

30 May 2023

The Entire Bereaved Family of the Late Comrade Vicky Ndemutungila Hautoni-Mutilifa
Eembidi Village
Omundaungilo Constituency
OHANGWENA REGION

Dear Bereaved Family

It is with profound sadness that Meekulu Kovambo and I have learned of the passing of your beloved mother, sister, aunty and a Veteran of the Namibian Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Vicky Ndemutungila Hautoni-Mutilifa, on Friday, 05 May 2023.

We therefore pay tribute to a woman of distinction, of resolve, of immense courage, and of selflessness. A woman who devoted her life to the liberation of our country and our people.

The Late Comrade Vicky joined the national liberation struggle in 1974 at the age of 24 years together with her friends, classmates and Comrades such as Retired Lieutenant General Martin Shalli, Aletta “Kakukutu” Kakwambi, Retired Mayor Cabral Mwetufa, to mention but a few. 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. A significant proportion of these young militants were SWAPO Youth League (SYL) activists who were instrumental in the operations of the internal wing of SWAPO.

Against this background, the Late Comrade Vicky formed part of this militant youth and became a disciplined and brave combatant of the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO’s Military Wing.

We also recall here that under Commander Mbulunganga together with Commander Dimo Hamaambo, many gallant combatants of PLAN such as Aron Embashu (Shongambebe), Paulus Nandenga (Zulu), Wilbard Tashiya (Nakada), Elise Hauliyondjaba, John Hamukoto (Kalola), Jonas Kataleonga (katengela), Erickson Hauwanga (Kapanya), Jonas Kapapu (Mumbwela Weemhadi), Linus Hamwele (Mawila), Sakeus Kapulwa (Kapuleko), Ismael Kamati (Ngiringiri), among others, were fighting against both the Portuguese regime in 1974, as Angola was not yet free, as well as the minority regime of apartheid South Africa and faced all kind of difficulties but never wavered!

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*”.

The Late Comrade Vicky studied and obtained a diploma in parademics/nursing in Tanzania and after her graduation in 1975 she was deployed to the front, at Efitu, then Luanda and later at the SWAPO Headquarters in Lubango.

The Late Comrade Vicky joins the glorious ranks of our heroes and heroines who came to reinforce the fighting capabilities of the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO’s Military Wing. 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 story of her 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 Vicky’s generation and continued to guide them even once we attained our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990. 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, 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.

Similarly, I recall that the Late Comrade Vicky formed part of strategic operations by PLAN, inclusive of the Mission to newly liberated areas inside Namibia in 1978. She accompanied me to the front together with the first Defense Secretary of SWAPO, the Late Comrade Peter Eneas Nanyemba, the Late Comrade Dimo Haambo, the Late Comrade Maxton Joseph Mutongolume and other Senior Commanders of the PLAN Military Council, when the Late Comrade Reverend Hendrik Witbooi and the Late Comrade Daniel Tjongarero of the Internal Leadership of SWAPO came to visit our combatants at the newly liberated areas inside Namibia.

We remember and salute those who lost their lives. We remember those who were captured and imprisoned and sentenced to death by the racist regime of apartheid yet prison did not break them, and their courage knew no bounds.

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 Vicky is no longer with us, the ideas for which she stood will never die. In bidding farewell to a giant of the liberation struggle, I call on our people, especially our youth, to pick up where she 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 her honour.

To the Entire Bereaved Family, nieces and nephews I say, 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 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 mother, aunty and sister.

Please be consoled by the fact that in recognition of her bravery and self-sacrifice, the Late Comrade Vicky was conferred the Award of the National Liberation and a medal of Grand Commander of the Order of Namibia, 1st Class on 26 August 2010. As such, at 72 years, the Late Comrade Vicky leaves a legacy very difficult to emulate within her contemporary. She is indeed a visionary, loyal, legend and steadfast female veteran freedom fighter in the likes of the Late Comrade M'kuahepo Immanuel and others.

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 Vicky Ndemutungila Hautoni-Mutilifa continue to guide us as we chart the future destiny of our country!

May Her Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!

Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA