



13 September 2023

The Widow, Meme Ester Litauleni Hishongwa, the Children, the Grandchildren and the Entire Bereaved Family of the Late Ambassador Hadino Timoteus Hishongwa
Onekwaya-West
OHANGWENA REGION

Dear Meme Ester Litauleni Hishongwa and the Entire Bereaved Family Members

It is with great sadness that I write to bid farewell to a Diplomat and one of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, as well as Senior Headman of Omhedi District within the Oukwanyama Traditional Authority, the Late Ambassador Hadino Timoteus Hishongwa, who passed on Thursday, 31 August 2023, at Ongwediva Medipark.

With the passing of Ambassador Hishongwa, yet another light in a glorious generation of the pioneering Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle has been extinguished.

As we come to terms with this tragic moment of the dark cloud hovering around the family, allow me, on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, my family and indeed on my own behalf, to convey our deep condolences and sincere sympathies to the entire bereaved family, relatives, comrades and friends for this loss.

In the same vein, allow me to celebrate a life well lived in the service of our people and pay tribute to a man who devoted his life to the liberation of our people. He forsook the comforts of ordinary life to pick up a backpack and a rifle in the cause of the liberation struggle.

Like many of his generation, Ambassador Hishongwa's political activism started during the late 1950s and was among the first young activists to fight against the apartheid system at a tender age of 15 years old. He was also one of the young people to have joined the Ovamboland People's Organization (OPO) in 1959, the Predecessor of SWAPO, and subsequently became a founding member of SWAPO.

When the apartheid regime intensified its repression, Ambassador Hishongwa went to Tanzania and joined the liberation struggle in exile when he was just 21 years old.

When a decision was taken to direct all Party cadres to undergo military training, Ambassador Hishongwa went to the Eastern Front at Kaunga Mashi and joined the South West African Liberation Army (SWALA), the predecessor of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the standard-bearer of the politically conscious and revolutionary SWAPO's Military Wing, when he answered history's call to take up arms in the cause of freedom.

The men and women who joined the liberation struggle at such a time were amongst the bravest of the brave when any association with the liberation movement risked imprisonment, and even death.

It is here that we learn about some of the virtues of discipline and forbearance that epitomized these veterans of our struggle. Discipline as an understanding that their mission was difficult, and would take time. And forbearance as the willingness to undergo hardship in pursuit of a bigger goal.

These were the honour codes that spurred the men and women of the Late Ambassador Hishongwa's generation until we attained our freedom and genuine independence on the 21st March 1990.

It is against this background that their names will be engraved in golden letters at Heroes' Acre and Memorial Shrines across Namibia where we lay to rest the remains of those who shed their blood for the irrevocable sovereignty of our Republic and bestow honour to them in a true African tradition.

Indeed, as it was amply stated in his eulogy, Ambassador Hishongwa was born in Odibo and completed his O-Level studies at Kurasini International College in Tanzania in 1967, together with Comrades Shapwa Kaukungwa, Shilongo shaElia Haipinge, Uno Kanana Shaanika, Mose Tjitendero, Ngarikutuke Tjiriange and others.

He then obtained a Diploma at Prague University in 1969 and another Diploma at Karl Marx University in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) in 1971. In 1982, he yet again pursued another Diploma at Stockholm University in Sweden.

Measured in his delivery and clear in his articulation, Ambassador Hishongwa carried the message of our liberation struggle across the world when he was appointed SWAPO's Deputy Chief Representative in Tanzania, deputizing Comrade Sakaria Shikomba, and in 1972 he opened the SWAPO Office in Senegal as our Chief Representative.

From 1976 to 1982, following in the footsteps of Comrade Ben Amathila, Ambassador Hishongwa was appointed as SWAPO's Representative to the Nordic Countries, Austria and West Germany.

I particularly remember when he formed part of the SWAPO delegation at the United Nations “Confidence building” session which was opened by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in Geneva on 07 January 1981.

He was later appointed as SWAPO’s Representative to Australia and the Pacific from 1985 to 1987 when he returned to Angola and was appointed SWAPO Secretary of Youth. Meanwhile, he has been Foreign Secretary of the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) from 1976 to 1989.

After that, he became a member of the Constituent Assembly and subsequently as a Member of Parliament until 2005 when I appointed him as a deputy minister of Labour and Manpower Development from 1990 to 1995 and deputy minister of Youth and Sport from 1995 to 2005.

He was then appointed as High Commissioner to Botswana until 2011 but his contributions extended beyond his political career. He held the position of Senior Headman of Omhedi District within the Oukwanyama Traditional Authority, where he played a pivotal role in the preservation and promotion of our culture and heritage until his passing.

In fact, last time I met him was at Omhedi Palace together with Ohamba Meekulu Martha Mwadinomho ya Kristian Nelumbu and Comrade Shapwa Kaukungwa on Saturday, 16 April 2022.

It is fitting therefore that while he lived, on Heroes' Day 2014, he was conferred the Excellent Order of the Eagle, First Class in recognition of his contribution to the struggle for the liberation of Namibia. It is also fitting that he was bestowed with a State funeral at Eenhana Memorial Shrine.

In bidding farewell to Ambassador Hishongwa, I call on our young people, especially his children and grandchildren, to pick up where he left and become the inheritors of his legacy by assuming the responsibility of ensuring that his sacrifices, and the sacrifices of many others, were not in vain. This includes to help and support our veterans, many of whom are in the twilight of their lives.

To the widow, the family and all those who knew him closely, our hearts go out to you as you go through the grief of a loss so overwhelming. It is also my sincere wish that we may all be comforted and granted fortitude during this difficult time of mourning.

May the Soul of Ambassador Hishongwa Rest In Eternal Peace!



Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

FOUNDER
The Sam Nujoma Foundation