



TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE MEMORIAL AND FUNERAL SERVICES
IN HONOUR OF THE LATE
COMRADE JOANNA NDAYELELWA IYYAMBO

15TH DECEMBER 2017

ELIM, OMUTUNDA GWA MBALA,

OMUSATI REGION

***Check Against Delivery**

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(Reg No 8208)

Directors of Ceremonies;
The Children, Grandchildren, and the Entire Bereaved Family;
Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia
and Madam Penexupifo Pohamba;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region,
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Herman Ndilimani Iipumbu, gwelelo lyopamuthigululwakalo
lyotshilongo shUukwambi na Meme Iipumbu;
Ootatekulu Aakwaniilwa nOmalenga;
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;
Comrade Mukwaita Shanyengana on behalf of the SWAPO Party Elder's Council;
Retired Bishop Emeritus Dr. Kleopas Dumeni;
Esteemed Traditional, Spiritual and Community Leaders;
Distinguished Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;
Members of the Media;
Fellow Mourners:

I received with grief, the sad news of the passing on of the Late Comrade Joanna Ndayelelwa Iiyambo, on 5th December 2017 at Ongwediva Medipark Private Hospital.

Therefore, I joined you here, fellow mourners, to bid farewell to a Comrade and an unwavering Namibian patriot who has served her country and people with dedication and commitment.

Many things were already said in the eulogy and by the previous speakers. On my part, I simply wish to recognize the unparalleled contribution of the Late Comrade Joanna Ndayelelwa Iiyambo to Namibia's freedom and genuine independence.

Indeed, Comrade Joanna Ndayelelwa Iiyambo was one of the veterans of Namibia's Liberation Struggle in her own right and not simply because she was married to one of the legendary Commanders of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO 's Military Wing, the Late Commander Patrick Israel Iiyambo well known by his combat name "Lungada".

As we might all be aware, the late Comrade Patrick Israel Iiyambo Lungada was among the first group of SWAPO's seven first combatants that went to Egypt in July 1962 for military training.

Others were the Late Comrades Commander Tobias Hainjeko, Commander John Otto Nankudhu, Vilho Haitembu, Titus Muailipeni Shitilifa, Petrus Hambija and Lazarus Sakaria.

When SWAPO decided to pursue simultaneously a three-pronged strategy, including the launching of the armed struggle, the late Commander Patrick Israel Iiyambo "Lungada", acted as Reconnoitre and Secretary of the Commandos of the first group known as "G1" which was led by the Late Comrade John Otto Nankudhu (Koshiuanda), Commander of the Commandos.

The G1 also consisted of Simeon Lineekela Shixungileni (Kambo) as Deputy, Messah Victory Namwandi (Shixwanga) Chief of Reconnaissance, James Hamukwaya Angula

(Shoonyeka) and Nelson Kavela (Sadrag) as cadres of the then South West Africa Liberation Army (SWALA), which was later renamed as the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

After successfully training young local activists in January 1966, the G1 Commandos later engaged the enemy on the 26th of August 1966, at Omugulu-Gwombashe, signalling the launching of our long and protracted armed liberation struggle.

The Late Commander Patrick Israel Iiyambo's clandestine military operations and exploits lasted for 9 years inside Namibia after the launching of the Armed Liberation Struggle thanks mainly to his training skills as a reconnoitre and military strategist as well as tactician that enabled him to survive the capture by a powerful white minority South African Occupation Army.

In addition, he survived due to the powerful cells and military network he established with his trusted and reliable friends and Comrades such as Leonard Tshapumba, Andreas Hinandiinetsha Tshimwandi, Pius Linus Hinyangelwa Asheeke, Johannes Antonius (John Amutshira Tshamena), Wendelinus Johannes-Tshimwandi, in whose father's house the Late Commander Lungada was accommodated.

To these names, I should also add Comrade Johannes Andreas Sikunawa Negumbo, well known as Shiponga shAndili Ya Negumbo, the late Comrade David ya Mwaalwa Sheehama, a businessman from Ombalantu, including the late Comrade Johanna Ndayelelwa Ashipala, who later became known as Meme Joanna Iiyambo.

Indeed, the Late Commander Lungada came to the village of Otshiku-tshomunkete around 1968 when he was brought there by Comrade Leonard Tshapumba, who was a teacher from St Joseph College, Dobra.

Comrade Tshapumba was a classmate and a very good friend of Comrade Andreas Hinandiinetsha Tshimwandi who was by then a teacher at Otshitutuma Primary School.

In order to conceal his real identity, the Late Commander Lungada was introduced to the community of Otshiku-tshomunkete by Comrade Andreas Hinandiinetsha Tshimwandi as 'Michael Tshikongo', a former teacher at Utsima School.

Comrade Andreas Tshimwandi went to the extent of telling people that they schooled together at St Joseph College, Dobra, and that upon completion of their teacher training course study, 'Michael Tshikongo' went to teach at Utsima School, 4 kilometres away from Onaanda.

This is how he came in contact with the late Comrade Joanna Ndayelelwa Ashipala, who was a teacher by profession at Olupumbu and Elim Combined Schools, respectively.

The years between 1970 and 1974 were the most difficult for the Late Commander Lungada inside the country. A lot of money was used and offered to whoever will provide the enemy with information that will lead to him being captured or killed.

The Late Commander Lungada also had problems in attending public hospitals whenever he was sick and an arrangement was made to have a lady from Endola area at Oshali sha

Haikela, who was a qualified nurse at Oshakati, to treat him at an old woman house in Omagalanga.

The late Comrade Ndayeelwa Iiyambo was one of those who was facilitating in the transport arrangements and contacts as well as hiding him during these difficult times.

Early 1974, after Patrick was advised by the late Comrade David ya Mwaalwa Sheehama that he could leave the country through Ondombodhola in Angola, he re-joined us in exile in Zambia via Angola accompanied by his trusted friend, the late Comrade Johanna Ndayeelwa Ashipala leading one of the largest groups to join SWAPO in exile until his repatriation back in 1989 as a married man to meme Ndayeelwa Joanna Iiyambo.

Fellow Mourners:

After the attainment of our freedom and genuine Independence on the 21st March 1990, the late Comrade Joanna Iiyambo continued to contribute to the development of Namibia.

The last time I met her was last year when I came to officially open the SWAPO Party's Branch Office at Elim, Omutunda gwaMbala.

Sadly after that, Tatekulu Muukwiilongo left us on the 24th of May 2017 and I met again with the Late Comrade Ndayeelwa Joanna Iiyambo at the memorial service and subsequent burial of the Late Comrade Tatekulu Muukwiilongo at Elim on the 2nd of June 2017.

Thus, in Comrade Joanna Iiyambo, Namibia has lost a fearless freedom fighter who committed her entire life to the just cause of our freedom. She stood firm and never wavered until the dawn of our Freedom and genuine Independence on the 21st March 1990.

For this reason, she will be remembered as a patriot and her legacy will inspire the current and future generations as we chart the future destiny of our country and embark upon the second phase of the struggle for economic independence.

May we all be consoled by the fact that she lived to see the dawn of independence of her beloved motherland and was granted a house by the Ministry of Veteran affairs for her heroic deeds as an active combatant of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) and enormous sacrifices for the cause of our freedom and genuine Independence.

As we lay her to rest, allow me therefore, on behalf of the Nujoma Family and indeed on my own behalf, to convey our deep felt sympathy and sincere condolences to the Children, the Grand-Children, the Entire Bereaved Family Members and Comrades and friends on the departure of this outstanding daughter of Namibia.

It is my sincere wish that we may all be granted fortitude during this difficult period of bereavement.

May Her Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.