

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE BURIAL OF THE
LATE HONOURABLE REV. DR. HENDRIK
WITBOOI**

25 OCTOBER 2009

**GIBEON CEMETERY,
WINDHOEK**

Director of Ceremonies

Mrs Johanna Sophia Witbooi, the Widow of the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi and the entire bereaved family

Your Excellency, Comrade Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation

The Right Honourable Prime Minister,

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister,

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,

Honourable Chairperson of the National Council,

Your Honour, the Chief Justice,

Your Grace Arch Bishop and Bishops of Various Denominations,

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Honourable Governor of the Khomas Region and Governors of other Regions,

Your Worship, the Mayor of the City of Windhoek,

Honourable Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders,

Honourable Traditional Leaders,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Dear Religious and Community Leaders,

Fellow Mourners,

Last Friday we held a Memorial Service in honour of the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi. Today, we are gathered here to pay our last respects to him and lay him to rest at Gibeon Cemetery, a cemetery that will become one of the shrines of the Namibian revolutionary historical monuments in our country.

The life journey of the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi has come to an end. Gibeon Cemetery will be his last resting place.

On this solemn occasion, I wish to, once again, remind our nation that we owe it to the martyrs of our revolution to remain united and with commitment and fortitude, create a stronger and democratic society to which the Namibian Heroes and Heroines have dedicated their lives. We have a historic and national responsibility to ensure that Namibia should forever remain sovereign and independent.

Our political victory can never be reversed. We have regained our nationhood and dignity. Our task now is to work tirelessly and in unity to consolidate the gains of our independence. To work tirelessly to keep alive the ideals of our heroes and heroines, the martyrs of our revolution. Their sacrifices must always encourage us to achieve more for our nation.

Director of Ceremonies,

Since 1990, our SWAPO Party Government has embarked on the second phase of the struggle. The struggle for economic independence in order to eradicate poverty, disease, hunger and ignorance and to ensure the social and economic development of all our people. The late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi was one of the foot soldiers in this struggle. His involvement in the socio-economic welfare of the Namibian workers and other disadvantaged groups bears testimony to the trade mark he left behind in this regard.

I am conscious that the peace and stability that we enjoy today, will have to be accompanied by sustainable economic growth and social justice.

It is, therefore, our collective responsibility, as a people, soaked in the sweat and blood of our heroes and heroines, to lay a strong social and economic foundation on which future generations will build a prosperous, stable and peaceful society. I believe that through hard work and commitment, we can ensure that our people receive efficient and effective services and enjoy equal access to social and public amenities and thereby improve their living standards.

It is only when we achieve this noble objective that we would have met the expectations of our heroes and heroines such as the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi. They dedicated their lives to ensure that Namibia remains stable, peaceful, and secure. They equally dedicated their lives and energies so that all Namibians enjoy the fruits of independence without exclusion.

On this solemn occasion of the burial of the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi, we must once again rededicate ourselves to our policy of National Reconciliation.

Let us honour our heroes and heroines by working hard, in unity of purpose and action to build a vibrant and prosperous Namibian nation. Let us rededicate ourselves to the motto of ONE NAMIBIA ONE NATION. We should always remember, *“their blood waters our freedom.”*

May the soul of Comrade Hendrik Witbooi rest in eternal peace.

I thank you.