

Our Independence History

with Oxford University Press

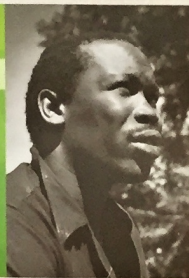


ANGOLA

Agostinho Neto

The first president of Angola was Dr Agostinho Neto, elected after 14 years of armed resistance to colonial rule. The country celebrates 40 years of Independence this year.

11 November, **1975**



BOTSWANA

Sir Seretse Khama

The 1965 constitution led to the first general elections in 1966. Seretse Khama was elected as the first president of Botswana on 30 September 1966, 49 years ago.

30 September, **1966**



LESOTHO

King Moshoeshe II

When it won independence as the Kingdom of Lesotho 49 years ago, the king was Moshoeshe II. Chief Leabua Jonathan of the Basotho National Party became prime minister.

4 October, **1966**



MALAWI

Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda

Nyasaland was granted full independence 51 years ago and the nation of Malawi was born. Dr Hastings Banda had been prime minister since the previous year and retained his post.

4 July, **1964**



MOZAMBIQUE

Samora Machel

The People's Republic of Mozambique celebrates 40 years of independence. As the President of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), Samora Machel became the country's first president.

25 June, **1975**

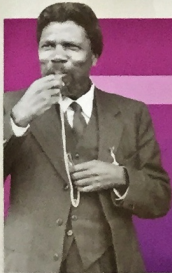


NAMIBIA

Sam Nujoma

Namibia celebrates 25 years of independence this year. 'The father of the nation' Sam Nujoma was elected as the first president of Namibia.

21 March, **1990**



SWAZILAND

King Sobhuza II

Forty-seven years ago, Swaziland became independent under King Sobhuza II as head of state. It was also administered by a prime minister named Makhosini Dlamini.

6 September, **1968**

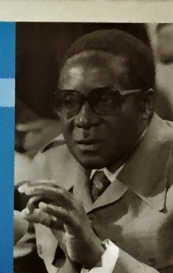


ZAMBIA

Kenneth Kaunda

Formerly known as Northern Rhodesia, Zambia celebrates 51 years of independence this year. The country's first president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, proclaimed one-party rule, serving until 1991.

24 October, **1964**

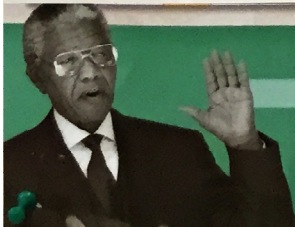


ZIMBABWE

Robert Mugabe

Rhodesia won independence 35 years ago, taking the new name Zimbabwe. The first president was Gideon Moyo. Robert Mugabe was his prime minister and later succeeded him as president.

18 April, **1980**



SOUTH AFRICA

Nelson Mandela

The Republic of South Africa had its first democratic elections on the 27 April 1994, 21 years ago. The leader of the African National Party (ANC) Nelson Mandela became the first black president.

27 April, **1994**