



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE PRESIDENCY

STATEMENT BY

HER EXCELLENCY DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE HUNDRED-AND-THIRTIETH

COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE AT OTJUNDA

(STURMFELD) THAT CULMINATED IN THE EXECUTION OF

OMBARA KAHIMEMUA NGUVAUVA AT OKAHANDJA ON 12

JUNE 1896

OKAHANDJA, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

12 JUNE 2026

Director of Ceremonies;

Right Honourable Dr Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister;

Honourable James Sankwasa, Minister of Urban and Rural Development;

Chief Gaob Immanuel /Gaseb, Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders, and other Traditional Leaders present;

Ombara Eben Tjozohongo II Nguvauva, Chief of the Ovambanderu Traditional Authority;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Honourable John ||Khamuseb, Governor of Otjozondjupa Region and other Governors Present;

Councillor Ileni Mutumbulwa, Mayor of Okahandja Town;

Okahandja Regional and Local Councillors present;

Distinguished Traditional Leaders;

Esteemed Ovambanderu Community and other Community Members present;

Members of the Media;

Fellow Namibians;

**Director of Ceremonies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is both an honour and a solemn privilege to once again join the nation on this historic occasion to commemorate the Battle of Otjunda, this time around as we mark one Hundred and Thirty (130) Anniversary of the Battle.

That is to say, today, as the Fifth President of the Republic of Namibia, I have returned to this sacred place to pay homage to Ombara Kahimemua Nguvauva and his grandsons, who are buried alongside him.

I do so with humility and gratitude, mindful of the prayers I offered when I visited this place in June 2024, together with the pleadings made by our Divine Priests, the Ozondangere and pay homage to Ombara Kahimemua Nguvauva, whose courage and sacrifice occupy a permanent place in the history of our nation.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to Ombara Eben Tjzohongo II Nguvauva, Chief of the Ovambanderu

Traditional Authority, for the invitation extended to me to attend the One Hundred and Thirty (130) Commemoration of the Battle at Otjunda (Sturmfeld), which culminated in the execution of Ombara Kahimemua Nguvauva at Okahandja on 12 June 1896.

We are here today to remember the terrible deeds and experiences endured by our forefathers under German colonial rule in the then South West Africa, now Namibia.

We also reflect on the courage, resilience, and visionary leadership during one of the darkest moments of our history.

We honour the courage of our heroes and heroines who refused to surrender their dignity, their identity and their right to determine their own destiny in the face of oppression. We are here to reflect and reaffirm to remain resilient with dignity and safely guide our independence as a united people. Work as a team to bring about sustainable development and prosperity for all.

We honour the sacrifices made by the sons and daughters of the soil who resisted the occupation of Otjunda and other parts of our country, exactly 130 years ago.

Director of Ceremonies,

As we have come to learn, the leader we are remembering and honoring today, was not only born a true and courageous leader, but also a visionary leader who predicted the arrival of the German colonial settlers and cautioned the Ovambanderu indigenous communities to remain vigilant.

He advised his communities to stand united and sent a clear message to his counterparts and brothers, Ombara Maharero Tjamuaha, leaders of the Ovaherero in Okahandja, and Ombara Manasse Tjiseseta of Omaruru, calling upon them not to allow the German settlers to occupy Namibian land.

History taught us, following the general settlers in Okahandja, under the leadership of Theodore Gothilfe

Leutwein, the German colonial administration introduced the divisive policy of "divide and rule".

Ombara Kahimemua Nguvauva refused to surrender the land and rejected the illegal occupation imposed by the German settlers in 1894 and 1895. He stood firm in defence of the sovereignty of his motherland. Our forefathers' heroism, unity of purpose, and determination, which they demonstrated, continue to guide us until we gained independence on 21st March 1990.

When we proudly call ourselves the Land of the Brave, it is because of men and women such as Ombara Kahimemua Nguvauva. He was among those courageous leaders who chose principle over submission and sacrifice over surrender.

When the German imperial army killed him here in Okahandja he died fighting for his country and its people. Today, is a solemn occasion. We gather in remembrance of a painful chapter in our history, but we also gather with pride.

Let us draw inspiration from the unity and resolve of our ancestors. I urge all Namibians to reject divisive tendencies, such as tribalism, regionalism, and discrimination. We must work together in building a unified and inclusive society as we commit to our national development agenda.

Countless Namibian men and women sacrificed their lives to attain our national freedom and independence. Equally, the hard-won freedom imposes upon all citizens the enduring responsibility to protect and reinforce the democratic processes, systems, and institutions that safeguard the Republic of Namibia's future.

Therefore, in fulfilling this duty, as a nation, let us reject all manifestations of violence and actively promote reconciliation, healing, and the ongoing task of nation-building.

I equally urge every Namibian to play an active role in strengthening our democracy and upholding the rule of law. Let us actively participate in democratic processes,

respect the rights of others, and commit to peaceful dialogue as the foundation for resolving differences.

Director of Ceremonies,

My on-going consultations with Traditional Authorities across Namibia, is a testament to inclusivity, unity, and national development. Such engagements re-affirm the important role traditional leaders continue to play in nation-building, social cohesion, and the advancement of our communities.

The Government will continue to deepen collaboration with Traditional Authorities to foster unity, promote social cohesion, and ensure that development initiatives reach all corners of our nation.

It is therefore, befitting that we gather here today to commemorate this important occasion and honour the bravery and sacrifices made not only by the Ovambanderu community, but also by many Namibian communities that

resisted colonial oppression and fought for the freedom and dignity of our people.

As the Head of State, and a person who cares for my country, I continue to urge all Traditional leaders to prioritise the welfare and development of their communities, improving the living conditions of their people and having their best interests at heart.

Our diversity must remain a source of strength and unity as we work together to transform our country into a prosperous and inclusive nation.

I therefore, call upon traditional authorities to support local development projects that uplift the socio-economic status of their people in alignment with the Government key priority areas, and the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6).

As I have always stated on many occasions, I do not wish to engage in tribal divisions and conflicts among Traditional Authorities. The Government has entrusted the

Ministry of Urban and Rural Development with the responsibility of addressing matters relating to Traditional Authorities in order to find sustainable and amicable solutions.

I urge resolutions to all differences through peaceful dialogue and institutional mechanisms within the state structures, to foster unity and stability in our communities.

The Government remains fully committed to improving the living conditions of all Namibians across our 14 Regions. While there are still many challenges, we remain determined to eradicate poverty, expand opportunities, and accelerate socio-economic development for the benefit of every citizen.

I urge all stakeholders to join hands with the Government in implementing development programmes, ensuring that no Namibian is left behind as we move towards the realization of Vision 2030.

Director of Ceremonies,

The negotiations between the Government of the Republic of Namibia (accompanied by the representatives of the immediate affected communities) and the Federal Republic of Germany on the Genocide, Apology and Reparations remain ongoing. It is our hope and wishes for an understanding to be reached soon.

To always remember the victims of genocide following the general Lothar von Trotha Of Germany extermination order of the Hereros and Namas, after wide consultation our parliament has taken a decision to designate 28th May as Genocide Remembrance Day.

I was honored to launch the Genocide Remembrance Day last year 2025. This year, 2026 it was moving when the nation joined together to mark the 28th May countrywide.

This day serves to honour and remember the victims and affected communities while promoting national unity, reconciliation, and awareness among present and future

generations about the history, impact, and lessons of the 1904–1908 Genocide committed during German colonial occupation. While attention is given to the descendants of victims of Genocide, its impact is felt by all Namibians.

Let us unite in solidarity with all affected communities and support a dignified, just, and lasting resolution to the issue of genocide in the spirit of “One Namibia, One Nation.”

As a nation, we must always remember our history. We must continue to find the courage to protect our people from injustice and exploitation, while honouring the heroes and heroines who came before us and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

May this commemoration day therefore, serve as a unifying moment of all Namibians. Let us set aside our differences in our various communities and embrace the spirit of national unity and common purpose.

We must reject tribalism and regionalism and instead promote peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and solidarity among our people.

I implore all Namibians to respect one another and to live together in harmony with one common purpose and a shared destiny.

May future generations look back upon us and say that we remained faithful custodians of the legacy entrusted to us by those who came before.

As we honour Ombara Kahimemua Nguvauva today, let us also honour the countless known and unknown heroes and heroines who stood against injustice throughout our history.

Long live the spirit of national unity.

Long live our national heroes and heroines.

Long live the Republic of Namibia.

I thank you.