TRIBUTE BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE OF FORMER ARMY COMMANDER, MAJOR-GENERAL (RETIRED) PETER NAMBUNDUNGA

25 JANUARY 2019

OSHIHOLE,
ONESI CONSTITUENCY

OMUSATI REGION

*Check Against Delivery
Program Directors;
Comrade Cecilie Ndilokelwa Nambundunga, the children and the entire bereaved Nambundunga family;
Your Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady;
Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Penexupifo Pohamba, Former First Lady;
Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President and Madam Mbumba;
Right Honourable, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa–Amadhiila, Prime Minister and Comrade Amadhiila;
Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Lieutenant General Retired Ndaitwah;
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Katjavivi;
Your Honour the Chief Justice, Peter Shivute and Judge Shivute;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;
Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;
Honourable McHenry Venaani, Leader of the Official Opposition;
Honourable Eriginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Omusati Region and other Governors here present;
Your Excellencies, Members of Diplomatic Corps;
Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;
Esteemed Traditional, Community and Spiritual Leaders;
Distinguished Service Chiefs;
Members of the Media;
Fellow Mourners:

I have learned with profound grief and deep sorrow of the passing on of a relentless freedom fighter and a Veteran of the National Liberation Struggle, Major General (retired) Peter Nambundunga, on the 15th of January 2019, at Ongwediva MediPark Private Hospital in Ongwediva – Oshana Region.

With his passing Namibia has lost yet another liberation struggle icon whose immense contributions to the birth of our nation will remain engraved in the annals of our history. Those of us who knew and worked closely with Major General (retired) Peter Nambundunga respected and admired his immense contribution to the liberation struggle.

I therefore join my fellow mourners to bid farewell and pay tribute to a gallant and unwavering freedom fighter, a steadfast and celebrated army commander who performed outstanding deeds in the service of our country and its people.

I salute you all in the name of all the fallen heroes and heroines of the national liberation struggle. It is extremely saddening that last month we lost Comrade Commander Matias Mbulunganga Ndakolo and Cde. Petrus Ilonga and today we are again gathered to pay homage to another liberation struggle icon, one of the former PLAN Commanders who rose through the ranks, Major-General (retired) Peter Nambundunga. This year surely did not start on a good note with his passing, but we have no control over the creator’s acts.

In this regard, we are here to share grief with the family, comrades, friends and colleagues and pay our final respects to one of our fallen heroes because of his selfless contribution to Namibia’s liberation struggle and nation building.
To the family, your pain is also shared by thousands of Namibians who knew the heroic deeds that the late Major-General (retired) Nambundunga has done for our country during the liberation struggle and after independence. His passing is certainly being felt not only by the family, but by all those who cherish the ideals of freedom, peace and justice in Namibia that he vigorously promoted while he was still alive.

The Late Major-General (retired) Nambundunga was among an influx of Namibians who joined us in exile in 1975. During that period some were sent for further studies and to diplomatic missions, while him and others joined the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) thus reinforcing the backbone and fighting capabilities of PLAN, SWAPO Military Wing.

Indeed, the Late Major General (retired) Nambundunga dedicated his greater youthful and adult life for the liberation of our motherland Namibia until victory was attained and thereafter to the building of a free and independent Namibia.

He served our Liberation Movement SWAPO with distinction and provided strategic leadership to PLAN during trying times and kept the torch of freedom burning as he fought together with other PLAN Commanders and fellow combatants face to face with the enemy forces in Namibia.

The late Major-General (retired) Nambundunga carried out his duties and assignments with commitment and dedication. His great bravery and outstanding leadership has earned him respect and recognition from the Senior Commanders of PLAN, SWAPO Leadership as well as his fellow combatants.

Indeed, he was one of the outstanding military strategists and a member of the PLAN Military Council, which I had the privilege to chair as the Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN).

As his eulogy has articulated, his leadership acumen as a commander was instrumental in boosting the morale of his fellow PLAN combatants to effectively engage the enemy forces. His contribution towards the realization of a genuine independence and a democratic Namibia will never be forgotten. Upon the attainment of our Freedom and genuine independence on 21st March 1990, Major-General (retired) Nambundunga continued to serve the people of Namibia with commitment and dedication as one of the founders of the newly established Namibian Defence Force where he rose through the ranks.

In this regard, I pay my revolutionary tributes to him and to all those fallen sons and daughters who sacrificed their lives for the total liberation of our country. These are countless patriots who remained committed and steadfast to SWAPO as a Liberation Movement and to SWAPO’s Military Wing, the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). Major-General (retired) Nambundunga like many other brave sons and daughters were never fearful of the enemy’s weaponry because he was ready to pay the ultimate price for Namibia during the difficult days of our protracted armed liberation struggle.
Fellow mourners;
Although, he is no more with us, his spirit of fearless, unwavering commitment and his loyalty to Namibia will continue to inspire the current and future generations of Namibians and he will be remembered for his immense contribution to the liberation of our Motherland, Namibia.

It is not a surprise that Major-General (retired) Nambundunga was accorded a State Funeral. It is a befitting tribute to his exemplary deeds of heroism.

Therefore I would like to thank the SWAPO Party-led government under the leadership of H.E Dr. Hage Geingob for honouring this gallant freedom fighter to be laid to rest at Omugulu-Gwombashe Shrine to join the Pioneers of the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) and Veterans of the Liberation Struggle.

In his passing on, Namibia has lost a great son. His wife has lost a caring husband, the children have lost a great father, family members have lost a brother, an uncle and all of us have lost a dedicated, patriotic and revolutionary Comrade.
He leaves a legacy of bravery, hard work, perseverance and commitment. We will miss him dearly.

Major General (retired) Peter Nambundunga, We Salute you for having lived a life dedicated to Namibia’s Liberation Struggle while others wavered.

On behalf of The Sam Nujoma Foundation and indeed on the Nujoma family, I wish to extend our deep felt sympathies and condolences to the entire bereaved family and relatives on the passing of Major-General (retired) Peter Nambundunga.

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

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!