



TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND  
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE OFFICIAL FUNERAL IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COMRADE  
PETER MVULA YA NANGOLO

INNER CITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION  
WINDHOEK  
KHOMAS REGION  
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\*Check Against Delivery

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(Reg No 8208)

Director of Ceremonies;

The Widow, Mrs Nosipho Ya Nangolo, the Children, and the Entire Bereaved Family;  
Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia  
and Madam Mbumba;  
Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of  
Namibia and Madam Penexupifo Pohamba, Former First Lady;  
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 Members of Parliament;  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and All Foreign Dignitaries;  
Esteemed Reverend Briaan Mbazuvara and Reverend Dr Ngeno Nakamhela as well  
as all Spiritual and Community Leaders present;  
Distinguished Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;  
Fellow Mourners,

I was deeply saddened to hear the departure of one of the leading lights as first  
black journalists and published poets of Namibia, the Late Comrade Peter Mvula Ya  
Nangolo, who passed on at the age of 75 after battling from complications from a  
stroke he suffered last year.

Indeed, it was difficult to process and internalize the passing on of the Late Comrade  
Mvula Ya Nangolo as he was affectionately known.

I therefore join scores of Namibians and his family and friends in mourning and  
paying tribute to a liberation struggle icon and veteran journalist who was a SWAPO  
card-carrying member since 1961.

We fondly remember the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo as a warm, capable and  
honourable professional journalist, who built bridges.

I personally had known the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo since the days of our  
National Liberation Struggle in exile where he joined us in 1963 in Dar-es-Salaam –  
Tanzania at the age of Twenty.

He was always a hardworking Comrade with a passion to communicate to our nation  
the achievements of our struggle and the messages of SWAPO about the course of  
action to be pursued at different stages.

After three months in Dar es Salaam-Tanzania, he obtained a scholarship in the  
German Democratic Republic (GDR) where he ventured into journalism studies.

As you have heard, after he completed his studies in 1966, the Late Comrade Mvula  
Ya Nangolo returned to Tanzania, where he joined Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam  
and was put in charge of SWAPO programmes that were broadcast on The  
Namibian Hour which later became known as The Voice of Namibia.

Similarly, he was placed in charge of Namibia Today, a SWAPO's news bulletin which reported the official viewpoint of the organization's activities inside and outside Namibia as well as the news from the battlefields.

In addition, the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo became a correspondent on Southern Africa for the Daily News of Tanzania until he left Tanzania for Zambia in 1973 where he, together with other Comrades, launched The Voice of Namibia when SWAPO moved its headquarters to Lusaka, Zambia.

He indeed inspired and mobilized many of our people to join the Liberation Struggle until we achieved our Freedom and genuine Independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990.

Most importantly, the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo was also a celebrated poet who had made an immense contribution to the liberation of Namibia and the birth of our country's democracy.

He is known for his poems that talk about life in exile and has written so much about the courage and resilience of our people. He was thus the National Poet of Namibia and the people's poet.

Moreover, the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo has a book of his poetry collection called *Watering the Beloved Desert*, where he pays tribute to all those who lost their lives during the protracted armed liberation struggle in Namibia.

He therefore suggest in that book that it was not an easy walk to freedom and independence as it meant the loss of lives by Watering of the Beloved Desert with blood, sweat and tears.

In his poem *Cassinga Song*, the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo suggests that the brutal Cassinga Massacre perpetrated by the minority apartheid regime of South Africa against innocent Namibian civilians on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1978 in Angola, will forever remain inscribed in the minds of our people and written in indelible ink in the history of our country.

It is therefore not a coincidence that the family and fate decided that he should be laid to rest on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May when the Nation Commemorates Cassinga Day.

Similarly, the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo was a true practitioner and a role model to many young up-and-coming journalists when he served as a news editor at NAMPA and served the government with pride and commitment.

Thus, in his passing Namibia has lost a model civil servant who embodied the values required to truly do service for the nation. I am therefore grateful that the Government has decided to honour the Late Comrade Mvula Ya Nangolo with a befitting Official Funeral.

Indeed, we remain grateful for his commendable work as a public servant as he was the personification of excellence. It is now left on us to ensure that his legacy lives on.

We must also build on his vision by striving for excellence and elevation of the profession of journalists to ensure that communication becomes a greater catalyst

for enhancement of service delivery. The lesson we learn from him is that there is no power mightier than an idea and a pen.

In his poem *Flower for a fallen hero*, he says; *“Put a flower on my grave, For I died like a brave.... lest you forget the brave.”* Indeed, he will be remembered by the current and future generations as a fearless freedom fighter and a seasoned journalist as well as a celebrated poet who never wavered.

As we lay him to rest at the Old Location Cemetery in Hochland Park, where he used to live before the forceful removal of our people to Katutura and where he used to live before his passing on, 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, Mrs Nosipho Ya Nangolo, the Children, and the Entire Bereaved Family.

We also extend our sympathy to all the Comrades and friends on the loss of this outstanding son of the soil. His passing away is a deep loss to the nation as a whole. May we all be granted fortitude during this difficult period of bereavement.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!