

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE
HEROES FUNERAL OF THE LATE COMRADE ANGELIKA
KAZETJINDIRE MUHARUKUA**

OCTOBER 21, 2017

OPUWO

KUNENE REGION

Check against delivery

**The Bereaved Family of the late Hon. Angelika Kazetjindire Muharukua,
Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba – Former President of the Republic of Namibia,
The Right Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila – Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia,
Honourable NetumboNandi Ndaitwah – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation,
Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia,
Honourable Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament,
Honourable Regional Governors present,
Your Worship Cllr Albert Tjiuma – Mayor of Opuwo and mayors of other towns in Namibia present,**

**Honourable Regional and Local Authority
Councillors,
Honourable leaders of the Traditional
Council of Namibia,
Your Excellencies members of the
Diplomatic Corps,
Comrade Nangolo Mbumba – Secretary
General of the SWAPO Party,
Honourable McHenry Venaani – Leader of
the Official Opposition in the Parliament and
other leaders of political parties present,
Senior Government Officials,
Service Chiefs,
Members of the media,
Comrades and Friends**

As we bid our final farewell to our fallen comrade, mother and sister, I am reminded of the words of Robert Louis Stevenson who said, "When it comes to my own turn to lay my weapons down, I shall do so with thankfulness and fatigue, and whatever be my destiny afterward, I shall be glad to lie down with my fathers in honour.

Our brave daughter of the soil, Angelika Kazetjindire Muharukua, fought a good and brave fight. Having lived a life characterised by bravery, steadfastness, self-sacrifice and determination, on October 1, 2017, her time came to lay her weapons down. She did so with thankfulness and fatigue and now she can lie down with her fathers in honour.

Comrade Muharukua was blessed with the gifts of selflessness, courage and valour, which are some of the core tenets of effective leadership. The key characteristics of a good leader include the ability to convey a sense of purpose in a selfless manner, and the ability to lead from the front, displaying robust moral and physical courage. These are but a few of the exemplary character traits that made our brave daughter of the soil an outstanding leader.

A stalwart in her own right, she never shied away from communicating the fears, desires and needs of impoverished people. She was the voice of the voiceless and took up the fight for those who did not have the means

to fight. Such character is rare in today's world, where true heroes are few and far between. It is therefore no surprise that since her departure from this life, there has been such a tremendous outpouring of grief and a celebration of a life lived in service to her countrywomen and countrymen.

In the context of Gender-Equality and the equal participation of women in society, Comrade Muharukua was among the prominent torch bearers for female empowerment. Through her tireless work within the Kunene region and beyond, she exemplified the important role that our women play in the process of nation building. She had a maternal tenacity which was respected, even by her detractors. Her

never-say-die attitude and commitment to socio -economic development is what propelled her to the position of Governor of the Kunene Region.

Let us celebrate the life of this remarkable individual by emulating the admirable character traits that made her an effective and a respected leader. She has left behind a map which will guide all young Namibians towards becoming outstanding citizens in the Land of the Brave. Her life has proven that no matter where you are born, no matter how many uphill battles you may face, with self-belief and moral fortitude, you can reach the heights of success.

To the bereaved family of Comrade Angelika Kazetjindire Muharukua, we say that this daughter of the soil is one of Namibia's brightest gems. A gem will always maintain its splendour, whether it is above or beneath the ground. So as we prepare to bury our Comrade, we are heartened by the fact that her splendour will never cease to exist. Che Guevara said that, "Whenever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear and another hand reaches out to take up our arms." Death surprised our sister, but we have all heard her battle cry on the battlefield. We will take up her arms and continue the good fight she fought so well. A luta continua, A vitória é certa!

In conclusion, we turn to the words of Isaiah 57: 1-2, "The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death".

Comrade Muharukua lived her life walking upright and now she has found rest as she lies in death.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.