



22 June 2023

Meme Wilhelmine Shikongo, the Siblings and the Entire Bereavement Family  
of the Late Meekulu Albertina Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor)  
Onambamba Village  
Outapi Constituency  
**OMUSATI REGION**

Dear Meme Wilhelmine Shikongo, the Siblings and the Entire Bereavement  
Family

**ON THE PASSING OF YOUR BELOVED MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND A VETERAN  
OF OUR NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE, THE LATE MEEKULU ALBERTINA  
NDISHISHII HWEPO (NESTOR)**

It is with great sadness that I have learnt about the passing of your beloved  
mother, sister, aunty, grandmother and a Veteran of our National Liberation  
Struggle, the Late Meekulu Albertina Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor), on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup>  
June 2023 at Outapi District Hospital, Omusati Region.

Please receive our deepest condolences during this difficult time. You are not  
alone in this sorrow. This is a sad and difficult day, a 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 a silent giant of our liberation  
struggle, a respected and renowned matriarchal, who is wide awake with her  
shining light.

The Late Meekulu Albertina Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor) was a woman of  
courage and above all, of principle. These are qualities she displayed from  
her early years, and which guided her throughout her rich and long life.

For her loyalty to the liberation struggle she paid a harsh price. She was  
detained countless times. As written in her eulogy, Meekulu Albertina  
Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor) and her family actively participated in the National  
Liberation Struggle and has been a target of colonial forces, due to the  
material and moral support she rendered to SWAPO. Most importantly, she  
became a target of harassment by the white minority regime of South Africa  
because most of her children left for exile to join the liberation struggle.

Indeed, in 1965, when the liberation struggle was consolidated under the banners of SWAPO, her first born son, the Late Commander Isaac 'Pondo' Shikongo, together with other five students, escaped from Namibia through Botswana to join SWAPO in exile.

This was the time, between 1963 and 1965, when they attended the Ongwediva High School where they met with fellow students such as Comrades Nangolo Mbumba, Nangolo lithete, Nahas Angula, Matti Amadhila, Naftali Amadhila, 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 raise to the plate and 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 and the message of hope and freedom spread like wildfire. This was the time when the wind of change was sweeping across the African continent.

The Late Comrades Isaac Shikongo Pondo LyaNangombe, Nacada Shikololo and others began to hatch a plot to flee the country but not before writing the final Form iii exams. On the 18 November 1965, together with five others such as Kahima Eembumbulu, Thomas Steve Shiimi and Naftali Kahima and others, left to join the struggle in exile. They were seen off by the Late Comrade 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 WINALA trucks to the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland, in particular to Francistown, and from there by SWAPO arrangements unto Lusaka, Zambia.

Because of her son, the Late Commander Isaac 'Pondo' LyaNangombe, Meekulu Albertina Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor) had to be interrogated, beaten, detained and harassed by the white minority South African police. Her homestead was either damaged or destroyed. Her stores of mahangu grain were overturned and spoiled.

This even got worst when her other son, Comrade Festus Nexale Lyokoshandi, who served as the PLAN Chief of Reconnaissance and the Regional Chief of Artillery at the North Eastern Front respectively, also joined the liberation struggle and both him and his brother were actively involved at the frontline.

As the liberation struggle intensified, the homestead of Meekulu Albertina Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor) became a transit and assembly point for people to join SWAPO in exile. Despite the harassment and intimidation by the white minority South African colonial regime, Meekulu Albertina Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor) continued to provide food and shelter as well as valuable information on the movement of the enemy forces to the Combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's Military Wing, and never wavered until we attained our Freedom and Genuine Independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990. For this reason, her exemplary deeds shall be remembered by the present and future generations. Her legacy is deep, impactful and enduring, as it is assured.

It is because of mothers like her that we were able to free our country and will bequeath to our children and grandchildren that which is the greatest gift of all – our freedom and genuine independence. She has returned to her Maker – and she joins the pantheon of exemplary women and icons of the liberation struggle to which this country has given birth. We evoke the memories and spirits of the Late Comrade Kakurukaze Mungunda, the Late Comrade M'kuahepo Immanuel, the Late Comrade Vicky Ndemutungila Hautoni-Mutilifa and others.

As such, at the age of 102 years, the Late Meekulu Albertina Ndishishii Hwepo (Nestor) leaves a legacy very difficult to emulate. She is indeed a visionary, loyal, legendary and steadfast female veteran freedom fighter. She has left this mortal world, but her work and her legacy is all around us. Her legacy lives on in our people, as we strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage, to continue charting the future destiny of our country.

As you lay her to rest, allow me therefore, on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to convey our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to Meme Wilhelmine Shikongo, the siblings and the entire bereaved family as well as all comrades during these difficult and trying times. May you all find comfort as you are strengthened and granted fortitude to overcome this great loss.

May Her Soul Rest In Eternal Peace!



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