

Namiba President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah 26 October 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uay5i_LHC88

YouTube Subtitle Transcript

0:00

Great sons and daughters of Africa who

0:03

are listening today. I speak to you not

0:06

as a mere politician but as a servant of

0:10

our people. As a daughter of this soil

0:12

and as a leader who refuses to watch her

0:16

country's destiny be stolen by greed,

0:19

corruption and foreign manipulation.

0:22

Today I stand before you with a message

0:25

that will mark a new era for our beloved

0:28

Namibia. I have taken the bold and final

0:32

decision to assume full control of the

0:35

Ministry of Mines and Energy. Effective

0:38

immediately from this moment onward, the

0:41

resources beneath our feet, our

0:43

diamonds, our uranium, our oil, our

0:46

lithium, our copper will no longer be

0:49

treated as personal property by

0:51

politicians or playgrounds for foreign

0:54

companies. They belong to the people of

0:57

Namibia and no one else. And as of

1:00

today, I am announcing that the deputy

1:03

prime minister Natanguete,

1:05

who also served as Minister of Energy

1:07

and Mines, is hereby dismissed from his

1:10

position effective immediately. He has

1:13

betrayed the trust of the Namibian

1:15

people. He has placed personal greed

1:17

above national duty. He's engaged in

1:20

corrupt dealings that have undermined

1:23

the sovereignty of our country and the

1:25

dignity of our citizens. I will not

1:28

stand for it. Not under my watch. Mrs.

1:32

You will face a full and transparent

1:35

inquiry.

1:36

You will answer before the Namibian

1:39

people.

1:40

You will answer for every dollar, every

1:43

contract, every foreign handshake that

1:46

sought to sell our resources to

1:48

outsiders for your own benefit. We are

1:52

cleaning our house and no one no one is

1:57

above the law. Let me make this

2:00

absolutely clear to every minister,

2:02

every governor, every senior official

2:04

sitting comfortably in their offices. If

2:08

you are not working for the Namibian

2:10

people, you will be gone. If you think

2:13

you can use your position to enrich

2:16

yourself, to take bribes, to sign deals

2:19

behind closed doors with foreign
2:21
interests, then let me remind you, your
2:24
time is over. I was not elected to serve
2:28
foreign corporations. I was not chosen
2:31
by my people to be a puppet for the West
2:34
or for anyone else. I was elected to
2:37
serve Namibia and I will do exactly
2:41
that. For far too long, Africa has been
2:45
a continent of wealth, but a continent
2:48
of poor people.
2:50
A land blessed with treasures beyond
2:52
imagination,
2:54
yet burdened with poverty that should
2:56
never have existed.
2:59
From the sands of the Sahara to the
3:01
rivers of the Zambzi,
3:04
our soil hides riches that could
3:06
transform the world.
3:09
And yet the children of the soil go to
3:12
bed hungry. How can it be that a
3:15
continent so rich in gold, diamonds,
3:18
oil, copper, uranium, and fertile land
3:23
still has millions living in poverty?
3:27
How can it be that the very nations that
3:30
extract our resources live in abundance?
3:34
Why we are left with the dust of our own

3:37

inheritance. For far too long we have

3:39

watched foreign countries grow rich from

3:42

our diamonds, our gold, our oil, our

3:44

uranium, our rare earth minerals. While

3:48

our children sit in darkness. While our

3:51

farmers struggle to feed their families.

3:54

While our youth migrate because there

3:56

are no opportunities at home. This is

3:59

not destiny. This is design. It is a

4:02

system built to keep Africa poor and

4:05

dependent while others feast on our

4:08

labor, our resources and our silence.

4:11

And they come to us with contracts

4:13

written in fine print with promises of

4:16

development, investment and aid. But

4:20

behind those promises lie exploitation

4:23

and deceit. They tell us they will help

4:26

us build, yet they leave us with debt.

4:30

They promise to transfer knowledge, yet

4:32

they take our raw materials and give us

4:34

finished products at 10 times the cost.

4:37

They talk of partnership, but in truth

4:40

they want ownership. Ownership of our

4:43

minds, our ports, our energy, our very

4:46

sovereignty. and we for too long have

4:49

allowed it. We signed deals that made us
servants in our own homes. We celebrated

foreign investments that built nothing
but dependence.

We allowed leaders who bowed before
foreign interests to sign away our

future. But that error, that shameful
error must end. It must end because our

people are waking up. It must end
because we can no longer justify poverty

in the midst of such abundance. It must
end because every time an Namibian child

studies by Kendall light while a uranium
powers foreign cities, it is an insult

to our dignity. Every time our youth beg
for jobs while foreign companies control

our industries, it is a betrayal of our
sovereignty. Every time we watch our

minerals shipped out in raw form while
we import finished goods, it is a

reminder that we are still chained not
by guns but by greed and complacency.

This injustice must end. And it begins
here in Namibia. It begins with us

saying no more. No more signing away our
resources for empty promises. No more

6:13

watching others profit while our people

6:16

starve. No more leaders enriching

6:19

themselves while their people suffer. It

6:21

begins with us taking control, full

6:24

control of what is rightfully ours. We

6:28

cannot build our future on dependence.

6:31

We cannot build our prosperity on

6:33

exploitation.

6:35

The wealth beneath our feet must serve

6:38

the people who walk on it. Not foreign

6:41

corporations, not corrupt elites, not

6:44

outsiders who think Africa is theirs to

6:47

plunder. Namibia will be the line in the

6:50

sand. From this soil, a message will

6:53

rise. Africa will no longer be a victim

6:57

of its own wealth. The diamonds of

6:59

Namibia will shine for Namibians. The

7:03

oil of Namibia will power Namibian

7:05

homes. The uranium of Namibia will fuel

7:09

Namibian progress. The lithium of

7:12

Namibia will charge Namibian industries.

7:16

We will no longer allow the sweat of our

7:19

people to enrich others. We will no

7:23

longer let our resources be the reason

7:25

for our suffering. This is not just a

7:28

matter of economics. It is a matter of

7:30

dignity. For decades, Africa's wealth

7:33

has been a curse because it was

7:35

controlled by others. But today, we will

7:38

make it our blessing because it will be

7:41

controlled by us. We will turn our

7:43

natural riches into schools, hospitals,

7:46

factories, and opportunities. We will

7:49

make sure that every Namibian from the

7:52

minor in Sume to the fisherman in

7:54

Ludaritz feels the value of what this

7:57

nation hold. This fight is not just for

8:01

us. It is for every African nation that

8:04

has been robbed, deceived, and left

8:06

behind. Namibia will rise. And when we

8:10

rise, others will follow. We will prove

8:13

that the wealth of Africa can finally

8:15

make Africans rich. Not foreigners, not

8:18

corrupt elites, but ordinary men and

8:21

women who work, who dream, who build.

8:24

This injustice must end. And I declare

8:27

before the world it will end. Starting

8:29

here, starting now, starting with

8:32

Namibia. We sit on minerals worth

8:36

trillions of dollars. Trillions. Enough

8:40

to transform every corner of this

8:43

country from the deserts of the south to

8:46

the plains of the north.

8:49

Enough to build schools, hospitals,

8:53

factories, roads, and industries. Enough

8:57

to guarantee every Namibian child a

9:01

future filled with hope and dignity.

9:06

Yet for years these riches have been

9:09

stolen through corrupt deals,

9:13

through exploitative contracts,

9:16

and through leaders who bow before

9:18

foreign powers instead of standing tall

9:22

before their own people. That era ends

9:25

today. I will personally oversee the

9:28

Ministry of Mines and Energy. I will

9:30

ensure that every contract is reviewed,

9:33

that every foreign company operating in

9:36

Namibia respects our laws, our

9:38

environment and our people. I will

9:41

ensure that Namibian hands, Namibian

9:44

engineers, Namibian entrepreneurs, and

9:46

Namibian youth are the forefront of our

9:49

mining sector. We will no longer be

9:52

spectators in our own economy. We will

9:55

no longer allow others to determine the

9:58

price of our future. And let me say this

10:00

clearly. I will not accept any foreign

10:04

influence in my country. Those who come

10:07

to Namibia thinking they can dictate

10:10

terms, those who think they can buy our

10:13

leaders with their dollars and their

10:16

promises. I have one message for you.

10:20

Those days are gone.

10:22

Namibia is not for sale. Our

10:25

sovereignty is not negotiable. It is

10:27

here.

10:29

in Wuk, in Oshakati,

10:32

in Walves Bay, in the hands of our own

10:36

people. And to those who whisper behind

10:39

closed doors saying the president is

10:42

becoming too bold, I say yes, I am bold

10:47

because the time for timid leadership is

10:49

over. Africa needs boldness. Namibia

10:53

needs courage. Our people deserve

10:56

leaders who are not afraid to say no. No

10:59

to corruption. No to exploitation. No to

11:02

neocolonial control. I look across our

11:06

continent and I see hope rising. I see

11:09

leaders like Captain Ibrahim Trare in

11:12

Bkina Faso. A young man who has refused

11:15

to bow before Western powers. Who has

11:18

stood firm in the face of pressure. Who

11:21

has said Africa must own its destiny. I

11:24

salute him. He has shown the courage

11:28

that Africa has been waiting for.

11:31

The courage to take back control of our

11:33

gold, our land, our future. He has stood

11:37

tall and told the world no more looting

11:41

of Africa.

11:43

And here in Namibia, we will stand

11:46

beside him in that same spirit because

11:48

what they did to Bokina Faso, what they

11:51

did to Mali, to Niger, to the Congo, to

11:54

Libya, they also tried to do to us. They

11:58

came with their contracts, their aid,

12:00

their loans and their lies. They told us

12:03

we were too poor to manage our own

12:06

wealth. They told us we needed their

12:08

expertise. But their expertise has only

12:11

made them rich and kept us poor. Those

12:14

days are over. From this day forward,

12:18

Namibia will reclaim every inch of its

12:21

economic sovereignty. We will ensure

12:24

that every barrel of oil, every ton of

12:28

uranium, every ounce of lithium benefits

12:31

the Namibian people first. We will not

12:34

allow middlemen to sell our resources in

12:37

secret. We will establish transparent

12:40

systems where citizens can see where

12:43

their wealth is going. We will create

12:46

local industries to process our minerals

12:50

right here instead of shipping raw

12:53

materials abroad and buying them back at

12:57

10 times the price. And to my fellow

13:00

African leaders, this is your call as

13:03

well. Look around. Our continent is

13:06

bleeding wealth. Our people are rich in

13:09

soil, rich in minerals, rich in talent,

13:12

but poor in leadership that dares to

13:15

stand firm. We cannot continue signing

13:18

away our futures for crumbs. We cannot

13:21

continue allowing our countries to be

13:23

playgrounds for multinational

13:26

corporations that exploit and divide us.

13:29

Protect your mines. Protect your oil.

13:32

Protect your forests. Protect your

13:35

people. Africa must rise together or we

13:39

will remain exploited together. Let no

13:42

one misunderstand me. I am not against

13:45

partnership. Namibia is not closing its

13:48

doors to the world. We are not isolating

13:51

ourselves nor are we rejecting

13:54

cooperation or friendship. But let me be

13:57

clear, partnerships must be fair.

14:01

They must be grounded in mutual respect,

14:05

transparency, and equality.

14:07

They must be built on the foundation

14:09

that Namibia is a sovereign nation, not

14:12

a colony, a partner, not a pawn. For far

14:16

too long, we have been told that foreign

14:19

involvement is the only path to

14:21

progress.

14:22

We have been told that without their

14:24

aid, without their investors, without

14:28

their so-called experts, we cannot grow.

14:32

But history has shown us the truth.

14:35

Those who came claiming to help us often

14:38

helped themselves. They came as partners

14:42

but acted as masters. They came speaking

14:45

of cooperation but left us bound by

14:48

dependence in debt. That is not

14:50

partnership. that is exploitation dress

14:54

in diplomacy. When I speak of

14:56

partnership, I speak of cooperation that

14:58

uplifts both sides. Where the Namibian

15:02

worker earns fair wages, where engineers

15:06

gain real skills, where industries grow

15:10

and where profits are shared justly.

15:14

I speak of partnerships where foreign

15:16

investors see Namibia not as a resource

15:19

warehouse but as a nation of dignity,

15:22

innovation and opportunity. A fair

15:25

partnership is one where our laws are

15:27

respected not circumvented.

15:30

Where contracts are transparent, not

15:33

hidden behind boardroom doors. Where the

15:36

environment is protected, not destroyed

15:38

in the name of profit. where local

15:41

communities are developed, not

15:43

displaced. That is the kind of

15:46

relationship Namibia seeks. We will

15:48

welcome those who come to build with us,

15:51

not those who come to build on top of

15:53

us. We will open our hands to nations

15:57

that want to see Namibia strong and

16:00

self-reliant,

16:01

not those who wish to keep us dependent

16:04

and weak. We will collaborate with

16:06

countries that bring technology,

16:08

knowledge, and respect, not corruption,

16:12

manipulation, and control. Let it be

16:14

known to all corners of the world.

16:17

Namibia will no longer sign one-sided

16:20

deals. We will no longer tolerate

16:23

contracts that enrich a few and

16:25

impoverish the nation. Those days are

16:28

gone. Every partnership, every

16:31

investment, every trade agreement will

16:33

now serve the Namibian people first.

16:36

Every foreign company operating on our

16:38

land must understand that the era of

16:40

looting is over. This is the era of

16:43

fairness, the era of accountability. And

16:46

yes, we will still engage globally. We

16:48

will still trade. We will still

16:51

cooperate, but we will do it on our

16:53

terms. We will do it as equals, not as

16:57

beggars. We will sit at the table as

16:59

proud Africans, not as spectators

17:02

waiting for crumbs. The world must learn

17:05

to treat Africa and Namibia as an equal

17:09

voice, not an exploited resource. If you

17:13

come to Namibia, come with clean hands.

17:16

Come with respect. Come with a vision to

17:19

empower our people. Come ready to invest

17:23

in our youth, our infrastructure, our

17:27

future. Come to add value here, not to

17:30

extract it and ship it away. Come to

17:33

train our miners, our engineers, our

17:36

scientists. Come to share technology

17:39

that is strengthens our industries. That

17:42

is partnership. That is development.

17:45

That is cooperation worth having. But if

17:48

you come to steal, to deceive, to bribe,

17:51

or to take more than you give, then you

17:53

will find no home here. If you come

17:56

thinking you can manipulate our leaders

17:59

or divide our people, you will fail.

18:03

Namibia will not bow. We will not be

18:06

used. We will not be bought. Our

18:09

sovereignty is not a bargaining chip.

18:12

Our minerals are not giveaways. Our

18:14

people are not commodities.

18:16

This land belongs to Namibians and

18:19

whoever wishes to work with us must

18:22

understand that. So to our genuine

18:24

partners, to the nations that respect

18:27

Africa, that believe in true

18:30

collaboration, we extend our hand in

18:32

friendship. Let us build industries that

18:36

last generations.

18:38

Let us create opportunities that uplift

18:40

both our nations. Let us show the world

18:44

that partnership does not mean

18:46

exploitation. It means progress,

18:49

equality, and shared prosperity. To

18:51

those who still cling to the old ways,

18:55

who believe Africa can be bullied, who

18:58

believe we can be bought with aid and

19:01

promises. Hear me clearly. Those days

19:05

are over. Namibia stands tall and Africa

19:09

is awakening. We will engage with the

19:12

world but on equal ground. We will trade

19:17

but not surrender. We will partner but

19:20

never kneel because partnership without

19:23

respect is servitude. Partnership

19:26

without fairness is exploitation. And

19:28

Namibia will never again submit to

19:31

either. To our miners, our workers, our

19:35

families. You are the heartbeat of this

19:38

nation. I know the struggles you face. I

19:42

know what it means to work hard and

19:44

still feel forgotten. But I promise you,

19:47

help is coming. Not from outside, but

19:51

from within. We will make sure that the

19:54

wealth of this land flows to every

19:57

family, to every region, to every

20:00

generation. You will see change and you

20:04

will feel it in your lives. Into my

20:07

cabinet. Take this as your final

20:09

warning. Serve with honesty or step

[20:13](#)

aside. Walk for the people or prepare to

[20:16](#)

be dismissed. The era of untouchables is

[20:20](#)

over. I do not care about your

[20:22](#)

connections, your power, or your wealth.

[20:25](#)

If you are found corrupt, you will be

[20:28](#)

investigated, prosecuted, and removed.

[20:31](#)

Namibia deserves better. And I will not

[20:34](#)

betray my people's trust. We have a new

[20:37](#)

dawn ahead of us. One built not on

[20:41](#)

dependency but on strength, not on fear,

[20:46](#)

but on pride. Our children will no

[20:50](#)

longer look to foreign nations as their

[20:53](#)

saviors. They will look to themselves.

[20:57](#)

Because the greatness of Namibia lies in

[21:00](#)

the courage of its people, not the

[21:03](#)

generosity of outsiders. We have the

[21:06](#)

minerals, the energy, the minds, and the

[21:09](#)

will. Now we must have the unity and

[21:13](#)

discipline to make it real. I will lead

[21:16](#)

this charge. I will stand on the front

[21:19](#)

lines and I will not stop until every

[21:23](#)

Namibian feels the power and pride of

[21:27](#)

owning the nation's wealth. to the

[21:30](#)

corrupt, to the exploiters,

[21:33](#)

to the enemies of our people. Consider

21:37

this your notice. We are taking back

21:40

what is ours. The minds of Namibia

21:44

belong to Namibia. The wealth of Namibia

21:48

belongs to Namibians.

21:50

And the future of Namibia will be

21:52

written by Namibians.

21:54

The world is watching. Let them see a

21:57

nation that refuses to bow. Let them see

22:00

a people who have awakened. Let them see

22:03

a leader who stands for her people

22:06

fiercely, unapologetically, and with fire

22:09

in her heart. This is our time. This is

22:13

Namibia's time. And to those who have

22:15

looted Africa for centuries, I say

22:19

enough.

22:20

The era of exploitation is over. We

22:24

rise. We reclaim, we rebuild for our

22:28

ancestors, for our children, for Africa.

22:33