

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE STATE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MEESTER
MARTIN LAZARUS SHIPANGA**

JULY 4, 2020

HEROES ACRE

WINDHOEK

Check against delivery

- 1. Director of the burial service, Comrade Ben Amathila;**
- 2. The Bereaved Widow Madame Eveline Ndapewa Shipanga, children, grandchildren, extended family and students;**
- 3. Comrade, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- 4. Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly;**
- 5. Your Lordship Petrus Damaseb, Acting Chief Justice;**
- 6. Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia;**
- 7. Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers;**
- 8. Honourable Members of Parliament;**
- 9. Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;**
- 10. Honourable McHenry Venaani, leader of the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM);**
- 11. Your Excellency Anastas Kaboba Kasongo Wa-Kimba, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- 12. All Service Chiefs present;**
- 13. Gaob Immanuel /Gâseb, Acting Chairperson of**

- the Council of Traditional Leaders;**
- 14. Pastor Lorenst Raonga Kuzatjike;**
- 15. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**
- 16. Representatives from media houses;**
- 17. Fellow Mourners;**

We are here today, to bid our final farewell and our respect to Meester Martin Lazarus Shipanga; father, husband, uncle, teacher, mentor, friend and National Hero.

We are here to show our love, support and sympathy for Madame Eveline Ndapewa Shipanga, the children and grandchildren. Not only are we coping with our personal sense of loss, but in Meester's family, we sense a deep loss over his passing. Therefore, we are drawn toward them, to express our sympathy, to accompany them on this final and difficult walk, and to continue to comfort them in the days to come.

At this hour of grief, we seek comfort. Comfort for our sense of loss, comfort for our sense of fear and comfort for our hearts that continue to hurt since we learned of the passing of our Meester.

Our tears and our emotions symbolize the impact that this great human being as an educationist par excellence, had on our lives. It has been said that, "The measure of a life is not in its duration but in its donation." Today, we can attest that Meester Martin Lazarus Shipanga's donation and contribution to life has had an immeasurable and profound effect on the lives of countless Namibians. That is why the memory and influence of this great man, a true classic Namibian patriot, will remain with us forever.

All the words have been spoken, all the songs have been sung, all that remains is to commit the body of our dear compatriot and master teacher back to the earth and his soul into the hands of our Creator, to complete the final sentence in the final chapter of a peerless and illustrious life.

Our limited understanding of the finiteness of human life leaves us lost, at times such as this. Therefore, we can only turn to the consoling words of scripture, which in *Philippians 4:7* reads, "*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

May God give us peace and understanding in this sombre moment and may He grant the soul of our National hero, Meester Martin Lazarus Shipanga, eternal rest and peace.

Goodbye uncle and teacher. Go well.

I thank you.