



27 January 2023

The Widow, Meekulu Mwaalange Rebekka Ndume yaKayulu Kakoto, the Children and the Entire Bereaved Family
Onamunhama Village
Ondobe Constituency
OHANGWENA REGION

The Widow, Meekulu Mwaalange Rebekka Ndume yaKayulu Kakoto, the Children and the Entire Bereaved Family

It is with profound sadness that I have learned of the passing of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, Comrade Paulus Indeni Kakoto, on Monday, 16th January 2023, at Eenhana State Hospital in Ohangwena Region.

The late Comrade Kakoto, affectionately known as Hailwa Shimbongonyona, is one of the fearless freedom fighters who started his political activism in his youthful years and endured hardship that would have crushed the spirit of those who were eager to fight against apartheid and colonialism.

We therefore pay tribute to a man of distinction, immense courage and selflessness who devoted his life to the liberation of our country and our people. He was imprisoned and tortured through electric shock for 6 months when he was captured by South African Security Forces using a helicopter.

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 brave and gallant members of our liberation struggle when he left Namibia in 1974 and was amongst those who were sent for military training in 1975 at Kasapa and Tobias Hainyeko military bases respectively.

When Cassinga was attacked on 4th May 1978, the late Cde. Kakoto was only there for three days and was fortunate to survive by hiding in a river bed with other fellow fighters such as Cde. Shikakole and Cde. Mbolondondo.

As the fighting intensified he became a section commander first in Okahama and later in Oshitumba in Angola. Apart from his work as commander in Angola he was later given the responsibility to do subsistence farming in the region of Lubango in order to produce food for the disabled freedom fighters, orphans, women, children and soldiers in that region. He completed his duties with courage and determination until he returned to Namibia to participate in UN-monitored national elections.

Against this background, the late Comrade Kakoto 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. They were men and women of revolutionary morality and integrity, who were committed to the cause and values of the liberation struggle.

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.

Though the late Comrade Kakoto 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.

As we come to terms with this tragic moment of the dark cloud hovering around the bereaved Kakoto family, 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 Paulus Indeni Kakoto 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
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