



TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCASSION OF
THE HERO'S FUNERAL IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COMRADE
DR. NICKEY IYAMBO, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

PARLIAMENT GARDEN

WINDHOEK

KHOMAS REGION

31 MAY 2019

Director of Ceremonies;

The Widow, Madam Johanna Iyambo, the Children, and the Entire Bereaved 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 of the Republic of Namibia
and Madam Mbumba;

Right Honourable Dr. Sara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Mr. Amadhila;

Right Honourable Comrade Nahas Angula, Former Prime Minister;

Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam
Katjavivi;

Honourable Margaret Mensah Williams, Chairperson of the National Council and Mr.
Williams;

Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Judge Shivute;

Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
International Relations and Cooperation and Retired Lieutenant General Ndaitwah;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;

Honourable Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;

Honourable McHenry Venaani, Leader of the Official Opposition;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Honourable Governor of the Khomas Region and other Governors present;

Your Excellencies, Members of Diplomatic Corps;

Distinguished Service Chiefs;

Distinguished Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;

Esteemed Traditional, Community and Spiritual Leaders;

Fellow Mourners:

I was deeply saddened when I received a call by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, on Sunday the 19th of May 2019, informing me about the departure of one of the first SWAPO Medical Doctors and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle in his own right as a Founder Member of OPO and SWAPO, H. E. the Late Comrade Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Former Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, who passed on a day before his 83rd birthday anniversary.

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 country's history.

I therefore join my fellow mourners to bid farewell and pay tribute to a gallant and unwavering freedom fighter, a steadfast and a liberation struggle stalwart who devoted his greater youthful and adult life for the liberation of our motherland Namibia until victory was attained on the 21st of March 1990. Thereafter, he dedicated himself to nation building and economic emancipation.

The late Dr. Iyambo belongs to a remarkable generation of freedom fighters whose deeds will reverberate across the ages. It was a generation that changed the course of our struggle and endured the hardship of exile, prison and banishment.

It was also a generation that not only held the liberation movement together but which built it into a formidable mass movement of our people and was prominent among those who led the country to freedom and genuine independence.

Today, as we mourn the passing of one of the leaders of that generation, it would be a mistake to relegate them to history.

Certainly, most of the members of that generation may have left the political stage, but the principles they fought for, the values they lived by and the means by which they sought their objectives still echoes at this moment in our history.

I personally had known the Late Comrade Dr. Nickey Iyambo since the days of our National Liberation Struggle in exile where he joined us in 1964 in Dar-es-Salaam – Tanzania after being a SWAPO card-carrying member since 1960, when he engaged in politics at an early age mobilizing our people to resist the white minority colonial apartheid regime of South Africa.

I fondly remember him as a warm, soft spoken and deep thinking comrade who after spending some times with us in Dar es Salaam-Tanzania, he obtained a scholarship in Finland where he not only served as SWAPO's Chief Representative to the Nordic countries but also obtained his Master degree in Political Science and graduated as a Medical doctor at the University of Helsinki.

As you have heard, upon completion of his studies, the Late Comrade Dr. Iyambo returned to serve our people as the Head of SWAPO's Military Medical Services based in Lubango-Angola.

The late Comrade Dr. Iyambo was indeed hardworking, articulate and attentive to details and I agree with those who described him as a seasoned politician who earned himself a wide reputation as a Medical Doctor who had a calm approach, even in the midst of strife and discord.

In this regard, I pay my revolutionary tributes to him. He was without question one of the fighters for the betterment of our country and our democracy.

Against this background, he will be remembered by the current and future generations of Namibians as a dedicated freedom fighter and committed patriot whose legacy will continue to inspire all Namibians as we embark upon the second phase of the struggle for economic independence.

I am grateful that the SWAPO Party-led government under the leadership of H.E Dr. Hage Geingob has decided to honour the late Dr. Nickey Iyambo with a befitting Hero's Funeral.

As we lay him to rest at the Heroes' Acre, where our most illustrious sons and daughters are buried, allow me on behalf of the Sam Nujoma Foundation, the Nujoma Family, the Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle and indeed on my own behalf, to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences and extend our deepest sympathy to the widow, Madam Johanna Iyambo, the Children, and the Entire Bereaved Family.

We also extend our sympathy to all the Comrades and friends on the loss of such a high calibre of a man in the person of Comrade Dr Iyambo.

No matter how we may endeavor, words cannot express the magnitude of the loss we feel for the departure of our First Minister of Health and Social Services, First Minister of Veteran Affairs and First Vice President of our country. May we all be granted fortitude during this difficult period of bereavement and sorrow.

In his memory, let us pledge that we will strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, until we reach our goal of a united and prosperous Namibia.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!