

**Archbishop Tutu's Words of Greetings during the Independence Service,  
Windhoek 22.03.1990**



I don't know, but this side the people are sitting in the sun. And I wonder if it would be in order for you, who do not have my complexion, to have my complexion.

Because it is actually a wonderful complexion to have. Because when you have listened to all these wonderful greetings and heard all these important things, fortunately they cannot always see when you are blushing with shame.

I speak in three capacities here: I speak on behalf of the All-Africa Conference of Churches. I bring you the greetings of the Sisters and Brothers of the Churches in Africa. From the Cape to Cairo. From Nairobi to Lagos. And your Sisters and Brothers have told me: miracles are still happening! And these Millions and Millions of people have told me: give to our Sisters and Brothers in Namibia the words of the Psalmist:

When the LORD restored the captives of Namibia, we were like dreamers. Then our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

Indeed – the Lord has done great things for YOU!

The People were dying, the People were in exile, the People were dying.

But our God is the God of the People. And when they march, they march to a free Namibia and the Berlin Wall falls.

So, freedom breaks out in totally unexpected places.

For our God is a God of FREEDOM.

Our God is a God of LIBERATION.

Our God is a God who leads his people forth OUT OF BONDAGE, into the Promised Land.

And the people of Africa say, thank you God, that you are the Lord of liberation. Thank you God for our Sisters and Brothers in Namibia for their courage. Thank you God for their commitment. Thank you that they were willing to sacrifice in order so that freedom can come for all. Freedom for Blacks. Freedom for Whites. Because there is no separated freedom, until all are free, none is free. And your Brothers and Sisters say: will you please pray for them, in other parts of Africa. For freedom is a fragile plant. Many countries have become free in Africa. Yes. And yet, we know also that all that has often changed for the poor people, the ordinary people, the once who were oppressed and downtrodden, the only thing that have changed, is the complexion of the oppressor.

And the people of Africa say: yes, Sisters and Brothers in Namibia. Pray for us, that we may recover the freedom that God has intended for us.

I came here with my Brother Bishop in 1988, for I am the Metropolitan of the Churches of the Province in Southern Africa. And we went to Odibo and other places and we saw the suffering and the pain. And we said: God, can You hear? God, where are You? God, what is the matter? And it seemed to us, that God had forgotten us.

And then; HEY, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO! I am the God who hear! I am the God who see! I am the God who knows and I am the God who will come down to deliver you! And this God has come down to deliver the people of Namibia. And we thank God for this.

And lastly I speak as a fellow Southern African. And say: HA-HA! You know, we keep telling them, that injustice and oppression and exploitation can never prevail for ever. And we tell the unjust rulers, PASOP! [Look out]. Unjust rulers watch it! You are going to bite the dust, and you are going to bite the dust ignominiously! And they say: HAI KONA, You are just saying these things. At

home now, they are falling like tenpins. The people in the home-lands they are falling like they do not exist any longer. And so we say: We know we are going to be free in South Africa. It is freedom today, for Namibia. And we say: Thank you God. And it will be freedom, tomorrow for South Africa.

Thank You.

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 [Desmond Mpilo Tutu \[1931-2021\]](#)