namibian business personalities. The purpose of the visit is to strengthen both the bilateral and economic cooperation between our countries for the benefit of our peoples.

Director of Ceremonies,

Quality education and training remain among the key priorities of our government. Against that background, the 8th Administration is determined to nurture talent, unlock potential, and equip our young people with the skills required to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Hence, our decision to 100% subsidize the registration and tuition fees to allow all Namibian students who qualify for university and vocational training centers to pursue their studies at those institutions of higher learning.

As we continue implementing our development agenda and work towards the aspirations of Vision 2030, we recognise that education is one of the most powerful tools available to transform lives, reduce inequality, and drive sustainable economic.

As Namibians, we cannot afford to be mere consumers of technology developed elsewhere. We must become creators, innovators, and producers of knowledge. We must empower our young people to develop solutions that respond to our own challenges while contributing to global progress.

We are living in an era defined by rapid technological advancement. Artificial intelligence, automation, and

digital innovation are reshaping economies and societies across the globe.

There is no doubt that education, science, and innovation remain central to our efforts to build a knowledge-based economy. Facilities such as the one to be launched today play an important role in preparing our young people to become innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders.

Director of Ceremonies,

As a student, science and mathematics or arithmetic were my favorite subjects, hence my acceptance for the Science Exhibition Hall to carry my name, an honour that I highly appreciate. I accept this recognition with humility and gratitude.

I regard it not only as a personal honour, but also as a reminder of our collective responsibility to invest in

young people, advance a culture of learning, and build a future driven by innovation and knowledge.

The greatest tribute will not be the name carried by this facility, but the achievements of the young Namibians who will pass through its doors and use the opportunities available here to shape a better future for themselves and for our nation.

I believe that this facility will become a place where curiosity is encouraged, talent is nurtured, and innovation flourishes. It should be a place where young minds are inspired to dream bigger, think boldly, and contribute meaningfully to the industrialisation and economic transformation of our country.

Director of Ceremonies,

By investing in people, Rössing Uranium Limited has contributed not only to improved livelihoods but also to the creation of a stronger foundation for sustainable economic development. I understand that an amount of N\$37 million is invested in the upgrading and

transforming of this facility. That is a clear demonstration of the Rössing Foundation's commitment to Namibia's development agenda.

This upgraded Digital Technology Hub marks another important milestone in our journey towards embracing the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. By equipping young people and communities with access to modern technology and digital resources, we accelerate industrialisation and strengthen the foundations of a digital economy.

The impact of such investments extends far beyond infrastructure. They create opportunities, strengthen communities, promote innovation and contribute to socio-economic transformation.

By integrating modern digital tools into the learning environment, we are helping to develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills among our young people. This is an important step towards bridging the digital divide and ensuring that the next generation of

Namibians can compete confidently in an increasingly digital.

These investments support the Human Development and Community Resilience Pillar of the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) and contribute directly to our efforts to strengthen science infrastructure, improve competitiveness, and stimulate economic growth.

Director of Ceremonies,

Beyond its educational value, this facility also contributes to regional development. As Namibia continues to grow, there is increasing demand for high-quality spaces that support learning, innovation, research, exhibitions and knowledge-sharing.

This facility strengthens our national capacity to host conferences, academic exchanges, and innovation-driven gatherings that bring people together to exchange ideas and create opportunities.

In doing so, it also positions the Oshana Region as an attractive destination for meetings, conferences, exhibitions, and other knowledge-based activities.

Director of Ceremonies,

The achievements we celebrate today demonstrate the power of collaboration. They remind us that meaningful development is best achieved when Government, the private sector, communities, and development partners work together towards a common purpose.

They also remind us that partnership carries responsibility. Corporate social responsibility must never be reduced to a formality. It must reflect a genuine commitment to uplifting communities, developing human potential, and making meaningful contributions to national progress.

I therefore, encourage the private sector to continue working alongside the Government as a genuine partner in development. Together, we can create opportunities. Together, we can strengthen communities. Together, we can build a more prosperous, inclusive, and resilient Namibia. Together we must be committed to address the challenges facing our people, such as unemployment and poverty, both of which force our people into homelessness.

Director of Ceremonies,

Before I conclude, allow me to congratulate Rössing Uranium Limited on its fiftieth anniversary. This golden jubilee reflects a proud legacy of partnership, commitment, and impact that continues to shape the lives of many Namibians. And the events of today are a clear testament to that partnership.

As we celebrate today's achievement, let us remember that its buildings, equipment, or technology will not measure the true value of this facility. Its true value will be measured by the young minds it inspires, the

innovations it produces, and the opportunities it creates for generations to come.

May it stand as a lasting symbol of what can be achieved when partnership meets purpose. May it inspire discovery, creativity, and innovation. May it help produce a new generation of Namibians equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to build the future our country deserves. With one heart one mind.

It is now my distinct honour to officially inaugurate the Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Science Exhibition Hall and the Ondangwa Digital Technology Hub.

I thank you.