



24 March 2023

The Widow, Madam Elizabeth Goliath, the Children
and the Entire Bereaved Family
Berseba Village
Berseba Constituency
//KHARAS REGION

Dear Madam Elizabeth Goliath, the Children, the entire Bereaved Family and the Berseba Community.

It is with profound sadness that I have learned of the passing of your beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, Deputy Chief of the /Hai/Khaua Traditional Authority, Comrade Stephanus Goliath, on Friday, 10th March 2023.

While knowing that words alone cannot say how deeply we feel with you and your family as well the entire Berseba Community in this time of bereavement, we nevertheless wish that you find solace in the knowledge that we share in your grief.

Yet we also celebrate a veteran of our National Liberation Struggle who played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Nama Teachers Union and influenced other traditional leaders in the South to support the liberation struggle in the mid-1970s, when Berseba traditional authority openly joined SWAPO under the able leadership of his forerunner, Chief Dawid Christian Goliath of the /Hai/Khaua Traditional community.

Indeed, I recall that on 17 January 1975, SWAPO issued a wide-ranging policy statement at a Press Conference in Windhoek where we declared our position on the Turnhalle talks and concentrated on building an immovable wall of national unity and mobilizing nation-wide support against the Turnhalle Constitutional Conference.

It is against this background that on 17 August 1976, the Rehoboth Volksparty, habitually the majority in the Gebiet, was the first to declare its resolve and join SWAPO. It was followed in October 1976 by the four most popular and influential leaders and their followers in Southern Namibia, headed by Reverend Hendrik Witbooi from Gibeon, Chief Joel Stefanus from Vaalgras, Chief S. Isaks from Keetmanshoop and Chief H. Noeteb from Hoachanas. This was about four-fifths of the Nama-speaking population of 37 000 who joined SWAPO.

Due to his unwavering commitment to fight for freedom and genuine independence of our country, the Late Chief Goliath was deprived of all the privileges that traditional chiefs used to enjoy. Similarly, the Late Chief Goliath was arrested and imprisoned for six months under the notorious AG 26 Proclamation because of his involvement in the liberation struggle.

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After independence, the Late Chief Goliath served as the first Governor of the //Kharas Region and consolidated himself in his community and imprinted deep-seated influence on the cultural and political landscape of the //Kharas Region.

Throughout his life, he maintained his composure and integrity and advocated for traditional communities to preserve their land rights and fully participate in leasehold allocations of their land.

He also played instrumental roles for the establishment of the Neckartal Dam and the Ostrich communal farming. Most importantly, he sacrificed a royal position to achieve greater unity for community.

Let us draw guidance and inspiration from the life of the Late Chief Goliath. May we emulate his rare qualities of visionary and exemplary leadership and his sense of sacrifices for greater good of others. Indeed, he was a product of the golden age, when sacrifice and commitment to freedom was the only consideration that motivated leaders to be involved in the struggle.

Therefore, the history of Namibia, particularly the South of Namibia, cannot be written without mentioning his name as he was a nationalist rooted in tradition and a unifier who never wavered in his stance and principles.

It is saddening that his departure came at a time when he was expected to continue to execute his responsibilities by his community. It is my sincere hope that another dynamic and wise leader will emerge from his community to take over where he has left.

His family lost a dear husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather; the /Hai-/Khaua community lost a leader and the nation lost a unifier. It is therefore befitting that the government has bestowed on him a State Funeral.

To the family and the entire Berseba community, as Chief Stephanus Goliath finds his final resting place, allow me, on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for this irreparable loss. May we all be granted fortitude during these trying times.

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!

Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA