



01 August 2023

The Children, Grandchildren and the Entire Bereavement Family of the Late Comrade Paulus Pandeni Ndafitali Katuta
173 Van Rhyn Avenue
Windhoek North
KHOMAS REGION

The Entire Bereavement Family

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE LATE COMRADE PAULUS PANDENI NDAFITALI KATUTA

This is indeed a sad day and a sad time in the life of our nation as over the past few months we have lost a number of Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle. With the passing of the Late Comrade Paulus Pandeni Ndafitali Katuta, on Thursday, 27 July 2023, yet another light in a glorious generation of Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle has been extinguished.

I am particularly touched by the passing of the Late Comrade Katuta as his death followed the passing of his beloved wife, the Late Comrade Meme Sirkka Helena Shoye Katuta, who passed on Thursday, 22 June 2023 and was laid to rest on the 1st July 2023. To lose both of them in such a quick succession is a huge loss for the family and our country at large.

Similarly, I am touched by the passing of the Late Comrade Katuta as he hails from Ongandjera at Oshiteyi Village, near Okahao, Omusati Region. From his father's side, he comes from the clan of Aakwaniilya and from his mother's side, he is from the Aakwambashu clan, which makes him related to my Late Mother, Kuku Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo.

Ano otatu lili Omukwambashu gwaNakapipi,
Ombashu ya lya iitoye niilulu,
Kokamumwe, Kokamwandi ketu kai ma katsa oongolo.

KOnamungolo gwaShitenda,
Ha tu hangele moondjupa,
Odho twa ninga oombiga dhomalovu.
Kaandja munene gweyagayaga,
Kaandja mukuluntu gwetu elindilindi hali kokoloka nehangu.
Ombahu tayi ti titititi!

In this regard, on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, allow me to convey my deep and heartfelt condolences to the family, comrades, friends and relatives of the Late Comrade Paulus Pandeni Ndafitali Katuta for this irreparable loss.

Indeed, death has robbed us of a generous and selfless father and grandfather as well as 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 21st March 1990.

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.

Like all boys of his time, the Late Comrade Katuta was well schooled in home science of tending to family animals and doing all sorts of household chores such as fixing the huts, milking animals, repairing and renewing fences, and cultivating mahangu fields in Ongandjera at Oshiteyi Village, near Okahao, Omusati Region.

The Late Comrade Katuta joined our National Liberation Struggle in 1974 and received his military training in Zambia. Upon completion of his training, he was deployed to the Eastern Front under Commander Uukwangali Wanyanka. The men and women who joined the armed liberation struggle at such a time were amongst the bravest of the brave. It was a time when any association with the liberation movement risked imprisonment, and even death.

Indeed, it is worth recalling here that in the aftermath of the Portuguese coup of 1974 and the violence after the boycotted Ovamboland Bantustan elections of 1973, a large number of young Namibians joined us in exile to reinforce the fighting capabilities of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

They were young, and their entire lives stretched before them. But they were of uncompromising revolutionary morality and understood the prophetic call of our forefathers such as King Mandume jaNdemufajo when he said "*Oupika nefjo shimuaashike*", followed by the prophetic words of King lipumbu jaTshilongo when he said "*Nando mu tidhe ndje mo moshilongo shandje, ohiinina ta yeya shito ye mu tse oshiti*".

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.

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 Katuta's generation and continued to guide them even once we attained our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990.

It is against this background that the Late Comrade Katuta and his Late Wife, Meme Sirkka Helena Shoye Katuta became selfless parents full of love and compassion as well as compersion, which is our wholehearted participation in the happiness of others, the sympathetic joy we feel for somebody else, even when their positive experience does not benefit us directly.

It is for this reason that they raised up wonderful children and grandchildren and their lives were lived appreciating that to reach our ultimate goal requires courage, fortitude and above all, revolutionary morality and discipline.

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 Katuta 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 Entire Bereaved Family, we share in your sorrow and we join you in celebrating a life well lived in the service of our people, punctuated by indelible marks of selflessness, 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 father, grandfather, and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Paulus Pandeni Ndafitali Katuta.

As the family comes to terms with this tragic moment of the dark cloud hovering around you, it is my sincere wish that we may all be comforted and granted fortitude to overcome this loss.

May the revolutionary spirit of the Late Comrade Paulus Pandeni Ndafitali Katuta 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