



12 October 2022

The Children, the grandchildren and the Entire Bereaved Family of the Late Comrade Susan Nghidinua
Tsumeb
OSHIKOTO REGION

It was with the heaviest of hearts that my wife and I have learned of the passing of your beloved mother, grandmother, aunty, the Former Mayor of Tsumeb and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Susan Nghidinua, on Friday, 07 October 2022, at the Roman Catholic Hospital in Windhoek.

We have seen all the heartfelt tributes from those who interacted with her over the years. We have heard from those who described her as being a good mother and a servant leader of the people.

As I listened to all the tributes, I reflected on her attributes. We always speak highly of servant leadership and extoll its virtues and there is no one who best personified and embodied these attributes then the Late Comrade Nghidinua.

In this regard, even if death has robbed us of the Late Comrade Nghidinua, what is important is that we use this life to sow good works that outlive us. Our departed Comrade has left behind many good works. But what she has also left behind is a reminder that the values we live by define us more than anything else.

I came to know the Late Comrade Nghidinua when she trained as a teacher at Okahao where the female students were looked after by my Late Mother, Kuku Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo.

The Late Comrade Nghidinua exuded passion as well as love for her family and our people. She was a compassionate and humble leader and respectful of the people, and in turn earned their respect.

It is thus with fond memories that I particularly remember the Late Comrade Nghidinua when in 1993 I entrusted her with our daughter Christina Van-Dunem Da Fonsech when she was a little girl and took care of her until she became the iron lady and Chief Inspector in the Namibian Police Force. She also took care of her until her marriage in 2020.

Indeed, the Late Comrade Nghidinua joined politics in 1961 when she was mobilized by former President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the Late Comrade Andimba Toivo ya Toivo in the Copper Town of Tsumeb.

She later joined us in exile in 1974 together with her husband Comrade Tulipohamba and their children where she joined the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

Much more could be said of the role women played in our struggle – from feeding and caring for the combatants in the war zone, which they did generously, to actual military duties. It is against this background that the Late Comrade Nghidinua joined the Cuban women's anti-aircraft regiment who were stationed in and around Lubango.

I remember when I addressed the Cuban Women's anti-aircraft regiment in Lubango at a reception hosted in their honour by the SWAPO Women's Council led by Comrades Putuse Appolus, including the Late Comrade Susan Nghidinwa, Ailly Shikuambi, to mention but a few.

The Late Comrade Nghidinua later went to work at the SWAPO's Office in Lusaka as a Representative of the SWAPO Women's Council (SWC) when she was appointed as the SWC Secretary for Foreign Affairs in 1980 and spent much of her time campaigning for aid for SWAPO's Health and Education Centres in Zambia and Angola, respectively.

The Late Comrade Nghidinua set up the SWAPO Office in Tsumeb, together with the Late Comrade Peter Tshirumbu, and mobilised support for SWAPO ahead of the November 1989 elections.

In 1993 she was elected as the first female Mayor of the town of Tsumeb and served in that position until 1998. From 2000 to 2002, the Late Comrade Nghidinua went to serve as Secretary for Finance at the Pan-African Women's Organisation in Luanda, Angola until her retirement.

In her memory, let us keep the culture of servant leadership in order to honour her legacy when she served diligently and with integrity. May it be said of each of us that we are of good character and of good reputation like the Late Comrade Nghidinua.

To the five surviving wonderful children Maila, Nangula, Maria, Natasha and Kiti, the 10 grandchildren – Feiyo-Peik, Ariel, Wendy, Jesaya, Emily, Lucy, James, Ethan, Nathan and Atushe and the Entire Bereaved Family, we share your sorrow. May you be comforted by all the words of honour that have been ascribed to your beloved mother, grandmother and aunty.

While knowing that words alone cannot say how deeply we feel with you as you strive to overcome the dark clouds that hover around your family, we nevertheless wish that you find solace in the knowledge that we share in your grief and that the formidable legacy of Comrade Susan Nghidinua will live on. We take inspiration from her life as we redouble our efforts to build a humane, egalitarian and caring society.

As you lay her to rest, allow me, on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to pay tribute to the Late Comrade Susan Nghidinua for her unwavering and lifelong dedication to serving our people.

In the same vein, allow me to convey our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the children, the grandchildren, the Entire Bereaved Family and all Comrades in this sad hour. May we all be granted solace and fortitude as we strive to overcome this dark cloud.

May the Soul of the Late Comrade Susan Nghidinua Rest In Eternal Peace!



Sam Nujoma

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