

# Second autobiography for Cde Nujoma out in May

By Asser Ntinda

A dozen academics, politicians and diplomats are busy compiling a second autobiography for Founding President Sam Nujoma and is set to be launched in May to coincide with Dr Nujoma's birthday, which falls on May 12.

The 13-Chapter autobiography is being spearheaded by Nigerian Professor Osioma Nwolise and Nigerian High Commissioner to Namibia, Adegboyega Ariyo. Professor Nwolise is Head of Department of Political Science at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

The Nigerian High Commissioner describes Dr Nujoma as a great man in many respects, citing his remarkable contributions to the liberation of Namibia in particular, and of Africa in general. It was his "rare leadership qualities and foresight" which had made Namibia what it is today, said Ariyo.

"The world stands in ovation for your dogged courage and sacrifices during the struggles to liberate Namibia particularly and Africa generally from the strangle-hold of racism, apartheid, imperialism and minority



Cde Nujoma the freedom fighter in whom the Boers found their equal.

rule," High Commissioner Ariyo writes.

"The world stands in ovation for the rare qualities Dr Nujoma radiates – humaneness, humility, best democratic practices and standards, love for one's neighbor, country and humanity, courage, exemplary leadership, high intellectual capacity, versatility and others."

"The world stands in ovation for your exemplary leadership and outstanding democratic credentials which were manifested in your voluntary handover of power after three terms in office even against the wish of most Namibians, in a continent that is being rocked by mass protests against sit-tight rulers."

Professor Nwolise, in equal

great measures, described Dr Nujoma as a rare leader in Africa, whose role in the liberation of Namibia and Africa would never be forgotten, and how he successfully steered Namibia in the first 15 years of independence.

"He effectively, efficiently, successfully and patriotically played his part, or carried out his transaction, while on that stage, and then voluntarily and triumphantly stepped down at the end of his constitutional tenure in 2005, despite pressure from his countrymen to stay on and play more roles. This is the height of patriotism, humility, political maturity and tolerance, and a hallmark of GREATNESS," writes Professor Nwolisa in Chapter 12.

"Dr Nujoma, as Comrade and guerrilla (liberation) fighter, lived in and ruled the jungles between Angola and Namibia with his SWAPO lieutenants in the fierce battle to sack imperial forces and their agents who were oppressing, exploiting, and massacring his beloved people of Namibia. He virtually lived in the air, and on the roads as he attended conferences, meetings, and summits, and in search of supporters," writes Professor Nwolise in Chapter 13, which concludes the book.

One of the contributors to the autobiography is SWAPO Party Youth League Secretary, Dr Elijah Ngurare, whose Chapter 10 deals with how the Founding President stepped down in style and how he campaigned for his candidate, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, using SWAPO Party structures as dictated by the Constitution of the Party.

Dr Ngurare's Chapter looks at various aspects and many questions which Namibians had before and after Dr Nujoma had stepped down, looking at how some people felt about the whole succession issue as well as those who had wanted him to continue for a "fourth term."



Founding President Sam Nujoma

"At that time, many analysts pointed out that the Namibian people grew uncertain as to how Namibia could look like without Nujoma at the helm," writes Dr Ngurare.

"Several sectors of the population were pronouncing the need for him as President of the country and of the Party for a fourth term. There was unanimity on these demands. However, it was he personally, the Founding President, who had the final word and he decided to step down."

Dr Ngurare chronicled how the whole process started right from the Politburo, Central Committee up to the watershed Extra-Ordinary Congress held in 2004. Cde Nujoma, through all those structures, preferred and campaigned for candidate, Comrade Pohamba, and why he was a suitable candidate to succeed him. Cde Andimba Toivo ya Toivo nominated Cde Nahas Angula, while Jesaya Nyamu nominated Hidipo Hamutenya.

"However," writes Dr Ngurare, "the run-up to the 2004 Extra-Congress of the SWAPO Party can be described as democratic in intent and divisive in

character. It was the first time that the Party has witnessed such a democratic contest at that level.

"The three candidates each had their campaign teams which at times spinned outside the norms of the Party Constitution. Some media houses clearly chose their preferred candidates and it was also too clear that such media houses thought poorly of President Nujoma's preferred candidate."

Dr Ngurare's chapter also went on to catalogue the dirty campaigns against both President Nujoma and Vice President Pohamba by some media houses and some politicians. Despite such dirty tricks, however, President Pohamba won the race and went on to win the Presidential election held at the end of November 2004.

If all goes according to plan, the book is likely to be launched at Cde Nujoma's birthday in May, as he turns 83. The story in the book chronicles events and achievements in which Cde Nujoma played a key role up to 2011.



Founding President Sam Nujoma being briefed about the upcoming book which will be launched in May by Adegboyega Ariyo. Photo by Asser Ntinda

## Indian population hits 1.21 billion: census

**NEW DELHI,** — India's population reaches 1.21 billion — 623.7 million males and 586.5 million females — larger than the combined population of Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, the United States and Bangladesh, according to the latest Census report released Thursday.

This is an increase of 181 million people since the last census, which is equivalent to the population of Brazil, said the 2011 Census report released by Indian Home Secretary G.K. Pillai and the Registrar General of India in the capital.

The northern state of Uttar Pradesh is the most populous

state in India, and the combined population of Uttar Pradesh and the western state of Maharashtra is larger than that of the United States. The density of population is highest in the capital, followed by Chandigarh.

However, the population grew at a rate of 17.64 percent — the biggest reduction in growth rate ever. While the central-controlled Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Puducherry have the highest population growth rate of about 55 percent, the northeastern state of Nagaland has the lowest.

The census also shows that female literacy is higher than male literacy in India. (Xinhua)



Founding President Sam Nujoma showing Nigerian High Commissioner, Adegboyega Ariyo, some intelligence documents detailing how the apartheid regime tried to arrest and banish him to an isolated place. Photo by Asser Ntinda