



03 May 2024

The Widow, Dr Iyaloo Shiimi-lindji, the Mother Kuku Helena Itamalo, the three sisters, the Children and the Entire Bereaved family members
Olukonda, Ombuga-yAmunyoko
Elim Constituency
OMUSATI REGION

Dear Dr Iyaloo Shiimi-lindji, the Mother Kuku Helena Itamalo, the three sisters, the Children and the Entire Bereaved family members

It is with great sadness that I have learned about the passing of your beloved husband, son, father, brother and a well-known Banking Executive and former Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry Northern Branch Chairperson, the Late Comrade Tomas Koneka lindji, affectionately called "Omukokoli", on Tuesday morning, 23 April 2024, at a Windhoek Hospital, at the age of 44.

The news of his passing struck a deep and solemn note as he died following hospitalisation after his last public engagement at the Ondangwa Town Council Gala Dinner, where he was officiating as the pledge master.

Against this background, I join the family and other mourners to bid farewell to a philanthropist with compassion for the poor and the downtrodden and a well-known Banking Executive who helped others to join the business fraternity and become successful business owners.

Similarly, I join the family and other mourners in celebrating his productive life and the contribution he made to our country in general and the business fraternity in particular, when he worked in the Banking Industry for 20 years in Client and Banking Relationships, SMEs and at Home Loan, Business Banking, both in Commercial and Corporate Credit Division.

In addition, he also had more than 15 years of leadership at Management level of the First National Bank Namibia as a Senior Manager and later as Head of Commercial Executive within the FNB Commercial.

Due to his proven leadership when he led overall strategic direction, growth initiatives and performance of the bank, while building and developing high-performing leadership teams, providing mentorship and guidance as well as cultivating key relationships with stakeholders, his abilities and business acumen did not go unnoticed and was therefore called to become the Head of Business and Commercial Banking at Standard Bank in February this year.

The Late Comrade lindji was instrumental in providing advices and guidance as well as funding for business owners. In addition, he was scrupulous in his determination that no resources meant for the transformational programmes be misappropriated or wasted.

It is against this background that he attended the SWAPO Party Youth League Congress from the 28 August to 02 September 2012, and was elected as a member of the Central Committee of the SWAPO Party Youth League and became its Secretary for Economics.

Many people in the business fraternity described the Late Comrade lindji as a people's person, who helped others to become successful business owners. I am not surprised by the above description as the Late Comrade lindji was the embodiment of an idea that one's purpose in life is to serve others.

Indeed, throughout his rich and meaningful life, wherever he found himself, whatever responsibilities he was given, he was bound by a determination to serve others.

He had no need for recognition. His only need was to comfort those who had nothing and to forge unity where there was division and to promote understanding where there was intolerance. Thus, he only wanted to liberate his people from the bondage and the enduring tyranny of poverty.

This is exemplified when he was active in establishing the Ndonga-Linena Green Scheme Project situated 75km east of Rundu in Kavango West. Whenever there were new laws and policies been crafted in terms of business, he was instrumental in giving his valuable inputs and advices.

In fact last year, together with the Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Honourable Lucia lipumbu, he launched the new credit guarantee scheme for SMEs and mentored a number of young upcoming entrepreneurs who went through his hands and uplifted them to become successful business owners. Thus his deeds will reverberate across the ages.

As we confront new and daunting challenges, we must draw strength and inspiration and guidance from the deeds of people like the Late Comrade lindji. The material temptations of office have never been greater than they are today. It is precisely at this moment that we need public servants and business people of the calibre of the Late Comrade lindji who, like him, are truly selfless in their service with an abiding honesty and an essential integrity.

We must seek to build consensus on the measures we take to transform our economy and our society as well as focus on the overriding task to create employment opportunities and tackle poverty.

To the Widow, Dr Iyaloo Shiimi-lindji, the Mother Kuku Helena Itamalo, the three sisters, the Children and the Entire Bereaved family members, our hearts go out to you as you go through the grief of a loss so overwhelming. As you walk through this difficult time, it is our wish that you are consoled by the knowledge that the formidable legacy of the Late Comrade lindji will live on. May it be that others step forward to follow in his footsteps and take up his mantle.

In closing, allow me on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle, the Nujoma family and indeed on my own behalf, to extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the Widow, Dr Iyaloo Shiimi-lindji, the Mother Kuku Helena Itamalo, the three sisters, the Children and the Entire Bereaved family members for the loss of the Late Comrade Tomas Koneka lindji. May we all be granted fortitude during this trying time.

MAY HIS REST BE AS PEACEFUL AS HE WAS!

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