



**TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT AND
FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE
MEMORIAL AND FUNERAL SERVICES IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COMRADE
ROSALIA ANNETTE NDILINASHO NGHIDINUA**

24 JANUARY 2018

PARLIAMENT GARDENS

KHOMAS REGION

***Check Against Delivery**

Private Bag 13220, Windhoek, Namibia, Tel: +264 61 377700, Fax: +264 61 253098, Email: jnauta@iway.na, website: www.samnujomafoundation.org

Founder: H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma
Board of Trustees: Hon. Nahas Angula (Chairperson), Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hon. Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana,
Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Hon. Erkki Nghimtina, Ms. Febronia Nelago Shapaka
(Reg No 8208)

Directors of Proceedings;
Fellow Mourners:

It is with profound sorrow that we are gathered here today to pay our last respect and homage to one of the gallant daughters and heroines of Namibia, the Late Comrade Rosalia Annette Ndilinasho Nghidinua.

As we mourn her untimely passing on, let us at the same time celebrate her heroic deeds and outstanding contribution to the attainment of Namibia's Freedom and genuine Independence, as well as to the building of the Namibian nation.

The passing on of Comrade Rosalia Nghidinua has deeply saddened us all. As for me in particular, last time I saw her was in November last year in Walvis Bay when she paid me a courtesy visit. Nothing indicated that she was not well until I received a telephone call from one of her children telling me that she was admitted in hospital. In this regard, I recall her as a caring mother and dedicated nurse who always has her people at heart as well as one of the SWAPO Party cadres who can be trusted at all times.

Comrade Nghidinua joined SWAPO in 1974. She became SWAPO's intelligence operative in 1981, under the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing. She was recruited and trained by PLAN Regional Commander Akushinda Kalomoh and first worked under PLAN Company Commander, the Late Comrade Festus Nujoma "Omuthemba Gwokonayena" who later sacrificed in one of the fiercest battles in the Eastern Front.

This took place while the Late Comrade Nghidinua was still working at Mpungu as a nurse, before being transferred to Nkurenkuru hospital where she continued to work as an undercover intelligence officer of SWAPO.

Indeed, in 1981, when SWAPO decided to set up its Eastern Front in Kavango for military operation under Regional Commander Akushinda Kalomoh, our PLAN Combatants first assembled in the house of the Late Reverend Oiva Sikwaya at Nkata Village in Mpungu district.

Reverend Oiva Sikwaya and his wife were staunch SWAPO members and supporters who worked hard to enable our PLAN Combatants to infiltrate and penetrate the entire area of Kavango by setting up operational intelligence network. On that occasion, one of the Late Reverend Oiva Sikwaya's daughters, Comrade Priscila Mbamba Sikwaya, the older sister to Comrade Petrina Haingura, was working at Mpungu Clinic together with the Late Comrade Rosalia Nghidinua and they were both recruited by PLAN Combatants to join their intelligence operative network.

Thus, Comrade Nghidinua worked together with a team of other dedicated nurses such as Comrades Priscila Mbamba Sikwaya, Victoria Indjamba Ngongo, Alba Mbamba, Ester Paulus, Lydia Ndara Stoma and Kleopas Naingwedja and carried out clandestine intelligence work under direct supervision of a PLAN Intelligence network.

This network was headed by Comrade Peter Indongo, who was only known to them as "John". We should also add to this list Comrade Lahia Sirongo who provided medicine to wounded PLAN Combatants at Mpungu Clinic.

The area where the PLAN Unit under which the Late Comrade Nghidinua and others served was large, stretching from Mpungu bordering with Okongo in Ohangwena Region and they had to go through the North Eastern Front, under Commander Mbulunganga, in order to reach Kavango due to UNITA enemy bandits on the other side of the Angolan border.

Despite the size of the area, the late Comrade Nghidinua succeeded with her underground team of nurses because of their dedication, bravery and revolutionary spirit guided by the PLAN Unit which was known as Typhoon and later renamed Liberation Unit that covered the entire Eastern Front comprising of Kavango up to the border with Botswana and the then Caprivi, now Zambezi Region.

Fellow mourners;

These were indeed difficult missions and we all know that Operating an undercover intelligence network required not only dedication and commitment to the cause of freedom, but also loyalty and honesty as it was not easy to trust any person with such a difficult assignment.

Any information leak to the enemy could have devastating consequences to our people. Trust and loyalty were therefore key ingredients in identifying such a person. Fortunately, in Comrade Rosalia Nghidinua and her team, SWAPO found loyal, trusted and dedicated cadres who secretly saved many lives of wounded PLAN Combatants. Nothing ever leaked about these clandestine operations. In fact, many people only came to know about them after independence.

That is Comrade Rosalia Nghidinua we are mourning today. She never boasted about the crucial role she played during the liberation struggle as she was such a humble and fearless freedom fighter of our time.

In addition, it was due to her unwavering commitment and patriotism that PLAN combatants in Kavango area did not experience any shortage of medical supplies because she and her team made sure that there was constant flow of medicines. Some of the medical supplies were even taken to her mother's homestead near Mpungu in disguise as if they belonged to her mother, while in actual fact they were destined for PLAN Combatants.

We have thus lost a trusted cadre who was always readily available to render her service to PLAN Combatants. We should draw strength from her courage and heroism as she stood out among those who performed their duties with exceptional dedication and profound sense of determination to defeat the South African white minority oppressors.

Suffice to say, the Late Comrade Nghidinua worked fearlessly and tirelessly despite the curfew and constant harassment by the minority colonial army of South Africa.

For this reason, she 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.

It is against this background that I, as the then Head of State, accorded her the Most Excellent Order of the Eagle in the year Two Thousand and Three (2003) in recognition of her contribution to Namibia's liberation struggle, particularly in working closely with PLAN Intelligence Units before independence.

Before that, I appointed her as Deputy Minister of Labour in the year Two Thousand (2000) and was later promoted to a full ministerial post from Two Thousand and Five (2005) until her retirement in Two Thousand and Fifteen (2015).

We also remain indebted to Comrade Rosalia Nghidinua for her tireless effort on issues affecting women and children and her immeasurable contribution to the plight of the San community and the growth of our mighty SWAPO Party.

Against this background, allow me to thank His Excellency Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob and his cabinet for according her a State Funeral befitting her heroic deeds and immense contribution to Namibia's liberation struggle as well as to the socio-economic development of our country after independence.

Fellow mourners;

While we mourn her passing on, we are also reminded that the peace and stability that we enjoy today did not come on a silver platter but through the sacrifices by many sons and daughters of Namibia, some of whom even paid the supreme price with their lives. We should therefore continue to embrace unity of purpose and action so that we can maintain peace and stability in our country. These are the ideals that the Late Comrade Rosalia Nghidinua lived, strived, and died for.

As we bid her farewell, allow me, on behalf of the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the children and the entire bereaved family on the great loss of a brave and genuine freedom fighter, the Late Comrade Rosalia Annette Ndilinasho Nghidinua.

May her exemplary deeds serve as a permanent source of inspiration as we continue with nation building and charting the future destiny of our country.

May Her Soul Rest In Eternal Peace