



06 March 2023

The Widow, Meme Maria Amakali-Hamata,
the Children and the Entire Bereavement Family
Erf 1268
Oshakati East
OSHANA REGION

Dear Meme Maria Amakali-Hamata, the Children and the Entire Bereavement Family

ON THE PASSING OF YOUR BELOVED HUSBAND, FATHER AND GRANDFATHER COMRADE DR NAFTAL TUYOLENI HAMATA

It is with great sadness that I have learnt about the passing of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle as well as a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, Comrade Dr Naftal Tuyoleni Hamata on Wednesday morning, 01 March 2023, at Ongwediva Medipark, at the age of 78.

This is a sad and difficult day, a devastating loss for the family in particular and the nation in general as well as the entire medical fraternity. In this regard, we join the entire family, friends and comrades as you gather in solemn mourning to pay the last respects to a silent giant of our liberation struggle, a respected and renowned seasoned medical surgeon and upstanding gynaecologist in our country, whose life was dedicated to the cause of freedom. As we mourn his passing, we commend and celebrate a life well lived in the service of others.

Indeed, Dr Hamata was the embodiment of an idea that one's purpose in life is to serve others. Throughout a rich and meaningful life he lived, wherever he found himself, whatever responsibilities he was given, he was bound by a determination to serve others and liberate his people from the bondage of apartheid. It is for this reason that in 1959, he joined OPO, the precursor to SWAPO, when he was recruited by the late Comrade Mzee Kaukungwa.

After matriculation in 1967 at Oshigambo High School, Dr Hamata continued with his studies at the University of Natal and became a medical surgeon following in the footsteps of Dr Thomas Ihuhua. He later specialized as a gynaecologist.

Indeed, upon completion of their studies in 1973 and 1976 respectively, they worked at Onandjokwe Lutheran Mission Hospital. They were labelled by the apartheid regime as terrorists because they did not want to work under the so-called administration of the Ovambo. They also shared responsibilities for treating wounded combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing. Dr Hamata even went as far as Gobabis to help a female pregnant PLAN combatant deliver a baby and took care of her until she gave birth.

He also used his house at Onamishu Village to feed, nurse, shelter and provide money and medicine to PLAN combatants. In addition, he provided logistical support and information on the movement of the enemy forces to PLAN combatants, together with his wife, Meme Maria Amakali-Hamata.

His support to the liberation struggle led to his arrest on June 30, 1980 and was taken to Osire detention camp, where he was interrogated, harassed and tortured until his release on August 26. Upon his release from Osire, he resolved to join the liberation struggle in exile but the church pleaded with him to stay put and help the community.

Despite the suffering he endured, this did not deter him and he never wavered until the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on 21st March 1990. Dr Hamata was thus one of a remarkable generation of freedom fighters that endured the hardship of exile and prison and whose deeds will reverberate across the ages.

With the advent of independence, Dr Hamata was one of those given the task of forging a new democratic state. He was indeed a person of great modesty and dignity. He was also moderate in demeanour and measured in his address. These may be commendable personality traits, but they are also among the qualities that we should seek in a leader. Those who worked with him remember fondly how meticulous he was. They recall his commitment to rigorous discipline, cool-headed and calculated words. In this regard, the family, like all of us, assume a great responsibility to carry forward his legacy.

Our nation's thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time. To the widow, Meme Maria Amakali-Hamata, the sister, Meme Ipawa Victoria Haiping, the three children, Tuyeni, Hamunyela and Tuyoleni as well as the Entire Bereaved Family, may you be comforted by all the words of honour and glowing tributes that have been ascribed to your beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather and uncle.

As a family, may you also be comforted by the knowledge that, to honour his selfless contribution to the liberation struggle, he was awarded the Liberation Medal in 2004 and there is a street with two lanes named after him in Oshakati, Oshana Region. It is therefore befitting that the Government has conferred a State Funeral on the Late Comrade Dr Naftal Tuyoleni Hamata.

As you lay him to rest, 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.

There are no words that can bring comfort at this time, but may your pain be relieved, may your hearts be eased; may your tears be wiped dry and it is my sincere wish that we may all be comforted and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning and may his abundant legacy endure.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!



Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

FOUNDER
The Sam Nujoma Foundation