

13 July 2023

Comrade Paul Nakawa, the Siblings, the Children, Grandchild and the Entire Bereaved Nakawa and Nkandi Families  
Ondando Village, Oniipa  
**OSHIKOTO REGION**

Dear Comrade Paul Nakawa

It is with a heavy heart that I have learned about the passing on of your beloved brother, uncle, father and grandfather, the Late Comrade Leonard Tangeni Pendapala Nakawa, on Wednesday, 05 July 2023, at his Oniipa residence, Ondando Village in the Oshikoto Region.

On this day, a great shadow has fallen and hangs heavy across the entire bereaved Nakawa and Nkandi families as the Late Comrade Pendapala Nakawa is no more. For those who knew him, who worked alongside him, who counted and relied on him, who learned from him, who loved him, it is unbearable that we will never see him again.

While knowing that words alone cannot say how deeply we feel with you and the entire bereaved family in this time of sorrow, we nevertheless wish that you find solace in the knowledge that many of us share in your grief. In this regard, it is with profound sorrow that I write to pay my last respects and bid farewell to the Late Comrade Leonard Tangeni Pendapala Nakawa, affectionately known as Mr. Easy Life, but also to celebrate his life and acknowledge his immense contribution to our country's freedom and genuine independence.

Indeed, the Late Comrade Pendapala Nakawa hails from a family of heroes of our National Liberation Struggle. His parents, the Late Comrade Gideon Nakawa and Kuku Trefina Ndinelago Nakawa, were the unsung heroes of Namibia's struggle for independence. They were trained by PLAN combatants inside Namibia as Intelligence Operators. Their training included the handling of weapons and ammunitions and their proper storage, collection of information about the enemy as well as the protection and concealment of combatants. Their main activities involved providing the necessary amenities such as food, clothing, shelter and transport to the combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing, and infiltrating combatants and war materials from the Northern Communal Area through Oshivelo Gate into the Commercial Area.

Four (4) years after the Late Comrade Pendapala Nakawa's birth, his uncles, the Late Comrades John Itaala Nakawa and Festus Nakawa, were subjected to continuous harassment and incarceration in notorious prisons under the white minority South African colonial regime, due to their active participation in political activities, while his father, the Late Comrade Gideon Nakawa, was on the hunt to be arrested and join his brothers in jail.

During that time, his father, the Late Comrade Gideon Nakawa, worked at the then CDM in Oranjemund and was providing much-needed resources to his brothers who were political mobilisers based in Windhoek, Walvisbay, and in the north of Namibia. It is for this reason that the trio was affectionately known as the Nakawa brothers.

It is a well-known historical fact that the Nakawa brothers played a pivotal role in our National Liberation Struggle when they used to provide free transport to a large number of young Namibians to the Oshikango-Angola borders, especially in the aftermath of the Portuguese coup of 1974 and the violence after the boycotted Ovamboland Bantustan elections of 1973.

These young Namibians were joining the liberation struggle abroad in order to reinforce the fighting capabilities of the brave Combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

Indeed, the Late Comrade Pendapala Nakawa's family persevered through hardship and was subjected to humiliating political scrutiny by the white minority South African colonial regime, as his uncles, Comrades John and Festus Nakawa, were arrested and imprisoned in 1979, and his father died tragically a few months later in 1980.

Similarly, like the Late Comrade Brendan Simbwaye, who was imprisoned, chained in a baobab tree-hole and tortured, then taken from the then Caprivi Strip to Outjo and thereafter to Warmbad area and later disappeared without trace, during our struggle for independence, the same fate that befell Comrade Simbwaye befell hundreds of other Comrades such as John Nakawa, Johannes Kakuva, Toivo Shilongo, Sakeus Petrus Iita and many others who also disappeared without trace.

Thus, the news of the passing on of the Late Comrade Pendapala Nakawa struck a deep and solemn note in the entire bereaved Nakawa and Nkandi families as now, once again, the stroke of death has taken one of the family members who has been a citadel, a rock and a tower of strength to the family when it looked up to him for reassurance and for certainty.

Against this background, the revolutionary deeds of his father Gideon Nakawa and his uncles John and Festus Nakawa, as well as his own deeds, will never be forgotten by the current and future generations.

To the seven siblings, five children and one grandchild as well as the entire bereaved extended family, 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 generosity, perseverance, indomitable spirit, unparalleled mental resilience and unshakeable faith. On his passing, we take solace in the knowledge that he lived to see the independence of his motherland.

To the entire bereaved family, 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 brother, father, uncle and grandfather, the Late Comrade Leonard Tangeni Pendapala Nakawa.

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 extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the entire bereaved Nakawa and Nkandi Families for your loss.

May you all be strengthened and granted fortitude to overcome this tragic moment of a dark cloud hovering around you.

May the Soul of the Late Comrade Leonard Tangeni Pendapala Nakawa Rest In Eternal Peace!



**FOUNDER**  
The Sam Nujoma Foundation

Sam Nujoma  
**FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**