



28 November 2016

His Excellency, Army General Raúl Castro Ruz,
President of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba
HAVANA
REPUBLIC OF CUBA

Your Excellency and Dear Brother, Comrade Raúl Castro Ruz,

I received with grief the sad news of the passing on of the legendary revolutionary leader and Founder of the Cuban Revolution, El Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz, at the age of 90 years old in Havana, Cuba.

The passing on of El Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz came after I paid him a courtesy call at his residence on 29 September 2016 during my official visit to the Republic of Cuba. I therefore join the entire world to pay my tribute to a fallen hero, a charismatic and visionary revolutionary leader of our time who was highly admired and respected by friends and foes alike and thus earned himself a place in modern history by his strong stance against imperialism and exceptional resilience against colonialism and social injustices.

His revolutionary and tireless efforts to help free the oppressed people all over the world has left indelible footprints which will be difficult to match. In this regard, we shall for ever remain grateful for the all-round political, diplomatic and material support rendered to the liberation movements in Africa, including the struggling people of Namibia, even in the fields of education and health, by the revolutionary people of Cuba under the wise and able leadership of El Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz.

We salute the people of Cuba for having shared trenches with us and sacrificed their precious lives for the just cause of our freedom and genuine independence. Most importantly, we are left with fond memories of the unprecedented major role played by El Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz, who was an intellectual giant and a military tactician who commanded the decisive and historic battle of Cuito Cuanavale while in his Office in Havana.

It is thus befitting to say that El Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz contributed immensely for the total liberation of Southern Africa, when the white minority apartheid regime of South Africa was defeated and forced to the negotiation table by the combined Angolan FAPLA Forces with the Cuban Internationalist Forces and the Combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

For this reason, the historic battle of Cuito Cuanavale and the Cuban intervention in Angola was the turning point in Southern African history as it led to the withdrawal and defeat of the white minority regime of South Africa from Angola and to the Independence of Namibia on the 21st March 1990 as well as the relinquish of power to the majority government of the ANC in South Africa in April 1994.

Though deeply grieved by the passing on of El Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz, we celebrate his life dedicated to the generous service of his people and humanity at large. Against this background, on behalf of the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to express our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to His Excellency and Dear Brother, Army General Comrade Raúl Castro, the children, the bereaved family and the entire revolutionary people of Cuba for this irreparable loss.

It is my wish that we may all be consoled and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning and remember the clarion call of the revolutionary people of Cuba that says; *"Towards Victory, Always!"*

May The Soul of El Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz Rest In Eternal Peace!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Nujoma', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA