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Gorbachev Foundation
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I join the international community in offering my sincere condolences to the daughter, Irina Virganskaya and members of the bereaved family, including the esteemed circle of Nobel Laureates, at the passing of His Excellency, Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev was a visionary leader and admirable statesman who will be remembered for his role in ending the cold war, which marked geopolitical tension in the world and bringing peace to several African nations amid civil war.

In support of our own liberation, Mr. Gorbachev, as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's Central Committee from 11 March 1985 – 24 August 1991, sustained the Soviet Union's support for our struggle in the critical period that led to the freedom and genuine independence of Namibia on the 21st March 1990.

In this regard, Namibia is greatly indebted to the support provided by the Soviet Union to SWAPO as a liberation movement and to anti-colonial struggles in Southern Africa.

In addition, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev will be remembered for his signature policies such as glasnost and perestroika reforms he initiated in the late 1980s, meaning openness and transparency of government in an effort to transform the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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Similarly, he will be remembered when he worked actively to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world. Even after his retirement, he continued to be committed to promoting peace and reconciliation in the world.

In the same vein, we take note of the humanitarian and charitable work of Mr. Gorbachev's wife, Raisa Gorbachev and we should keep his legacy alive by emulating his good deeds when he encouraged freedom and worked to create a demilitarised world.

As you carry His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev to his final resting place, please allow me, on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Sam Nujoma Foundation and indeed on my own behalf, to extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the family and the people and Government of the Russian Federation for this loss. May you be granted fortitude under this dark cloud.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!



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