

15 November 2024

The Widow, Comrade Olivia Tuhadeleni,  
the three siblings, five children and five grandchildren  
as well as the entire bereaved extended Tuhadeleni Family  
Omakango Village, Endola Constituency  
**OHANGWENA REGION**

Dear Widow, Comrade Olivia Tuhadeleni, the three siblings, five children and five grandchildren as well as the entire bereaved extended Tuhadeleni Family

It is with a heavy heart that I have learned about the passing of your beloved husband, brother, uncle, father, grandfather and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Noah Lyaalala Tuhadeleni, on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024, at the Rundu Private Hospital in Kavango-East.

Thus, on this day, a great shadow has fallen and hangs heavy across the entire bereaved Tuhadeleni family as the Late Comrade Noah Tuhadeleni is no more. For those who knew him, who worked alongside him, who counted and relied on him, who learned from him, who loved him, it is unbearable that we will never see him again.

While knowing that words alone cannot say how deeply we feel with you and the entire bereaved family in this time of sorrow, we nevertheless wish that you find solace in the knowledge that we share in your grief. In this regard, it is with profound sorrow that I write not only to pay my last respects and bid farewell to the Late Comrade Noah Tuhadeleni but also to celebrate his life and acknowledge his immense contribution to our country's freedom and genuine independence.

Indeed, the Late Comrade Noah Tuhadeleni was a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle in his own right when he followed in the footsteps of his father, the Late Comrade Kaxumba kaNdola, alias Eliaser Tuhadeleni and joined the liberation struggle in exile in 1974. Due to his commitment and exemplary deeds while in exile, he was entrusted by SWAPO with various portfolios such as serving as SWAPO Party Regional Chairman and Organizer in Kwanza Zul, in Angola from 1986 to 1989.

After Namibia attained its freedom and genuine independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990, the Late Comrade Noah Tuhadeleni served as the founding Councillor of Endola Constituency from 1992-2004 and a Member of Parliament in the National Council from 1998–2004. He was later appointed as an Advisor to Regional Governor of Ohangwena Region until his retirement in 2014.

Most importantly, he hails from a family of heroes and heroines of our National Liberation Struggle. His parents, the Late Comrade Eliaser Tuhadeleni, better known as Kaxumba kaNdola and Meekulu Priskilla Tuhadeleni, are some of the unsung heroes of Namibia's struggle for independence.

The Late Comrade Kaxumba kaNdola's absence has carved a void that will be difficult to fill. Our paths have been intertwined as we shared both the joy of living and the pain. We also forged common commitments and ultimately, together we savoured the taste of freedom.

Indeed, the Late Comrade Kaxumba kaNdola, alias Eliaser Tuhadeleni, is well remembered for the sacrifice and enormous contribution he and his family made towards the struggle for the freedom and liberation of Namibia. He was a very peaceful man, who had no tolerance for injustice, especially when our peoples' belongings were confiscated by the apartheid regime when they were returning from the contract labour system in the so-called "Police Zone."

In the early 1950s, he was working in a construction company in Cape Town. Those who worked with him say that he was a generous man, who accommodated all the Namibian newcomers in Cape Town and was a very hardworking man, even in his old age.

The name Kaxumba kaNdola originates from when he used to sing in church. The name literally means 'the organ of Endola'. When he left Cape Town around about 1953, he bought two organs, one for the church and one for himself. In the late 1950s, he became a fearless political activist and founding member of OPO, the forerunner of SWAPO.

Whenever I cast my mind back I am struck by his qualities. He had little formal education but he held his own; he interacted with ease and without a trace of inferiority. He was the magnet that drew people together. He was blessed with that quality that always saw the good in others and had an inexhaustible capacity to listen to others. That was his hallmark: an ability to attract and work together with everybody.

He was a powerful influence who exuded respect. He was courageous and his quiet self-confidence and clarity of vision marked him out as a leader and his status as a mobiliser was beyond challenge. For instance, when he was arrested and kept in the house of headman Elia Weyulu for a long period of time, he got so fed up with his house arrest one day, that he decided to leave with his handcuffs on and go home. No one followed him.

Again, when there was a conflict in Ombalantu between headman Kaimbi and members of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation), which led to the arrest of Comrade Benjamin (Shimbu), Comrade Shimbu was placed in the headman's kraal under house arrest.

He too, one day, decided to walk away with his handcuffs on and reported to the Late Comrade Kaxumba's homestead and removed the handcuffs and took them to Ondangwa to Mr Webber, who was the equivalent of the Deputy Native Commissioner. Shimbu was freed and people wondered at how even the Commissioner just let the Late Comrade Kaxumba have his way.

Thus, the Late Comrade Kaxumba was an excellent organiser, an outstanding speaker, and an honest man. In short, he was highly respected by the contract workers for whom he acted as spokesperson as he knew how to talk to the people in order to get their support. The political meetings, held under the banner of OPO (Ovamboland People's Organisation) and later SWAPO, were called oyoongiyaKaxumba (Kaxumba's rallies), because he was the main mobiliser.

When we sent our first group of combatants, known as "G1" from Tanzania to Namibia in 1965, they were given clear instructions by the Party to report to the Late Comrade Kaxumba kaNdola, because of his self-sacrificing nature, generosity, honesty, and dedication to the liberation struggle.

After travelling through Katima Mulilo and the Mbukushu area, in Kavango, the “G1” group of our combatants arrived at the homestead of the Late Comrade Eliaser Tuhadeleni at Endola in Oukwanyama area as their assembling point and became the first SWAPO military base inside Namibia, until the South African police force started looking for combatants there.

There was a shoot-out at a cuca shop belonging to a Portuguese businessman at Ehenge Lomushii in Angola. After a police investigation, it was found that some of the ammunition was Russian made. This gave rise to the police's suspicious, leading to a raid on the Late Comrade Tuhadeleni's homestead. The “G1” group then moved away with their ammunition to establish other bases. The Late Comrade Kaxumba joined them and was made second-in-command.

As far as the mother of the Late Comrade Tuhadeleni is concerned, the Late Meekulu Priskilla Tuhadeleni, the book “Tears of Courage: Five Mothers, Five Stories, One Victory” compiled and written by Namibian author Dr Ellen Ndeshi Namhila, who is currently UNAM's Pro Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance & Resource Mobilization, tells us about the contribution to the liberation struggle of five ordinary but extraordinary women; among them, Meekulu Priskilla Tuhadeleni, Meekulu Drothea Nikodemus, Meekulu Justina Amwaalwa and Meekulu Lahja Iyambo.

These women understood what the men were fighting for and supported the cause of freedom and independence by showing remarkable insight into the situation. They were beaten, detained and harassed by the white minority South African police. Their children were whipped. Their homesteads were damaged or destroyed. Their stores of mahangu grain were overturned and spoiled. Two of them, Meekulu Drothea Nikodemus and Meekulu Justina Amwaalwa, were arrested and taken to prison in Pretoria as well. Meekulu Justina gave birth to her son while she was imprisoned there but these women never wavered. For this reason, their exemplary deeds shall be remembered by the present and future generations.

Indeed, our country has produced men and women of distinction who have kept the torch of freedom alive both at home and abroad during the most difficult times of our National Liberation Struggle. One such person was the Late Meekulu Priskilla Tuhadeleni, a veteran of our National Liberation Struggle in her own right, who was one of the first Namibian women who played a pivotal role during the early stages of our Armed Liberation Struggle.

The Late Meekulu Priskilla Tuhadeleni and other women fed, nursed, sheltered and provided logistical support to the first Group of our combatants known as the “G1” group of the Commandos, led by the Late Commander John ya Otto Nankudhu, when they crossed back into Namibia in 1965 and arrived at the homestead of the Late Comrade Eliaser Tuhadeleni at Endola in Oukwanyama area.

The “G1” group later proceeded to Otamanzi in Ongandjera area in March 1966, where they established the first military training camp known as “Oondaadhi,” meaning reconnaissance. Comrade Kaxumba kaNdola together with Immanuel Shifidi, Isak Shoome, Cornelius Shelungu, among others, were the first trainees before the camp was moved to Uuvudhiya between Uukwambi and Ongandjera area and later to Omugulugwombashe in Uukwaluudhi area.

Thus, the Late Comrade Kaxumba kaNdola was among the first combatants who opened fire of the modern armed liberation struggle on the 26 August 1966 at Omugulugwombashe. It was therefore not a surprise when he became Accused No.1 in the trial of the

Omugulugwombashe fighters in August 1967, which came to be known as “The State v.s Tuhadeleni and 36 others.”

On 21<sup>st</sup> June 1967, less than two months before the trial began, the South African Terrorism Act was gazetted and made retrospective to 1962 to enable the courts to sentence our freedom fighters to death. Eventually, the South African apartheid regime sentenced the Late Comrade Kaxumba kaNdola to life imprisonment on Robben Island, until he was released in 1984. When he returned to his homestead after Namibia had at last gained freedom and genuine independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990, the Late Comrade Kaxumba still had the energy to rebuild his house with his bare hands with hardly any financial support.

Against this background, the revolutionary deeds of the Late Comrade Noah Tuhadeleni’s father, the Late Comrade Eliaser Tuhadeleni, known as Kaxumba kaNdola, and his mother, the Late Meekulu Priskilla Tuhadeleni, will never be forgotten by the current and future generations.

To the three siblings, five children and five grandchildren as well as the entire bereaved extended Tuhadeleni 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 unparalleled perseverance and unshakable mental resilience. Let your sadness be tempered by the comforting and sure knowledge that the Late Comrade Noah Tuhadeleni’s life was not wasted and spent fruitlessly but well lived in the service of others.

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, brother, uncle, father, grandfather and a Veteran of our National Liberation Struggle, the Late Comrade Noah Tuhadeleni.

As you lay him to rest, 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 entire bereaved family for your loss.

May you all be strengthened and granted fortitude to overcome this moment of a dark cloud hovering around you and May the Soul of the Late Comrade Noah Lyaalala Tuhadeleni Rest In Eternal Peace!

Sam Nujoma

~~FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA~~

**FOUNDER**

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