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

INNER CITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION
WINDHOEK
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*Check Against Delivery
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 21st 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 4th 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 4th 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!