



03 July 2020

The Widow, Meekulu Eveline Ndapewa Shipanga, the Children
and the Entire Bereaved Family of the Late Comrade Martin Lazarus Shipanga
Hochlandpark, Windhoek
KHOMAS REGION

Dear Meekulu Eveline Ndapewa Shipanga and the Entire Bereaved Family

It is with grief that I have received the sad news of the passing on of your beloved husband, father, uncle and friend, the Late Comrade Martin Lazarus Shipanga, on Sunday, 28 June 2020.

In this regard, it is with profound sorrow that I write to pay tribute and bid farewell to a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, who formed part of a remarkable generation of freedom fighters that endured hardship and led our National Liberation Struggle to its successful conclusion.

Indeed, the Late Comrade Martin Lazarus Shipanga was the only black teacher at the Augustineum College in Okahandja, which was established in 1866 and was the only high school for Africans in Namibia.

In 1956, the newspapers such as *Die Suidwester*, *Suidwest Afrikaaner* and *Windhoek Advertiser* and others were full of articles about the bus boycott and other protests against the minority apartheid regime in South Africa, while in 1957, Ghana became independent under Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and the idea of African liberation was spread by publications like *Ghana Today*, which were read and passed around by our people.

There were also news leaflets describing the minority apartheid South African ruling Nationalist Party, who saw themselves as the *herrenvolk* or 'the master race' and how they were exploiting and harassing our people.

There were tensions at Augustineum College at that time, which later turned into open conflict as part of a confrontation building up throughout the country and the Late Comrade Martin Lazarus Shipanga, as a well-known educationalist, was part of that movement.

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Founder: H.E Dr. Sam Nujoma
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He taught many students who later became freedom fighters and leaders in their own rights. I have here in mind, the President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob and the Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi, as well as many Veterans of our Liberation Struggle such as Comrade Ben Amadhila and Dr. Libertine Amadhila, the Late Comrades Moses Garoeb, John Ya Otto, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Dr. Moses Tjitendero, Lineekela Kalenga, Hidipo Hamutenya, Josef Ithana, among others.

In addition, the Late Comrade Shipanga was among those who made it possible for the Katutura Hospital to be built and equipped with a modern Intensive Care Unit (I.C.U.), when he managed to send some Namibian teachers to Germany and discussed with the German Consulate about the possibility to donate a hospital for the black community in Namibia.

Similarly, the Late Comrade Shipanga was actively involved in the struggle when he protested against Bantu Education, the pass system for black people in Namibia and against the South West Africa Native Association (SWANLA), which served as a modern slavery contract labour system which put our people under forced labour.

The Late Comrade Shipanga was also involved in the protests against the relocation to Katutura from the old location. After independence, I appointed him to form part of the Delimitation Commission of Namibia which was established in 1990 and later served in the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

For this reason, he is one of the unsung heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle who stood firm and never wavered until the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on 21st March 1990. May his exemplary deeds serve as a permanent source of inspiration as we continue with nation building and chart the future destiny of our country.

As we lay him to rest, allow me therefore, on behalf of the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Widow, Meekulu Eveline Ndapewa Shipanga, the Children and the entire bereaved family and Comrades on the loss of the Late Comrade Martin Lazarus Shipanga.

May we all be granted fortitude during this difficult time of bereavement and sorrow.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sam Nujoma', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA