



14 December 2016

Kuku Emma Namutenya Kaapanda;
The Entire Bereaved Family Members;
Onaniki Village
OMUSATI REGION

Dear Kuku Kaapanda

I received with grief the sad news of the passing on of your beloved husband, Reverend Junias Vaino Kaapanda, at Tsandi Hospital on 12 December 2016.

The late Reverend Kaapanda is one of the Founder members of SWAPO when he became a political activist at its formation in 1960. As a religious leader, he had a bible on one hand and a SWAPO membership card on the other hand while his general Sunday sermons were partly dedicated to mobilizing our people to join SWAPO.

Due to his patriotic stance, he was appointed by the SWAPO leadership in Windhoek to recruit new members for SWAPO in Uukwaluudhi and surrounding districts. For this reason, he suffered persecution and endured brutality including electrocution by the colonial South African occupation army which had seriously affected his health.

In this regard, I recall the late Reverend Kaapanda as a fearless and unwavering ELCIN Pastor and a stalwart of Namibia's national liberation struggle, who was popularly known as "Kaunda ka Zambia", and on many occasions was imprisoned by the white minority colonial regime of South Africa since 1975. The most difficult period of his life was between 1985 and 1987 when he would endure torture and harsh treatment as he recalled in his own words that the pain was so excruciating and unbearable that he could hardly describe it.

The late Reverend Kaapanda used to be kept in solitary confinement with his face covered. His family was not spared as their house was most of the time subjected to sporadic searches by the South African colonial soldiers and family members were rounded up and interrogated to provide information on the whereabouts of SWAPO-PLAN Combatants. All these atrocities were done under the notorious Proclamation AG 9 of 1977.

Despite the harassment and intimidations, the late Reverend Kaapanda never wavered but continued to provide food and shelter as well as assist PLAN Combatants with information on the whereabouts of the enemy forces. In this regard, we remember how after the Omugulugombashe battle in 1966, the late Reverend Kaapanda greatly helped the legendary freedom fighter Commander Patrick Lunganda Iiyambo when he was sought after by the enemy forces.

As we are paying our last respect and mourn the passing on of the late Reverend Kaapanda, let us be consoled by the fact that he was able to witness the freedom and genuine independence that he dearly loved and fought for. His unwavering commitment and firm belief that Namibia shall one day attain genuine independence at all costs made him to be recognized as a Veteran of the liberation struggle and should make us all to celebrate the life of this legendary freedom fighter and Great Grandfather, Father as well as Family Elder who has departed to join our ancestors at the age of 85 years.

Indeed, he was a source of inspiration and a courageous spiritual leader not only for his community but for Namibia at large. Against this background, I urge our youth to emulate his exemplary deeds of bravery, hard work, commitment and dedication to service as we embark upon the second phase of the struggle for economic independence.

On behalf of the Nujoma Family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to convey our deep felt sympathy and sincere condolences to Kuku Emma Namutenya Kaapanda, the children, the grandchildren and the entire bereaved family as well as friends and his congregation on the loss of Reverend Junias Vaino Kaapanda.

May you all be comforted and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.



FOUNDER
The Sam Nujoma Foundation

Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA