

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE JOINT STREET RENAMING CEREMONY
IN HONOUR OF COMRADES WINNIE MADIKIZELA-
MANDELA AND ENEAS PETER NANYEMBA**

DECEMBER 3, 2021

**CORNER OF OTJOMUISE AND MONTE CHRISTO ROADS,
WANAHEDE KATUTURA**

WINDHOEK

Check against delivery

Director of ceremonies – Mr. Mujiwa George Mayumbelo;

Family representatives of the Madikizela-Mandela and Nanyemba families:

- **Her Royal Highness, Princess Zaziwe Manaway;**
- **Mrs. Mathilde Namupa Shinana;**

Honourable Members of Parliament present;

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

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Your Worship Cllr. Sade Gawanas, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;

Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councilors Present;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- 1. It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to this momentous day, in honour of two of our region's foremost heroes of the Liberation Struggle; our brave Comrade Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and our gallant, Comrade Eneas Peter Nanyemba.**
- 2. The first Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo, Patrice Émery Lumumba, captured the essence of African independence when he stated, "The day will come when history will speak. But it will not be the history which will be taught in Brussels, Paris, Washington or the United Nations. Africa will write its own history and in both north and south, it will be a history of glory and dignity."**

- 3. Today, through this solemn ceremony, as Namibians, as South Africans and Africans at large, we are writing a piece of our own history, which is a history of glory and dignity, encapsulated by these two heroic luminaries whose legendary feats will reverberate throughout the ages.**

- 4. Our gathering here today is not only to reflect upon and honour these patriots who so aptly represent the heroism and sacrifice of our struggle for independence but it is also to ensure that these two streets of our capital city remind us of their exploits, which have contributed to the birth of the Republic of Namibia and the emergence of a liberated Democratic Republic of South Africa.**

5. The late Comrade Winnie Madikizela Mandela is a liberation icon who was a symbol of hope, not only to the struggling masses of South Africa but also to the oppressed people of Namibia during the dark and bitter days of our struggle against Apartheid colonialism. Considered as the Mother of the Nation, Comrade Winnie, due to her admirable bravery, fiery passion and staunch resistance against the South African apartheid regime, faced detention, harassment and physical threats at the hands of state security forces. However, she never wavered. Her meritorious service to the people of South Africa and Africa at large has cemented her

legacy on the continent as a symbol of African pride, strength and independence.

- 6. What distinguished her from her peers was that Comrade Winnie never elevated herself above the people. In her own words, she said "I am the product of the masses of my country and the product of my enemy". She remained rooted to the people of South Africa, even when she assumed higher responsibilities. Despite the hardships of the struggle, she emerged ever defiant and brimming with more determination to bring about change in the lives of her brothers and sisters, Sons and daughters.**

7. I am therefore honoured to announce that in addition to this street renaming, I will, on December 15, 2021, be awarding this outstanding patriot and mother of our continent with The Most Brilliant Order of the Sun, First Class at the Conferment of National Honours Ceremony in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the liberation of Namibia and South Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Comrade Peter Nanyemba, a highly venerated icon of the Namibian Liberation struggle was a SWAPO diplomat and later the commander of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), who was also elected as the party Secretary of Defence.

Comrade Nanyemba played an instrumental role in organizing PLAN at the early stages of the war of independence. Leading from the front, he did not harbor illusions on the gravity and sacrifices of war when he described what lay ahead for those who had taken up arms to fight for freedom, by stating, "*We shall have to cross many rivers of blood before we can achieve our freedom.*"

- 9. Indeed, the rivers of blood engulfed many of our heroes and heroines. Many of them, like Comrade Nanyemba, never had the privilege of setting foot on the soil of an independent Namibia but like the prophet Moses, thousands of years before them, their steadfastness, bravery and**

determination opened up the gates towards the Promised Land so that others could enjoy the fruits of the struggle. Today, we can stand on the streets of our capital city as free people, thanks in part to valiant patriots like Comrade Peter Nanyemba.

10. From tomorrow, when young people inquire about who these streets are named after, they will be told of two icons who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of their countries and people. These were two ordinary individuals who in their lifetimes, managed to achieve extraordinary feats.

11. As we strive to bring about economic emancipation in the Second Phase of the

Struggle, we ask for the same steadfastness from our young leaders who must walk in the footsteps of these esteemed patriots in order to lead Namibia and South Africa towards prosperity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. Throughout their lives, Comrades Madikizela-Mandela and Nanyemba demonstrated the highest measure of patriotism and selflessness. We honour them for their service to their people. We honour them for their innate bravery and unflinching determination. We honour them for their admirable legacy which has cemented their status as national and African heroes.

13. Therefore, today, we take pride in naming these streets after these two outstanding individuals. Two icons of our Liberation Struggle.

Long live the legacy of Comrade Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and;

Long live the legacy of Comrade Eneas Peter Nanyemba.

I thank you.