

Media Advisory

The Namibian High Commission and UNISA to hold a joint memorial service in honour of the late Namibian Founding President, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma

Approved for Public Release

Date: Monday, 24 February 2025

The Namibian High Commission and the University of South Africa (Unisa) in Pretoria, South Africa, will hold a joint memorial service in honour of the late Namibian Founding President, His Excellency Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma at the Unisa Muckleneuk Campus in Pretoria on Wednesday, 26 February 2025.

With tributes led by the Chancellor of Unisa and Former President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency **Dr Thabo Mbeki**, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Unisa, **Professor Puleng LenkaBula** and the Namibian High Commissioner in South Africa, His Excellency Mr **Veicco K. Nghiwete**, the memorial service will be graced by business, civic and political leaders, Namibians living in South Africa as well as several distinguished members of the diplomatic community in South Africa.

Amongst those paying tribute to the late Founding President will be the following:

- The Honourable Chief Fortune Zephania Charumbira - President of the Pan African Parliament (PAP).
- His Excellency Mr Salim Omar – Ambassador of Eritrea and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in South Africa.
- His Excellency Mr Andre Nzapayeke – Ambassador of the Central African Republic and Dean of the Africa Heads of Mission.
- His Excellency Mr Zainal Arif Mantaha – High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore and Dean of Asia.
- His Excellency Mr Jacques Junior Baril – Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti and Dean of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC).
- His Excellency Mr Mahash Saeed Alhameli – Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates and Dean of the Arab League.
- His Excellency Mr Ante Cicvaric – Ambassador of Croatia and Dean of Europe.
- Her Excellency Ms Sara Valdes Bolano – Ambassador of the United Mexico States and Dean of North America.
- His Excellency Mr Rui Orlando Ferreira de Ceita da Silva Xavier – Ambassador of the Republic of Angola on behalf of SADC.

Dr Nujoma, formally recognised as the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, was a gallant freedom fighter and a revolutionary icon who valiantly led Namibia's struggle for freedom and independence, including as a founding member and first president of the liberation



movement, South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO). He was at the forefront of the attainment of the Namibian independence from Apartheid South Africa and subsequently served three terms as State President from 1990 to 2005.

He will be remembered not only for his sacrifices and heroism in the Nambian struggle for freedom, but also his selfless contribution to South Africa's own liberation struggle and for championing African unity, post-independence.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the memorial service as follows:

Date : Wednesday, 26 February 2025
Time : 14:00
Venue : ZK Mathews Great Hall, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Preller Street, Pretoria

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For interviews requests, please contact Unisa Senior Media Officers: Mr Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humartm@unisa.ac.za OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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