



Republic of Namibia

Introduction of the Guest of Honour

By

**Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi, MP
Minister of Health and Social Services**

**At the Commemoration of Heroes Day, Rundu,
Kavango Region
26 August 2008**

Directors of Ceremonies

H.E. Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation –
Dr Sam Nujoma

Hon. Hompas and Fumu

Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly

Hon. Chairperson of the National Council

The Chief Justice of Namibia

Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Hon. Members of Parliament

Hon. Governor – Cde John Thighuru

Hon. Governors

His Worship the Mayor – Cde Josef Mukoja

Their Worship the Mayors

Hon. Regional and Local Councillors

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Heroes and Heroines of the Namibian Liberation

Comrades and Friends

My task this morning is simply to introduce the Guest of Honour. He does not however, need any introduction to many of

you present here today. As a Head of State, Commander in Chief and President of SWAPO Party, he has become household name.

I would however like to make use of this rare opportunity to take a sneak preview into his unpublished autobiography so that we can appreciate why he is at the helm of both SWAPO Party and the Republic.

Hailing from a humble beginning in Okanghundi village in the Ohangwena region, he rose through the ranks of SWAPO prior to independence and afterwards to a national note. No wonder his first name says it all.

Since taking over the reigns from the Founding President and his mentor, he has distinguished himself as a consultative, unifying and a caring leader seeking to understand first then to be understood.

Last week, we had the privilege to celebrate his birthday in his absence while he was hard at work attending SADC Heads of States Summit. Judging by the numerous congratulatory messages published in the local print media, we can confidently confirm that he is indeed a very popular and increasingly a loved leader of the people.

Allow me to quote just a few of the traits and qualities that emerged and not surprisingly the following:

- His mother Meekulu Kaanuna described him as a hardworking and ardent gardener, “when he is home he likes working in the house, can’t you see how he built his residence there? His homestead looks like a garden. There are a lot of trees in the yard. If you want to provoke him just cut those trees.”
- Another well wisher described him “as a leader whose vision and spirit shines as a pathway for nationhood.”

- Another one described him as “more collegial, consultative and a consensus builder.”
- Another one, referred to him as “passionately committed to stamping out the scourges of corruption wherever it occur.”

He is also an accomplished farmer and a family man.

He is here to preside over the commemoration programme for Heroes Day not only in his capacity as Head of State and Commander-in-Chief but also as a Hero of the Liberation of his Motherland, Namibia, Land of the Brave, with a distinguished track record spanning over 40 years of service.

We are therefore privileged to have H.E. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia. Please join me in welcoming H.E. to the podium. Cde President, the audience is ready for your address.

I thank you