



TRIBUTE BY H.E. DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE KUKU
FRIEDA NANDJALA DANIEL SHIKONGO

SATURDAY, 22 JUNE 2024

ONEEKE CEMETERY, NEAR OKAHAO

OMUSATI REGION

*Check Against Delivery

Program Directors,
The children, grandchildren and the entire bereaved Nujoma and Shikongo Families;
Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Sustjie Mbumba, First Lady in Absentia;
Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Penexupifo Pohamba, Former First Lady, in absentia;
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Zhao Weiping
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;
Honourable Members of Parliament present;
Honourable Erginus Endjala, Governor of Omusati Region and other Governors present, in absentia;
Omusimanekwa Tatekulu Johannes Shoombe Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa gwOshitunda shAngandjera, in absentia;
Aasimanekwa Aakwaniilwa amushe nOmalenga Omanene nomashona gwOpamuthigululwakalo;
Distinguished Regional and Local Authority Councillors present;
Her Worship the Mayor of Okahao Town Councillor;
All Service Chiefs present;
Esteemed Members of the Clergy present;
Distinguished Veterans of the Liberation Struggle;
Fellow Mourners, allow me to stand by the protocol already established;

It is with heavy hearts that we gather here today to bid farewell to our beloved sister, mother and grandmother the Late Kuku Frieda Nandjala Daniel Shikongo, a Pioneering Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle in her own right.

The news of her passing on Wednesday, 12 June 2024, in Ongwediva, following a long hospitalization, struck a deep and solemn note as a heavy and dark cloud hangs on the family at this difficult time.

As soon as I heard the sad news of her passing, nearly my emotions got the better of me and it felt like I had no strength to move as I learnt that the Late Kuku Frieda Nandjala Daniel Shikongo or as I affectionately simply used to call her Nandjala gwaNdani shilandula shandje, is no more.

Her children and grandchildren used to call the Late Kuku Nandjala gwaNdani mother and grandmother while to me and my siblings she was simply our beloved sister who now joins our parents in eternity, the Late Tate Daniel Utoni Nujoma and Meme Helvi Mpingana Kondombolo.

Together we were eleven children in all, 6 males and 5 females but now we are only four; Myself, Tate Hiskia Asino, Tate Noah Mweyatila Malima and Meme Julia Namukuwa, our last born.

As the eldest son, I had to look after the livestock of my parents and do home chores, including pounding Mahangu but it was not easy doing this with a baby on my back, sometimes also holding another one by hand.

Other boys used to laugh at me but as the first-born, I had to do it. This is how I used to take care of my siblings including my beloved sister the Late Kuku Frieda Nandjala Daniel Shikongo who comes after me.

The Late Kuku Nandjala gwaNdani was married to the Late Tate Shikongo and together they have three children left, namely; Amutenya, Leonard and Daniel (Mekololo) and grandchildren.

In this regard, the Nujoma and Shikongo families deeply mourn our pillar of strength and fountain of wisdom. When the white minority South African regime tried to render us invisible, she brought us to life with her narration of the story of our family and challenged us to remember our family tree and heritage.

I still cannot come to terms with the reality that she is no more amongst us but then that is when I remembered about the unconditional love and affection I have for my beloved younger sister. She was a force to be reckoned with. And who would know that better than me as she follows me and had a strong voice, an aura that you cannot ignore. Though life threw her some curve balls, she always seemed well up to the task of meeting those challenges.

I used to assume that my parents preferred her when she stayed at home. But that is only because they knew she was the practical and mature one. But that does not make her a boring person as she could make you laugh by adding that tinge of sarcasm and could make you forget your worries and smile like there is no tomorrow.

As she grew older, she was always there for me, especially to cook and fetch water and fire woods. Though she was always an expressive and loving person, I am sure that I was not the only one who was surprised by her devotion and doting when she became a mother and a grandmother. All the causes seemed to take a back seat as she surrounded her children with her love and her full attention.

And so, It came as that much more of a shock when we learned of her illness. Always the fighter, we had every confidence that she would soundly

defeat the illness that threatened her. We knew that she had so much more to give, to teach, to share with her children, grandchildren and the entire family.

As I stand here before you all today, looking out at the many lives she touched I know that she has achieved what she set out to and she will always be remembered for her warmth and generosity as well as for her unflagging optimism, and her great big motherly and grandmother's heart. She set an example of courage and compassion that inspired everyone who knew her.

At this juncture, allow me to remind all her children and grandchildren about the pivotal role a mother plays in the life of her children. The classic poem by William Ross Wallace talking about 'the hand that rocks the cradle...' illustrates the influence a mother plays in the life of her child and in the long run to the society because as she strives to nurture and teach a child, she makes the world a much better place.

Indeed, mothers are the emotional backbones of the families. They provide the holding place for everyone's feelings and do their best to keep us from being hurt. One proverb rightly affirms what most of us have experienced: "A mother understands what a child does not say."

Indeed there exist a dynamic between mothers and children. Mothers can hear sentences in the silences of their children and have the special gift of intuition because it gives them a strong sense of what is right for their children. Thus, our mothers are timeless teachers in the classroom of life. They bequeath to us timeless wisdom, a legacy so precious and valuable more than silver and gold.

Against this background, as a family, we are consumed with grief as we remember her life and mourn her absence, yet we are also here to celebrate a life of a fearless and a loving sister, mother and a grandmother as well as celebrate the legacy that my beloved sister left behind as we recall the power of her comfortable guiding moral voice.

The Late Kuku Nandjala gwaNdani, together with the entire family, survived numerous intimidation and harassment by the apartheid security forces for the simple reason that they are my family members, but they never wavered until the attainment of our freedom and genuine independence on 21st March 1990.

We are grateful for her humility, dedication and daily prayers, these being some of the qualities that have embodied her life and something that she learnt from our mother, the Late Meme Helvi Mpingana gwaKondombolo.

Against this background, she will be missed but what she stood for will never be forgotten as her work will fill the void of her passing. It is now our solemn responsibility to strive together to live as a family and build the future destiny of our country to which she dedicated her life.

As we bid our sister, mother and grandmother farewell, let us draw inspiration from her life. Let us honour her memory by upholding the principles she stood for. Our thoughts and hearts are with her children and the entire bereaved Nujoma and Shikongo families as we all go through the grief of a loss so overwhelming.

As the children walk through this difficult time, it is our wish that you are consoled by the knowledge that the formidable legacy of the Late Kuku Nandjala gwaNdani will live on and may it be that others step forward to follow in her footsteps and take up her mantle.

As the Late Kuku Nandjala gwaNdani takes a befitting rest, allow me on behalf of the Veterans of our National Liberation Struggle and indeed on my own behalf, to extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the children, grandchildren and the entire bereaved family and comrades for this irreparable loss.

May we all be granted fortitude as I extend my wishes for strength to the Nujoma and Shikongo families to navigate through this dark cloud hovering around us in this time of sorrow and sad hour.

May the Soul of the Late Kuku Frieda Nandjala Daniel Shikongo rest peacefully and may her spirit live on!



FOUNDER
The Sam Nujoma Foundation

Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA