



18 August 2023

Meme Maria Nandjila Amundaba, the Children, the Grandchildren and the Entire Bereaved Family of the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba  
Old Ongwediva  
**OSHANA REGION**

Dear Meme Maria Nandjila Amundaba and the Entire Bereaved Family

It is with great sadness that I have learned about the passing of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba, on Tuesday, 08 August 2023, at Ongwediva Medipark, Oshana Region.

Indeed, death has robbed us of a generous and selfless father and grandfather as well as a valuable repository of experience and a gallant former combatant of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing, who contributed immensely to the attainment of the freedom and genuine independence of our country on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990.

With the passing of the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba, yet another light in a glorious generation of the pioneering Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle has been extinguished.

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 veterans of our struggle.

The white minority colonial regime of South Africa had determined that he should live a life of servitude, toiling each day for the comfort and security to please apartheid. However, he had different plans. Yes, he would endure a life of service, but not to any master other than the struggling masses of the Namibian people, not to any cause other than the cause of freedom and genuine independence.

It is against this background that the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba wanted to further his education at St Mary's Odibo School but a friend of his advised him to see the Late Comrade Andimba Herman Toivo Ya Toivo at Ondjondjo, Ondangwa to arrange for him to go and study outside the country. In this regard, the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba left for exile in 1965, via Botswana, and finally arrived in Zambia.

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In 1966 he went to study at Nkumbi College in Zambia with the current Vice President, Dr Nangolo Mbumba and many others such as Comrades Nahas Angula, Bambo, Vitalis Ankama, David Mbango, Linus Mawila Amwele, Joas lipinge, Elise Hauljondjamba and the Late Comrades Commander Wilbard Tashiya Nacada Chicololo, Peter Tchirumbu Tsheehama and Andrew Intamba. After he finished at Nkumbi College in 1972, he went to reinforce the fighting capabilities of other PLAN combatants at the Eastern Front in 1973.

Indeed, in June 1973, PLAN High Command at Kaunga Mashi was planning a mission to conduct an intelligence assessment of the situation in areas of Southern Angola and Northern Namibia, eastern Ovamboland in particular, to gather all intelligence information on the enemy and other forces, explore possible infiltration routes, challenges, logistics needs and survivability options, local support, see how best to establish a supply line, mobilization and recruitment and identify suitable places where to place staging bases.

On the basis of this report, a decision was made to assign a combat group under Commander Matias Ndakolo Mbulunganga with Phillip Nandenga Zulu as Political Commissar to establish a forward presence in Southern Angola and carry out mass recruitment and small raids on enemy troops. The group left Zambia in December 1973 and was designated as a “no return group”.

The Late Commander Nacada Chicololo was one of the platoon commanders in this group. In October 1975, Nacada was assigned a mission back to Zambia to deliver a detailed report on the situation obtained in Angola to the Secretary of Defence and to seek support from the national leadership. He was accompanied by Linus Mawila Amwele, Oscar Shilongo sha Elia Haipinge, Jonas Zambia Shingenge and four others.

In addition, they were also reinforced with 17 combatants among them Dr Eloby Amundaba, Eprfras Denga Ndaitwah, Eprfras Hainyeko Hangula, Mbwale Akwaake, Kambode Ankambo, Kasimi, and Solom Kamati Governo.

By mid-December 1975 the group was ready to move to Cunene Province of Angola five or so weeks after the declaration of independence and was escorted across the border by the Late Comrade Maxton Josef Mutongolume and Usko Nambinga.

The Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba was sent to the then Soviet Union (USSR) until 1975 when he returned to Angola. In 1976, he was deployed to the North Western Front as the Front’s chief medical officer under the Late Commander Wilbard Tashiya Nacada Chikololo.

During 1978 when the Front was visited by SWAPO's Secretary of Defence, the Late Comrade Peter Eneas Nanyemba, the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba was part of the delegation which went inside Namibia through Hayuumba's Detachment at Oshilambo to Omavela ma Sakaria.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1978, their headquarters at Oshikango sha Popawa well-known as the Vietnam base just like Cassinga was attacked. He survived the attack and they relocated to Cahama where he stayed and later went to Omunghete (East of Oukwangali) where PLAN's Central Clinic (PCC) was established and carried that name since then until the end of the war.

At PLAN Military Council's meeting in 1979, the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba was appointed as PLAN's Chief of Medical services and a member of the Military Council, taking over from Dr John Hedimbi (Dr Kalangula) who was injured during the Cassinga attack and disabled. He stayed in that position until he was repatriated back to Namibia in 1989. The Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba is credited to have setup PLAN's Central Clinic (which was mobile) in the war zone and treated PLAN combatants from all the three Fronts. It is for this reason that after independence he worked for the Ministry of Health and Social Services until his retirement.

Thus, the story of his life offers many lessons for 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 Eloby Amundaba's generation and continued to guide them even once we attained our freedom and genuine independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990.

As we look at the historical accounts of many Veterans of our Liberation Struggle, 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. 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 Eloby Amundaba is no longer with us, the ideas for which he stood will never die. In bidding farewell to him, I call on our people, especially his children and grandchildren, 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 Widow, Meme Maria Nandjila Amundaba, the Children, the Grandchildren and the Entire Bereaved Family, we share in your sorrow and join you in celebrating a life well lived in the service of our people, punctuated by indelible marks of bravery and patriotism. Our thoughts are with you as you go through this difficult time of mourning.

May you be comforted by all the words of honour that have been ascribed to your beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Eloby Amundaba.

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 Eloby Amundaba continue to guide us as we chart the future destiny of our country!

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!



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