



20 July 2022

The Widow, Meme Petrina Kafita, the Children
and the Entire Bereaved Family
Okambembe Village
Ongenga Constituency
OHANGWENA REGION

The Widow, Meme Petrina Kafita, the Children and the Entire Bereaved Family

I have learned with extreme sadness of the passing away of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, Comrade Lt. Col. Muunda John Kafita, affectionately known by his nom de guerre as "Station", on Thursday, 07th July 2022.

As you gather to bid farewell to one of the pioneering veterans and heroes of our National Liberation struggle, allow me therefore to pay tribute to his bravery as a gallant freedom fighter and a person of extraordinary courage in the face of adversities.

His obituary bares testimony to the fact that the history of our armed liberation struggle is punctuated by his valuable contributions. Having witnessed the brutal oppression of our people by the minority regime of apartheid South Africa and armed with the belief that as Namibians we were the sole liberators of our country, this conviction informed not only his ideological outlook and political activism but it also shaped his character.

It is against this background that he joined SWAPO in 1965 at Walvis Bay, inspired by the Late Comrade Natanael Maxwili and others, and subsequently joined the liberation struggle in exile through Rundu, Sakawe in Bechuanaland until he reached Francis Town where he spent six months and met the Late Commander Ndeimana Shikololo. He later went to Kazungula border post where he was joined by many other Comrades such as Vice-President Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, the Former Prime Minister Comrade Nahas Angula and many others.

In 1966, the Late Lt. Col. Kafita went to Zambia where Former President Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba was our representative.

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He was unflinching in his determination to end apartheid colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and this tempered him into the disciplined and humble combatant of the then South West Africa Liberation Army (SWALA), later renamed as the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing, whose rank and file he joined in 1970. He was sent to the Former Soviet Union for military training, where he also returned in 1972, and specialized in Artillery.

With the opening of the Eastern front in 1972 in the former Caprivi Strip, he was deployed to the Front where he participated in many battles against the apartheid South African Forces.

One of the memorable military operations in which the late Comrade Station participated at the Eastern Front, was the battle on January the 26, 1973 together with some of our best PLAN fighters such as Commanders Matias Ndakolo "Mbulunganga", Haiduwa, Ndadi, Kapelwa, McNamara, Elise Hauluyondjamba, Nambahu ya Nambili, Nande Shafombambi, Aron Embashu (Shongambe), Hamunyela wa Shalali, Shikongo Shaanghala, Ndeimana, Limoto, Lucas Kuranda "Situation", Ismael Kamati ka Shimuna (Ngiringiri), Lufimile Mwanawina, Canisius Andreas, Peter Tshirumbu Sheehama, Hanghome, Commissar "Kokaulu" Nganyone among others.

These fearless Combatants of PLAN attacked and destroyed an enemy military base at Kamenga and successfully engaged the enemy forces at other places such as Luyana, Xamavera, Bwabwata in the Western Province of Zambia and Cuando Cubango Province of Angola.

Another outstanding and historical military operation in which he participated was the battle that took place on April the 20th, 1973, when our combatants laid a perfect ambush on the platoon of about 37 enemy soldiers and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. They captured the weapons and ammunitions of the enemy including heavy machine guns, radio communication equipment, medication, military topographic maps and many other military items which were later showcased to the then Liberation Committee of the OAU.

As a matter of fact, there is a popular song in SWAPO about this specific battle which was under the stewardship of the Late Comrade Peter Sheehama when he was instructed by Commanders Mbulunganga, Hanghome and Haiduwa.

The song is called "*Hatutange Ongudu yetu ya longa iilonga nghondo...*"

When the Liberation struggle intensified between 1975 and 1976, following the alliance of the enemy forces of FNLA, UNITA and the apartheid regime of South Africa, the Late Lt. Col. Kafita under Commander Matias Ndakolo (Mbulunganga), together with Commander Dimo Hamaambo and other gallant combatants of PLAN intensified concerted actions at the battle front and scored many victories against the enemy forces.

Unfortunately, the Late Lt. Col. Kafita was injured during one of the battles. After recovery, he was assigned to train our Combatants in Artillery Pieces at Oshatotwa Military Base.

In 1979, the Late Lt. Col. Kafita was trained as a Police Officer in Barbados and was later admitted at the United Nations Institute for Namibia (UNIN) and also went to Yugoslavia for Intelligence training. It is against this background that he was appointed as a Camp Director at Nyango Health and Education Centre until he was repatriated to Namibia in 1991 and joined the Namibian Police Force in 1992 until his retirement in 2006.

Through the life journey of the Late Lt. Col. Kafita we are able to see the road we have traversed with the heroic sons and daughters of the land of the braves. Our people should know that the independence we are enjoying today did not come on a silver platter but through the sweat and blood of many brave sons and daughters of Namibia under the umbrella of our National Liberation Movement of SWAPO.

The Late Lt. Col. Kafita was indeed a gallant combatant of PLAN whom we are all proud of and we take solace in the knowledge that he departs as a hero of our National Liberation struggle who never wavered. To his family, our hearts go out to you as you go through the grief of a loss so overwhelming. It is our wish that you are consoled by the knowledge that the formidable legacy of the Late Lt. Col. Kafita lives on.

As he takes his well-deserved seat amongst the galaxy of our heroes and heroines, allow me on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to convey our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the family and all the comrades for this loss.

May his revolutionary spirit continue to guide us as we chart the future destiny of our country!

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!



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