



COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA

11 February 2025

Office of the Founding President

Private Bag 13220

Windhoek

Namibia

Re: Message of Condolences-Founding Father of Namibia His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma

It is with deep sorrow that the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) extends heartfelt condolences to the Founding Mother of Namibia Kovambo Nujoma, Honourable Minister Utoni Nujoma, Sakaria Nujoma, bereaved family and the Namibian nation at large. Founding Father Dr Sam Nujoma was a remarkable leader, a visionary statesman, and the indomitable figure of Namibia. His journey from the rugged landscapes of the Namib Desert to the hallowed halls of international diplomacy is a testament to unwavering resilience, unwavering courage, and profound love for his people.

Born on May 12, 1929, in the village of Etunda, Dr. Nujoma's early life was shaped by the harsh realities of colonial rule. With a heart ignited by the desire for freedom and justice, he joined the struggle for independence, becoming the leading figure in the fight against Apartheid and oppression.

In 1960, he co-founded the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), a movement that would unite and inspire generations of Namibians to strive for liberation. The CCN was a strong advocate for Namibia's independence, aligning itself with the liberation movement led

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by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) under Dr. Nujoma's leadership. Church leaders condemned apartheid policies, calling for justice and self-determination for Namibians. CCN was among the key institutions in Namibia that openly opposed the apartheid regime, aligning itself with SWAPO's liberation efforts. Despite the risks, CCN leaders and member churches spoke out against the injustices of the South African occupation.

Founding Father, Dr Sam Nujoma's leadership and charisma galvanized the people of Namibia, allowing them to envision a future where they could live in dignity and sovereignty. For over three decades, he led the liberation struggle with resilience and determination, enduring exile and hardship. His steadfast commitment to the cause exemplified the true meaning of sacrifice, as he risked everything for the promise of a free Namibia. The Founding Father Dr Sam Nujoma was the last of the generation of African liberation struggle leaders. This group of leaders from the SADC Region, included President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President Samora Machel of Mozambique, President Agostinho Neto of Angola, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, President Hastings Banda of Malawi and President Seretse Khama of Botswana.

The moment Namibia attained its independence on March 21, 1990, was not just a political victory; it was a monumental testament to Dr Nujoma's vision and tenacity. As Namibia's first democratically elected president, he embraced the heavy mantle of responsibility with grace and humility. Under his leadership, the nation embarked on a path of reconciliation, nation-building, and development. His policies championed education, health care, and social justice, laying the groundwork for a stable and prosperous Namibia. After independence in 1990, the CCN shifted its focus from anti-apartheid resistance to nation-building efforts. Dr. Sam Nujoma, as Namibia's first president, acknowledged the role of the church in liberation and often engaged with CCN leaders on national issues.

Nujoma's legacy extends beyond politics. He is a symbol of hope and determination for many around the world. His advocacy for peace, democracy, and human rights resonates universally and serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of fighting for justice against all odds.

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He has inspired countless individuals and movements, proving that one voice can indeed change the course of history.

As we reflect on the profound impact of President Sam Nujoma's life, let us carry forward his dream of a united and equitable Namibia. Let us remember his teachings and lead with the same passion and commitment he demonstrated throughout his life.

In honouring Founding Father His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, we celebrate not only a man but also an idea—a vision of freedom, equality, and hope blossoming in the hearts of every Namibian. His legacy will forever live on, guiding future generations in their pursuit of a just and prosperous society.

We are highly thankful to President Nujoma, for his extraordinary contributions and for being the unwavering beacon of light for Namibia. His exemplary leadership will continue to inspire us as we forge ahead, united in purpose and determination, striving for a brighter future.

As we mourn the passing of Founding Father, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, we also give thanks to God for his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his steadfast spirit of service, unity, and perseverance continue to inspire generations to come.

We pray that God's peace and comfort be with you during this difficult time. May you find strength in knowing that the entire nation shares in your grief, and that his memory will live on in the hearts of all Namibians.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." — Matthew 5:4

May the soul of His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma Rest in Eternal Peace.

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