



12 October 2022

The Widow, Meekulu Martha Kuumbili Uushona, the Children
and the Entire Bereaved Family of the Late Comrade Malakia Mbashu
Uushona yaShivute
King Kauluma
OSHIKOTO REGION

Dear Meekulu Martha Kuumbili Uushona and the Entire Bereaved Family

It is with profound sadness that Meekulu Kovambo and I have learned of the passing of your beloved husband, father, uncle, grandfather and a Pioneer Veteran of the Namibian Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Malakia Mbashu Uushona yaShivute, on Friday, 07 October 2022.

We therefore pay tribute to a man of distinction, of resolve, of immense courage, and of selflessness. A man who devoted his life to the liberation of our country and our people.

The Late Comrade Malakia suffered the pain of exile. He survived incarceration in a foreign land. He forsook the comforts of ordinary life to pick up a gun in the cause of the liberation of our motherland. He survived bullets, and cheated death. He endured hardship that would have crushed the spirit of any human being. But he was no ordinary man. He was from the legion of the pioneer veterans of the South West Africa Liberation Army (SWALA), the standard-bearers of the politically conscious and revolutionary army of Namibia, later renamed the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

Having answered the call of history when he joined OPO, the forerunner of SWAPO, in 1959 to fight against apartheid colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, he is part of the pioneer members of our liberation struggle when he left Namibia in 1964 and was amongst those sent for military training in Ghana and later on at Kongwa in Tanzania, specializing in Infantry and First Aid.

The men and women who joined the armed liberation struggle at such a time were amongst the bravest of the brave. It was a time when any association with the liberation movement risked imprisonment, and even death.

They were young, and their entire lives stretched before them. But they were of uncompromising revolutionary morality, and understood the prophetic call of our forefathers such as King Mandume jaNdemufajo when he said “*Oupika nefjo shimuaashike*”, followed by the prophetic words of King lipumbu jaTshilongo when he said “*Nando mu tidhe ndje mo moshilongo shandje, ohiinina ta yeya shito ye mu tse oshiti*”.

In 1967, the Late Comrade Malakia was injured and captured in Botswana and later sentenced to life imprisonment at the notorious Robben Island prison. He was released in 1985 and he never wavered until Namibia attained its freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990.

The Late Comrade Malakia joins the glorious ranks of our heroes and heroines whose actions lit the path to our freedom and genuine independence. These brave men and women were the vanguard of the liberation struggle. They fought with gallantry and intensity, taking on the might of the apartheid army and its regime. It is here that we learn about some of the virtues that epitomized these pioneer veterans of our struggle.

The story of his life offers many lessons to us today. Lessons in courage, lessons on the virtue of discipline, and on the limitless capacity for endurance of the human being. But perhaps above all it is a lesson on devotion to a mission and to a cause, no matter how long and bitter the struggle.

These were the honour codes that spurred the men and women of the Late Comrade Malakia’s generation, and continued to guide them even once we attained our freedom and genuine independence. Their lives were lived appreciating that to reach our ultimate goal requires courage, fortitude and above all, revolutionary morality and discipline.

As we look at the historical accounts, we are astonished by their bravery of advancing deep into hostile enemy territory under cover of darkness; of hiding along crocodile infested riverbanks; of encountering locals who did not speak their language. They fought, refusing to retreat, often to the bitter end. Let us ponder on this image and strive to emulate it.

We remember and salute those who lost their lives. We remember those who were captured and imprisoned and sentenced to death by the racist regime of apartheid yet prison did not break them, and their courage knew no bounds. And yet it was not courage alone that fuelled them. They were men and women of revolutionary morality and integrity, who were committed to the cause and values of the liberation struggle.

Though the Late Comrade Malakia is no longer with us, the ideas for which he stood will never die. In bidding farewell to a giant of the liberation struggle, I call on our people, especially our young people, to pick up where he left and strive to fight with equal measure to overcome the ills in our society and that will be the greatest and most befitting tribute in his honour.

To the family I say, we share in your sorrow and we join you in celebrating a life well lived in the service of others punctuated by indelible marks of bravery and patriotism. Our thoughts are with you as you go through this difficult time of mourning.

Please be consoled by the fact that in recognition of his bravery and self-sacrifice, the Late Comrade Malakia was awarded a medal of honour at Omugulugwombashe, on 26 August 2007, and given the title of Colonel by the Namibian Defence Force.

To the three surviving children Josephine, Kristofine and Aili Uushona, the nieces, nephews, grandchildren and the Entire Bereaved Family, may you be comforted by all the words of honour that have been ascribed to your beloved father, grandfather and uncle.

As the family comes to terms with this tragic moment of the dark cloud hovering around you, 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 sympathies for this loss. It is my sincere wish that we may all be comforted and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

May the revolutionary spirit of the Late Comrade Malakia Mbashu Uushona yaShivute continue to guide us as we chart the future destiny of our country!

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!



Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

FOUNDER
The Sam Nujoma Foundation