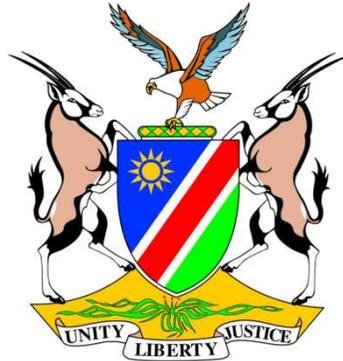


# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR HAGE G. GEINGOB,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
MEMORIAL OF LATE HONOURABLE ANGELIKA K.  
MUHARUKUA**

**WINDHOEK**

**KHOMAS REGION**

**OCTOBER 18, 2017**

*Check against delivery*

**Director of Ceremony;**

**The bereaved Muharukua and  
Ngombe families and the entire  
Clan;**

**Comrade Nickey Iyambo, Vice  
President of the Republic of  
Namibia;**

**Comrade Saara-Kuugongelwa  
Amadhila, Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Namibia;**

**Comrade Netumbo Nandi-  
Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister**

**and Minister of International  
Relations and Cooperation;**

**Your Honour, Chief Justice Peter  
Shivute;**

**Madam Monica Geingos, First  
Lady of the Republic of Namibia;**

**Honourable Ministers and Deputy  
Ministers;**

**Honourable Members of  
Parliament;**

**Governor of the Khomas Region,  
Honourable Laura McLeod  
Katjirua;**

**Honourable Governors present;**

**Honourable Regional and Local  
Authority Councilors and in  
particular Kunene Regional  
Councilors;**

**Your Worship, the Mayor of  
Windhoek; Cllr Kazapua**

**Secretary General of the SWAPO  
Party, Comrade Nangolo  
Mbumba;**

**Members of the SWAPO Party  
Political Bureau and Central  
Committee;**

**Veterans of the Liberation  
struggle;**

**McHenry Venaani, leader of the  
official opposition and leaders of  
other political parties;**

**Your Excellencies, Members of  
the Diplomatic Corps;**

**Distinguished Service Chiefs;**

**Esteemed Religious, Traditional  
and Community Leaders;**

**Fellow Mourners;**

**We are gathered here today to  
celebrate the life of a National  
Heroine, a life that provided  
inspiration and hope to so many  
of us.**

**We are here to pay tribute to the sudden silence of an outstanding daughter of the soil of Namibia, who only spoke for fairness, justice and dignity of life. We are also here to grieve the eternal separation from a mother figure to many, including to myself; a wife; a sister; a comrade; a community and traditional leader and indeed a daughter of the soil and a National heroine.**

**When I appointed Comrade Muharukua to represent me as Governor of the Kunene region in 2015, she wholeheartedly embraced the new assignment with vigor and unmatched commitment. I can attest today, that she worked tirelessly to advance the developmental programmes of Government in one of the developmentally most challenged regions of our Nation.**

**The Kunene region is big, sparsely populated and while it is one of the most pristine places on the planet, it is also arguably one of toughest terrains to manage. Yet this did not deter Comrade Maharukua from wholeheartedly embracing her assignment. One of her final undertakings was to establish a Regional Advisory Committee to strengthen her capacity, to better leverage opportunities to the Kunene region.**

**Her trust and confidence in achieving development, even when it seemed unattainable, displayed her heroic courage and faith.**

## **Directors of Ceremony**

**Dear Mourners**

**The late Comrade Muharukua will always be remembered as a fearless freedom fighter who stood and faced the enemy on the battlefield, relentlessly, unto the very end.**

**At the time of her sudden departure, she had traveled to Windhoek, for official duties and to meet with us to report on her activities and seek further guidance. Heroes don't retire, but die on the battlefield, just like Comrade Maharukua. Heroes do not see the impossible, but believe in the art of the possible.**

**Comrade Maharukua was an individual who saw the possibility in even the most difficult of circumstances; for she believe in the art of the possible.**

**Personally, I have lost a genuine Comrade, a political ally and a mother figure. Nationally, we have lost a naturally gifted and astute political analyst and intuitive leader. The invaluable contributions and sacrifices, pre and post-independence Namibia,**

**made by Comrade Muharukua  
render her a worthy recipient of  
this highest Honour.**

**There can be no glory without  
overcoming and Comrade  
Muharukua is one who has  
endured and prevailed. She has  
overcome trying times of  
adversity but through it all,  
remained steadfast, displaying  
patriotic fervor in service to the  
Party, the Country, the  
Government and the People.**

**It was her conviction and forthright character that distinguished her as a community leader and catapulted her into the National Figure, whose life we are celebrating today.**

**Directors of Ceremony**

**Dear Mourners**

**I recall pre-Independence incident reported to the SWAPO leadership, when Comrade**

**Kakuva was killed by the South African forces in the Kunene region. It was Comrade Muharukua who accompanied the bereaved widow and brother of the late, to Windhoek to open a case of murder, with the assistance of the Council of Churches of Namibia. By so doing, this heroine displayed exceptional courage in the face of harm and danger, in pursuit of a higher purpose.**

**Comrade Muharukua and her husband paid an expensive price for being prominent SWAPO Party members, in a predominantly non-SWAPO region, at the time. They were constantly targeted and arrested by koevoet and their South African masters. However, this political harassment did not deter Comrade Muharukua to uphold the SWAPO Party ideals.**

**As a legislator in Parliament, the late Comrade was active on key debates that were close to her heart. She played by her own rules and was neither discouraged nor intimidated by her inability to articulate her views fluently, in English.**

**She would instead challenge her antagonists (and I paraphrase her) that *"we will see the outcome after the elections"* meaning, *"Say what you will***

***now, I will be back to Parliament.”***

**This is the Angee that we knew and are mourning today; a towering beacon of hope and a canopy of shelter for the marginalized communities, across the country and indeed in the world.**

**Directors of Ceremony**

**Dear Mourners**

**Permit me to make use of this opportunity to clarify that the burial of a National Hero or Heroine is prepared in consultation with the family of a fallen Hero. The final resting place of the hero or heroine is, therefore, ultimately decided upon by the family. This is not a unique incident, where the family has decided to bury their loved one and National Hero, at his or her place of origin.**

**It was the case with the late Comrade Hendrik Witbooi, who was also declared a National Hero and entitled to a burial at the Heroes Acre. His family, however, decided to bury him at his hometown in Gibeon, as per his final wish. The same was true with fallen Comrade Nico Bessinger, whose mortal wish was to be buried at Khomasdal.**

**The delay in burial is regrettable, however necessary, to allow the family time to arrive at a decision on her final resting place. We fully appreciate that the family has to be consulted and that consultation requires time. Mindful of the traditional background which she hailed from, the Government was therefore ready to grant the wishes of her family and children.**

## **Directors of Ceremony**

### **Dear Mourners**

**In closing, the late Comrade Muharukua will be remembered as a stalwart supporter of the SWAPO Party; as an advocate for social justice; and as and proponent for development of the marginalized people of Namibia.**

**She was a leader who was not afraid to expose her weaknesses and neither was she shy to ask for help when needed. Her devotion was displayed through her love and loyalty to her country and people, while her selfless concern for the well-being of the people of the Kunene region further demonstrates her compassion for the suffering of others.**

**It is said that inheritance is what you leave behind, while a legacy, is WHO you leave behind. Comrade Angelika Kazetjindire Muharukua has left behind a name that will not die. She will continue to live on, in the hearts and the minds of those who were touched by her life.**

**On behalf of my wife Monica, our family and on the behalf of the entire Namibian nation, I wish to extend this message of comfort,**

**peace and condolence to the entire bereaved family, friends, the SWAPO Party rank and file, the people of Kunene region and the Namibian nation at large and beyond.**

**We thank the Lord Almighty, the source of all comfort and hope, who has been with us during this difficult time. May He continue to strengthen us and uphold us to the end.**

**May the soul of Comrade  
Angelika Kazetjindire Muharukua  
rest in eternal peace.**