

12 July 2023

The Widow, Meme Ndahambelela Frederika Mthoko, the Children
and the Entire Bereaved Family
Onyaanya Constituency
OSHIKOTO REGION

Dear Widow, Meme Ndahambelela Frederika Mthoko, the Children and the Entire
Bereaved Family

It is with profound sadness that I have learned of the passing of your beloved
husband, father, grandfather, and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle,
Comrade November Festus Nangolo yaAnanias Mthoko, on Saturday, 1st July 2023,
at the Roman Catholic Hospital in Windhoek, Khomas Region.

This is indeed a sad and devastating loss for the family in particular and the nation in
general. In this regard, we join the entire family, friends and Comrades as you gather
in solemn mourning to pay our last respects to one of our passionate educators and
pay tribute to his unflinching support for the total liberation of Namibia.

Like all boys of his time, the Late Comrade November Mthoko was well schooled in
home science of tendering 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. All of that is in addition to attending primary school at
Onyaanya and proceeded to Oniipa Jongenskool and then to Onayena Jongenskool.

In 1960, he was admitted at Ongwediva Opleiding Skool or High School, where he
met with fellow students such as Nangolo Mbumba, Nangolo lithete, Nahas Angula,
Matti Amadhila, Naftali Amadhila, Isaac Shikongo Pondo la Nangobe, Willehard
Vayakohambo Tashiya Nacada Chicololo, Sheeli Shangula, Jesaya Nyamu, Thomas
Shiimi, Kahima Eembumbulu, Naftali Hamata and many others. The principal of
Ongwediva School was a Finnish gentleman by the name of Nico Ihamakki.

I recall that in 1962 in Tanganyika, I called a meeting and told those present that I
needed two volunteers to go on a mission to carry out political mass mobilization
inside Namibia. Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba and Comrade Eliader Muatale, who
later on sacrificed his life in the struggle, volunteered first and addressed a group of
students at Ongwediva calling on them to support SWAPO in its struggle to get rid of
apartheid colonialism and Bantu education in our country.

This meeting was followed by another one in 1963 by Comrade Ben Amathila who
also addressed the students and asked them to unite and rally behind SWAPO in the
just struggle of the toiling Namibian masses. This was the turning point for students
when the wind of change was sweeping across the African continent.

The Late Comrade November Mthoko and others began to hatch a plan to flee the country and join the liberation struggle in exile. On the 18 November 1965, together with six others such as Willehard Vayakohambo Tashiya Nacada Chicololo, Isaac Shikongo Pondo la Nangobe, Kahima Eembumbulu, Thomas Steve Shiimi, Naftali Kahima and Sam Ndeikwila, they left to join the liberation struggle abroad.

They were seen off by the Late Comrade Andimba Herman Toivo ya Toivo and Comrade Ben Amathila at Ondjondjo, Ondangwa. They travelled on foot all the way to Nkuru-Nkure in Kavango West Region where they travelled by WENELA trucks to Bechuanaland in particular to Francistown, and from there by SWAPO arrangements unto Lusaka, Zambia.

That was the time the Late Comrade Laban liyambo lileka, together with the Late Comrade Leo Shoopala, who was cold bloodedly assassinated on the 16 March 1966, were instrumental in mobilising the Late Comrade Peter Tshirumbu Sheehama and Comrade Vitalis Ankama to join SWAPO and go into exile.

Between 1966 and 1968, the Late Comrade November Mthoko and others such as Comrades Nahas Angula, Willehard Vayakohambo Tashiya Nacada Chicololo, Nangolo Mbumba, Erobeam Amundaba, Bambo, Vitalis Ankama, David Mbango, Linus Mawila Amwele, Peter Tchirumbu, Joas Ipinge, Andrew Intamba and Elise Hauljondjamba among others, studied at Mkumbi College in Zambia where he trained as a Secondary School teacher in English and Geography and taught in Secondary Schools in Zambia between 1971 and 1973.

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.

Against this background, the Late Comrade November Mthoko together with the Late Steven Amwaama, the Late Paulus Kanyemba, Helmut Angula, Vitalis Ankama and others joined the education centre after the exodus of young Namibians in 1974 who came to reinforce the fighting capabilities of the brave Combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing.

When SWAPO embarked on a three-pronged strategy, comprising of mass political mobilization inside the country and that of the international community as well as the Armed Liberation Struggle and the strategy to educate our people, Comrades Nahas Angula, Helmut Angula, Vitalis Ankama, the late Comrades November Mthoko, Steven Amwaama, Paulus Kanyemba, and others distinguished themselves on the educational front.

Due to his unwavering dedication and teaching skills SWAPO entrusted him with various educational responsibilities in running programmes and establishing educational units.

This includes the task of producing teaching and learning materials and he was later sent to Nigeria in order to provide education to adults in various SWAPO Health and Education Centres in Zambia and Angola, respectively. His training did not only end with adult education but was also sent to London to do a course in distance teaching.

Like many selfless Namibians, the Late Comrade November Mthoko sacrificed a lot of his personal time and energy for the liberation of our country as he travelled extensively, including to Scandinavian countries and Europe, to mobilise for educational resources for SWAPO. He successfully completed the assignment that was entrusted to him until the attainment of our country's freedom and genuine independence on 21st March 1990.

Thereafter, he continued to serve the nation in educational related matters until his retirement from the public service. As if that was not enough, the Late Comrade November Mthoko also worked at the SWAPO Party's Headquarters from 2004 to 2021, which demonstrates how dedicated this servant of the nation was to his party and the country at large.

To the Widow, Meme Ndahambelela Frederika Mthoko, the Children and 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 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, and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade November Festus Nangolo yaAnanias Mthoko.

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 the Late Comrade November Festus Nangolo yaAnanias Mthoko continue to guide us as we chart the future destiny of our country!

May His Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sam Nujoma', written over a horizontal line.

Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA