



14 July 2022

His Excellency  
João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço  
President of the Republic of Angola  
**LUANDA**

Your Excellency,

I have learned with extreme sadness of the passing away of H.E. Eng. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Former President of the Republic of Angola, on Friday, 8 July 2022, in Barcelona, Spain.

I last met Former President dos Santos on 16 October 2021, in Luanda, when he returned to Angola from Barcelona, Spain, where he was hospitalized.

On that occasion, we had fruitful exchange of views and recalled the historical ties of friendship and solidarity between our two countries and peoples. Former President dos Santos told me that he was going back to Barcelona for further medical treatment, until I learned the sad news of his passing.

Former President dos Santos was a towering icon, an outstanding freedom fighter who will be missed not only by those who knew him, and not only by the nation that he served so proudly and loved so deeply, but also by millions of men, women and children who enjoy freedom today because of the dreams he pursued.

For decades, the Republic of Angola had been a home for me and for many of my fellow compatriots. The Government of Angola, under the leadership of Founding President Dr Antonio Agostino Neto and later under President Eduardo dos Santos, provided considerable political, diplomatic and material support to SWAPO during the difficult years of our struggle.

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Founder: H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma  
Board of Trustees: Hon. Nahas Angula (Chairperson), Hon. Dr. Penukani Iivula-Ithana,  
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Indeed, we remember when Founding President Dr Antonio Agostino Neto said “Angola is the firm trench for revolution in Africa.” He also said “In Namibia and South Africa, continues our struggle for independence”. After his passing in 1979, Former President dos Santos, who succeeded him, honoured these noble commitments.

It is also worth recalling here that it was the heroism of the combined forces of the Angolan FAPLA, the Cuban Internationalist forces, and the Combatants of the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO’s Military Wing, that defeated at Cuito Cuanavale the Presidential Regiment of PW Botha of the apartheid regime of South Africa.

This led to the collapse of the last vestige of colonialism in Africa, paving the way for the independence of Namibia on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990 and the birth of the democratic and non-racial South Africa on the 27 April 1994.

It is this shared past that makes us, as Namibians, feel the loss of Former President dos Santos all the more deeply.

As we mourn this gallant pan-Africanist, I wish to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the Late Former President Eduardo dos Santos for his steadfastness, unwavering and relentless commitment to our struggle in the face of military aggression, political pressure and economic destabilisation by the apartheid regime of South Africa and their backers, resulting in the massive loss of human lives and untold destruction of physical infrastructure in Southern Angola.

Former President Eduardo dos Santos sterling contributions to advance African unity and closer integration, through Angola’s participation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union and to world peace, will be remembered by many generations to come.

His contribution to democracy, nation-building, economic reconstruction and the socio-economic wellbeing of Angola is second-to-none. The rich legacy left by the Late Former President Eduardo dos Santos will continue to have an impact on the lives of many Namibians that he touched with his wise leadership, generosity and pure compassion. The people of Namibia will eternally be indebted to the Late Former President Eduardo dos Santos.

Former President Eduardo dos Santos' untimely death has thus robbed Angola, Namibia and Africa of a revolutionary and tireless freedom fighter, a seasoned diplomat and negotiator as well as a great statesman, who dedicated his entire adult life to the realization of the liberation not only of Angola, but the entire region.

On behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies, through Your Excellency, to the entire bereaved family and the fraternal people and Government of the Republic of Angola.

May the people of the great nation of Angola find peace as we are granted solace and fortitude in this difficult moment of bereavement and sorrow.

May the revolutionary legacy of Former President Eng. José Eduardo dos Santos live on and May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sam Nujoma', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Nujoma

**FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**