

**TRIBUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY
COMRADE DR SAM NUJOMA
FOUNDING PRESIDENT
AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION
ON THE OCCASION OF THE MEMORIAL SERVICE
OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
DR ABRAHAM IYAMBO-MP**

08 FEBRUARY 2013

PARLIAMENT GARDENS

Director of Ceremonies;
Kuku Helena Penothina Gabriel Shimbulu, the Children and the Entire Bereaved Family;
Your Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia
and Madam Penexupifo Pohamba, First Lady;
Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Hage Geingob;
Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Comrade Theo-Ben Gurirab and Madam
Guriras;
Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Comrade Asser Kapere and Madam
Kapere;
Your Honour, the Chief Justice Peter Shivute and Madam Shivute;
Honourable Ministers;
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Honourable Regional Governors;
Your Worship, the Mayors;
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Members of the Media;
Fellow mourners:

We are gathered here today, to pay our last respects and homage to one of Namibia's gallant sons, a Marine Scientist and Honourable Minister of Education, the Late Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo. At the same time, we are celebrating his outstanding contribution to the building of the Namibian Nation.

It was indeed with profound shock and disbelief that I learnt of the untimely passing on of the Minister of Education, the Late Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo, on February 2nd, 2013.

Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo was a patriotic, committed and revolutionary SWAPO Party cadre. His death is a big loss, not only to his family but also to the entire Namibian Nation. The void he leaves behind will be difficult to fill. He will be sorely missed.

There is no doubt that Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo left us too soon, when he was in the prime of his life. There was still so much he wanted to do as evidenced by his passionate pursuit for free primary education, among others. Undoubtedly, he was one of our greatest champions for the promotion of education in our country.

Fellow Mourners:

Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo came of age politically and intellectually. He – like his peers of that time – was deeply influenced by the liberation struggle which was waged by SWAPO.

It was that struggle that had shaped his mind and inculcated in him the political consciousness that defined his identity as a young freedom fighter.

Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo was one of the students SWAPO had sent to Cuba at the invitation of the revolutionary people of that country under the leadership of El Comandante Fidel Castro Ruz. In this regard, his fundamental political militancy was also inspired by El Comandante Fidel Castro.

Upon completion of his studies in Cuba, Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo returned to Kwanza-Sul, Namibia's Health and Education Centre in Angola, where he imparted the knowledge he had acquired.

In addition to his teaching duties, Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo also ensured that Namibia's Health and Education Centres were supplied with adequate foodstuffs including bread from the bakery that he initiated.

The Late Dr. Abraham Iyambo was an embodiment of SWAPO's long-term vision of a truly independent and self-reliant nation.

He personified single-minded self-application to the task at hand and emerged as the leading figure in the fight against poverty, hunger and disease. He empowered our people at grassroots level, particularly when he initiated the Namibianization policy in the fishing industry as well as the aqua-culture projects throughout the country when he was the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

The Late Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo was a prolific and eloquent public speaker, a scholar of note who fostered critical thinking. For this reason, he was appointed Chairperson of the SWAPO Party's Think-Tank; a task he discharged with zeal as exemplified by the crafted policy documents that were reviewed at the Party's first ever National Policy Conference, that took place in September 2012.

He was also the architect of the National Education Conference which has ignited new ideas to help us improve our country's education system.

Although Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo is no more, the product of his intellect and energy bear witness to his selfless sacrifice and focussed dedication to the betterment of the living standards of his fellow Namibians, in general and a Namibian child, in particular.

His vision for this country he loved so much, laid a strong foundation in the second phase of the struggle for economic independence.

The Late Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo leaves behind an indelible mark and visible footprints as well as a legacy of hard work, exceptional dedication and unwavering commitment to duty, which we must all emulate and draw strength from, as we chart the future destiny of our country.

We will treasure his immeasurable contribution to our nation building process. His exemplary deeds as well as the scientific work he carried out, both in the fishing and education sectors, will be remembered by the current and future generations.

On behalf of the Nujoma Family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to extend our deep-felt sympathy and sincere condolences to the Mother, Kuku Helena Penothina Gabriel Shimbulu, the Children, the Bereaved Family, Comrades and Friends and the Entire Namibian Nation on the loss of Comrade Dr Abraham Iyambo.

May his memories serve as consolation to all of us and grant us fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.