

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION
OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE LATE COMRADE MATHEUS
NGHIKUPULWA

05 JUNE 2010

WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies;
His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia
and of the SWAPO Party;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Comrades Members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the SWAPO
Party;
Comrade Members of SWAPO Party Central Committee;
Honourable Governor, Comrade Sophia Shaningwa;
Honourable Regional and Local Councillors;
Comrade Members, of the SWAPO Party Elders Council;
Your Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek; Comrade Mateus Shikongo;
Comrade SWAPO-Party rank and file;
Fellow Mourners,
Comrades and Friends:

We are gathered here to pay our last respects to one of Namibia's outstanding and brave
freedom fighters, the Late Comrade Mateus Nghikupulwa.
The late Comrade Nghikupulwa contributed immensely to the realization of a free and
independent democratic Namibia.

At a very tender and youthful age, he became politically conscious of the oppressive
system of apartheid colonialism which manifested itself in the draconian contract labour
system. As a result, he became one of the initiators at the formation of OPO in 1959
where he served as Treasurer. He was also one of the most effective political mobilizers
of OPO. One of the most effective political mobilization strategies that he joined and
urged the youth to boycott the Municipal Beer Hall, Municipal Bus Services, Cinema
Hall in the Old Location and Pass Laws which led to the confrontation with the colonial
authorities which eventually led to the Old Location Massacre on 10th December 1959.
When I went in exile on 29 February 1960, Comrade Nghikupulwa and other OPO
National Executive Members ensured that I have enough traveling money to reach Dar-
es-Salaam in Tanzania and eventually New York where I went to petition for Namibia's
self determination and National independence in June 1960.

Thereafter the late Comrade Nghikupulwa became one of the Founder Members of
SWAPO in 1960. He continued his political mobilization activities until 1961 when the
white minority apartheid regime embarked upon systematic repression against SWAPO
leaders. With the view to intimidate him, the apartheid regime of South Africa arrested
him in 1961 and banished him to Angola, where he was handed over to the Portuguese
colonial authorities. He was chained at Oshikango through out the journey to Ondjiva.
While at Ondjiva, he was again chained to a big tree both arms and legs and heavily
guarded by Portuguese "Mashalalies" for two hours.

He was later transferred to Lubango and was kept under a ground prison on 08 December
1961, where he spent twelve months. While in detention, he was placed under solitary
confinement and underwent brutal incarceration which affected his health negatively.

e was later transferred from Lubango to Menongue prison where he further suffered incarceration for further ten years, together with the Comrades from the MPLA, such as Comrade Jose Pacavira Marciso. He was released from prison in 1974, but was kept under house arrest where he reported daily to the Portuguese colonial authorities.

Thereafter, he escaped and came back to Namibia. He decided to come and join his Comrades in Windhoek, where he continued his political mobilization activities. He recruited many youth to join SWAPO in exile and fight for our genuine freedom and Independence.

Because of his political activities, the late Comrade Nghikupulwa became a target of the minority white apartheid regime and its puppets. As a result, he was forced to go in exile in 1980; where he continued to serve our liberation movement SWAPO in various capacities, one of which he became a prominent member of the SWAPO Elders Council based in Luanda.

Director of Ceremonies;

Namibia has indeed lost a hero and patriot. I remember vividly when the Late Comrade Nghikupulwa joined us in exile. Even at an advanced age; he decided to undergo military training at the Tobias Hainyeko Training Centre in Lubango before he was transferred to Luanda, and later was sent to the then Soviet Union for medical treatment as a result of brutalities inflicted upon him by both colonial apartheid South Africa and Portuguese colonial regime in Angola.

He was always full of courage and became a source of inspiration to all of us. He stood firm and never wavered. Upon the attainment of our genuine Freedom and Independence in 1990, the Late Comrade Nghikupulwa continued to serve as a prominent member of the SWAPO Party Elders Council until his death.

He died a proud and patriotic Namibian who never betrayed the Liberation Struggle.

The late Comrade Nghikupulwa once said: *“Eti la tatuka, Omalyenge a tokoka. Namibia Oletu!”*

This was then in reference to the military defeat of the troops of the white South African apartheid regime at Cuito Cuanavale that eventually paved the way for the signing of the ceasefire agreement that brought Namibia’s genuine Freedom and Independence on 21st March 1990.

His exemplary deeds will continue to inspire the current and future generations of Namibians. Although he is no more, we must draw inspiration from his legacy and revolutionary spirit, as we embark upon the second phase of the struggle for genuine economic independence.

On behalf of the Nujoma's Family and indeed on my own behalf, I extend my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the entire family members, relatives and friends for the loss of Comrade Matheus Nghikupulwa.

May you all be consoled and strengthened during this difficult time of mourning and bereavement.

May his soul rest in Eternal Peace.