



Remarks by Tim Ekandjo at the 2018 OATF (As if we were never slaves)

Director of Ceremonies

His Excellency, Dr Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Mbumba

Director of Ceremonies, kindly allow me to respectfully rely on the entire protocol as earlier established

I am very proud to announce that this year, MTC and the Ongwediva Trade Fair will celebrate its 15th year partnership. We are proud to be part of your successful 18-year history. We almost started this initiative together and we are proud of what you have achieved so far.

The Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair has become an important platform, and we are honoured and do not take the opportunity to speak at this platform for granted.

Director of Ceremonies, kindly allow me to speak about modern day slavery in Namibia, modern day slavery in the context, and I quote "As if we were never slaves". Namibia has now enjoyed Independence for 28 years, but sadly the enslaved have now become proud slave masters. How ironic, how hypocritical, that the same race that fought against slavery and apartheid so fiercely, has now become masters of apartheid themselves, now not against the ex-common enemy, but now against their own people, people they are meant to call brothers and sisters.

One would imagine that after so many years of apartheid and slavery, as a people we would say, "never and never again", but No, we find it appropriate to take the masters role and rejoice in this role, in most cases fashionably so.

It is amazing how we see black educated man and women fighting each other every day, while they are supposed to work together. Targeting each other in a bid to destroy and assassinate each other's characters, acting as agents to their powerful masters called "Greed and Self-enrichment". Masters they will never ever be able to satisfy. When you open a newspaper almost every day, that is all we read, blacks turning their guns on

fellow blacks, blacks turning their power against fellow blacks, in society, in our homes, in our families, in politics, in churches, in the corporate world and almost everywhere. Vandalizing the dignity of one another in the name of money.

We have noted that the new fashion is to rent a fellow buddy and appoint them as board members. These men and women are deployed to get and get rid of good hardworking people, simply because they are not in the good books of the authorities. "Simply go there and suspend them", they are instructed, and investigate later because our law allows us to do so, go and ruin their reputations in the process and fight them with company money till theirs run dry. Reminds me of Malcolm X then when he compared the "house negroe with the "slave negroe". When the slave master got sick, the "house negroe would say; "boss are we sick', referring to themselves collectively as if he was sick. That was the mentality of the house negroe being proudly displayed. If Joseph do not like Moses, he sends innocent Peter to go and destroy Moses. Peter becomes the slave master and innocent Peter the slave thinking he is actually the master because of his newfound power, and innocent hardworking Moses becomes a victim of his own success and hardwork. The tragedy with this narrative is that they are all black, and they do not even realize it.

That is what we call New age colonialism. What is sad is that they accept these assignments and take on these wars that has nothing to do with them, let alone a war they don't even understand, but happy to do so at the instruction of their masters. Banana leaders, unscrupulous with no morals. How can we call ourselves Independent, if we are still mentally enslaved? Mental slavery is strategic, it deceives us to be part of something great but it is actually nothing more than a war where the other party wants to conquer our minds and rot us in a tricky way that we would never realize what happened. It destroys a nation and individuals in the most strategic manner that it would appear to them as glamorous but in real tragic.

We have become avid subscribers to mental slavery, societal traditions so much so that we alter ourselves, change our identities to be part of this enslavement program to impress our own people by losing our uniqueness and identities by choosing to be slaves of societal mind-sets whether good or bad. Seeking publicity that is empty and meaningless, but publicity anyway.

I came across a job advert one day of a group of black women looking for domestic work. The advert clearly stated that they specifically wanted to work for white families only. I was disturbed by the advert and decided to contact these women and their revelations were shocking. I was disgusted by the manner in which black home owners reduce their domestic workers to mere slaves and subject them to inhumane working conditions. They are not supposed to have their meals in your house, some don't even get a meal even though they start at 7 in the morning and only leave at 7 evening with no taxi money or transport.

Some of us even remove our DSTV cards and take them to work as if DSTV will charge us extra for allowing them to watch TV. We entrust these domestic workers and nannies to

raise our most precious gifts, our children from the tender age of just a few months after birth, such precious lives, but we have no confidence in accepting them as equal human beings in our homes? Some of us don't even know where they live, if they pass on to just go and pass our condolences. Some live in shacks, in the most deplorable conditions, but we don't care because they are here to work, that's all they mean to us, while we demand housing allowances from our own employers and all kinds of other benefits.

So I say, Congratulations to this New Age Slave Masters, not realizing that they are tragically mentally self-enslaved in an independent Namibia. As former slaves, jumped to the first opportunity to become slave masters, and apartheid architects.

Sometimes you hear Mr and Mrs So and So stole millions from their own people, when you actually meet them in person, they look as if millions have been stolen from them, putting their self-interest first before that of the people who entrusted us with the leadership positions, people who look up to us for leadership, for hope, for guidance and for a better tomorrow.

None are more helplessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free. It is difficult to escape becoming the person others believe one to be. A slave is twice enslaved, once by his chains and once again by the glances that fall upon him and say "thou slave"

The power we so fought for has become the number one corruptor. I yearn for the day when we will one day say, "I used to be arrogant, corrupt and greedy, but power has humbled me".

In the end I would just like to say what James Allen, statesman of New Zealand once said, "Before complaining that you are a slave to another, be sure that you are not a slave to yourself. Look within, you will find there, perchance, slavish thoughts, slavish desires, and in your daily life and conduct slavish habits. Conquer these; cease to be a slave to self, and no man will have the power to enslave you."

It is sad that young female graduates have to strip for their male counterparts first for sexual favours before they can get jobs, jobs that they already deserve, pay for sex just to get an opportunity. It is sad how young kids are raped by people they trust and call family. How supposed friends betray each other because of greed. How honest people get suspended from their jobs and ridiculed in public just because it is possible. The length people will go just to feed their empty egos. I don't care how much power you have, how many people you have humiliated and how afraid people are of you, you are nothing than a man and women with power but with no respect because you traded your integrity for something else.

You see every man and women needs somebody in their life that has the audacity to confront them. It cannot be those enslaved because they will be too afraid of you. It needs a real man and women to confront you and be honest with you. Today many man and women are joining me to do so, because it was long overdue. It doesn't matter how angry you get, or what you will do after this to go about your conniving ways to stop this honest confrontation, your time has come that we confront you on behalf of all those who are too oppressed to do so.

Do not for one second confuse this remarks of a person who is arrogant, because today we say, lets positively break the chains of mental slavery because it means nothing even if you are filthy rich. The manner in which you treat others speaks to your character. Stop the black on black attacks on each other. Stop destroying each other in the name of more money for amongst other possibilities, money was invented to make it possible for a foolish person to control wise ones; and for a dwarf to control giants.” Stop betraying each other. Stop plotting each other’s downfall. Stop wanting to replace your low self-esteem with power and more power, and importantly, stop using other people to do your dirty work.

Forgive each other for to live with un-forgiveness is to become a captive cultured citizen whose taxation is that of demonically ticketed torment. Black economic empowerment will be meaningless if we remain a bunch of mentally enslaved black people looking out only for ourselves and where money means everything. We owe it to our people to become compassionate, respectful and helpers not destroyers.

Alexander The Great when he was on his death bed gathered his generals and conveyed his 3 ultimate wishes when he passes on, he said;

1. The best doctors should carry my coffin;
2. The wealth I have accumulated (money, gold, precious stones) should be scattered along the procession to the cemetery and;
3. My hands should be let loose, so that they hang outside the coffin for all to see.

The generals were surprised by these unusual request and asked Alexander to explain. Here is what he said;

1. I want the best doctors to carry my coffin to demonstrate that in the face of death, even the best doctors in the world have no power to heal.
2. I want the road to be covered with my treasure so that everybody sees that material wealth acquired on earth, will stay on earth;
3. I want my hands to swing in the wind so that people understand that we come to this world empty handed and we shall leave this world empty handed after the most precious treasure of all is exhausted and that is the TIME. We do not take to our grave material wealth. TIME is our most precious treasure because it is LIMITED. We can produce more wealth, but we cannot produce more time. When we give someone our time, we actually give a portion of our life that we will never take back.

I agree with Alexander The Great, it is a lesson to tell us don’t think you have become too powerful to oppress others, a better life to look down on others, do not think you have become too influential to degrade others, too educated to see yourself better than everybody else, too rich to treat others like dogs. Ladies and Gentlemen, when you leave this world you will leave with nothing, better yet, some of us lose everything while having it while we are still alive, because we are filthy rich but empty inside, lonely because our riches have covered us with unimaginable arrogance.

We must always remember, that in order for you to insult me, I must value your opinion first, so nice try. Honesty is a very expensive gift, don’t expect it from cheap people!

We demand the better side of all of you and all of us to start living, because it can only make this country and world a better place. We will not embrace the push over mentality, we are allergic to cowardice, addicted to freedom, our people deserve better, and if you are not better, please do everybody a favour and leave. Slavery is and was never African history, slavery interrupted African history. So as the grandchildren of the slaves they couldn't kill, and descendants of the Kings and Queens you cannot stop, we say, we need leaders with an indomitable spirit, resilient leaders, leaders who wake up ready to serve with a smile. We salute such leadership and today we say Viva to these leaders for making the connection!

I thank you kindly.