



**TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT  
AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
MEMORIAL SERVICE IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COMRADE HIDIPO L.  
HAMUTENYA**

**14 OCTOBER 2016**

**PARLIAMENT GARDENS**

**WINDHOEK**

**\*Check Against Delivery**

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(Reg No 8208)

Directors of Ceremonies;  
Meme Nangula Hamutenya, the Children, Grandchildren, and the Entire Hamutenya Family;

Your Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and First Lady, Madam Geingos;  
Your Excellency, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President and Former First Lady Madam Pohamba;  
Your Excellency, Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Vice-President;  
Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila;  
Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;  
Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Katjavivi;  
Honourable Margaret Mensah Williams, Chairperson of the National Council;  
Honourable Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Madam Shivute;  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;  
Honourable Members of Parliament;  
Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, Secretary General of SWAPO Party;  
Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region and all Governors Present;  
Your Worship, the Mayor of the City of Windhoek;  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
Distinguished Service Chiefs;  
Esteemed Traditional, Spiritual and Community Leaders;  
Distinguished Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;  
Members of the Media;  
Fellow Mourners;

On 6 October 2016, we received the sad news of the passing on of Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya in Windhoek. I have therefore come to join you at this solemn occasion, in order to pay our last respect to this son of the soil.

I wish to start off my tribute by thanking the Hamutenya family and the Government of the Republic of Namibia for the honour to share a few words on the occasion of the late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya's Memorial Service.

This task is challenging since to give tribute to any person, by capturing in words their joys and sorrows as well as their unique qualities, is not easy.

At the risk of repeating what was said by previous speakers, allow me, therefore, to say that I knew the late Comrade Hidipo's father, the late Comrade Aaron Hamutenya.

He was one of the founder members of SWAPO and indeed a very kind and humble man who helped me a great deal when he introduced me to St. Barnabas Night School in Windhoek and later on to the Trans-Africa Correspondence College in Johannesburg.

I came to know the late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya when he joined the liberation struggle in the early sixties.

While in exile, after attending a course in Journalism in Bulgaria, the late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya went to further his studies in the United States of America where, together with our current President of Namibia, H.E. Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob and the Former Speaker of the National Assembly, Comrade Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, they became SWAPO's Representatives to the Americas.

When he completed his studies, the late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya rejoined us in exile to continue the struggle as SWAPO's Secretary for Education.

He held this position for two years before he was appointed as Deputy Director and Head of the History and Political Science Department at the United Nations Institute for Namibia in Zambia.

Fellow Mourners;

Our fight against the repressive white minority apartheid regime of South Africa was based on a three-pronged strategy namely, the mass political mobilization inside Namibia, the diplomatic front and the armed liberation struggle.

Against this background, the Late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya was entrusted by SWAPO with the responsibility as Secretary for Information and Publicity.

It was during this time that he became one of the members of the SWAPO's negotiation team for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978.

In this regard, I particularly remember when the white minority apartheid regime of South Africa was dealt a resounding defeat at the historic battle of Cuito Cuanavale in Angola and the enemy was forced to the negotiation table in 1988, I was accompanied by Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab and the late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya on my mission to the United States of America.

We went there to get the media to give proper attention to our genuine cause against the false information put across by the white minority apartheid regime of South Africa.

The Late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya became a member of the Constituent Assembly which drafted our Constitution in 1990.

After we obtained our genuine Freedom and Independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990, I appointed the Late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya as the first Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

In 1993, I appointed him as Minister of Trade and Industry and later, as Minister of Foreign Affairs where he became the architect of our economic diplomacy.

As we prepare to take the late Comrade Hidipo Hamutenya to his final resting place, allow me, on behalf of the Nujoma Family and indeed on my own behalf, to express our sympathies and sincere condolences to Meme Nangula, the children, and the entire Hamutenya family as well as all the Comrades, on his untimely departure.

May we all be consoled and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!