



TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. SAM NUJOMA,
FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN
NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HERO'S MEMORIAL
SERVICE IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COMRADE
HONOURABLE ANGELIKA KAZETJINDIRE MUHARUKUA

18 OCTOBER 2017

PARLIAMENT GARDENS

KHOMAS REGION

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Madam Jane Katjavivi;
Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council
and Mr. Williams;
Honourable Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Judge Shivute;
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;
Honourable Comrade Nangolo Mbumba, Secretary General of SWAPO Party;
Honourable McHenry Venaani, Leader of the Official Opposition;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Distinguished Service Chiefs;
Honourable Governor of Khomas Region and all Governors Present;
Your Worship the Mayor of the City of Windhoek and all Honourable Regional
and Local Authorities Councillors present;
Esteemed Traditional, Spiritual and Community Leaders;
Distinguished Veterans of the National Liberation Struggle;
Dear Members of the bereaved family;
Fellow Mourners:
We are gathered here to pay tribute to the late Comrade Angelika Kazetjindire
Muharukua, a fearless and tenacious revolutionary leader who came from
humble beginnings.

Indeed, we are here to pay our last respect to a person of extraordinary courage
and boundless compassion. I therefore do not wish to overemphasize when I
say her sudden death on 1st October 2017, at the age of 59 years old; at her
house here in Windhoek came as profoundly shocking news to me.

Like others of her generation, the late Comrade Angelika Muharukua was
shaped both by the turbulent era through which she lived and was always ready
to serve others.

Nowhere was this more evident than when she joined SWAPO at the age of 29 and never wavered until the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990.

I recall that when we returned from exile, the then Kaokoland now Kunene Region, was still a difficult bastion for SWAPO to make inroads but thanks to the bravery and tenacity of the Late Comrade Muharukua who mobilized the people to join SWAPO and encouraged them to work together, we ultimately made progress.

Due to her political activism and her passion to uplift the people of Kunene region from poverty, I appointed her in 1995 to become a member of the National Assembly and precisely because of the leadership traits and unique qualities I described above.

As a Member of Parliament she was never afraid to speak her mind on any topic that benefits the downtrodden people especially the marginalised Himba and Ovahimba communities.

As we might all know, given her cultural background it was not easy for her to be a political activist because according to Ovahimba culture, a woman is not supposed to address men.

Nevertheless, despite that cultural barrier, the late Comrade Angelika Muharukua served both the SWAPO Party and the country as Deputy Minister and as a Governor respectively, addressing both men and women.

Similarly, she played a pivotal role to change the mind-set of the people of Kunene and inspired them to take education seriously.

In this regard, she was always willing to learn including politics and the official language, when she registered at NAMCOL not only to further her studies but also to serve as an example to many young Namibians and put the message across that despite one's background; it is never too late to study and become a leader.

She indeed defied the odds despite her limited academic background and managed to climb through the ranks and files and thus became an example to many that one does not always need to have high academic qualifications to lead but compassion and love for your people.

It was probably due to her unique leadership traits that she was appointed to serve the nation as a Deputy Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare later renamed the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and finally as the Governor of Kunene Region, the post she held until her untimely death.

In this regard, the Kunene region in particular and Namibia in general have lost a patriotic, committed and hardworking cadre. I salute her legendary and pioneering deeds as well as her indelible footprints of her contribution to the socio-economic development and to the peace and stability of Namibia.

Hence it is befitting that she has been accorded the heroes' status due to her valuable contribution to the socio-economic upliftment of our country, especially the marginalised communities, and she will always be remembered by current and future generations as a catalyst of inspiration and commitment to carry on the second phase of economic struggle.

As we gather here today to remember her exemplary deeds, let us recall the values for which the late Comrade Angelika Muharukua fought for. Let us commit ourselves to building a united, democratic and prosperous Namibia.

As we bid farewell to the late Comrade Angelika Muharukua's unflinching commitment, courage, compassion, and fighting spirit, let us continue to unite all our people in the struggle against hunger, ignorance, underdevelopment and poverty.

Against this background, on behalf of the Nujoma Family and indeed on my own behalf, I extend our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family, comrades and friends on the loss of the Late Comrade Muharukua.

It is my wish that we may all be consoled and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

May Her Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!