

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



THE PRESIDENCY

MEDIA RELEASE

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Windhoek

All Media

His Excellency, President Hage G. Geingob confers on the late teacher and veteran of the liberation struggle, Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga, the honour of National Hero, directs that a State Funeral be held in his honour

In terms of Sub-Article (8) of Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution, and under the powers vested in the President by Sub-Article (3)(h) of that Article read with section 3(1) of the Conferment of National Honours Act, 2012 (Act No. 11 of 2012), His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob confers on the late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga (born 11 September 1931 and died on Sunday, 28 June 2020) the honour of a National Hero, and directs that a State Funeral be held in his honour.

Following consultations with the wife and family of the late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga, the Head of State, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob directs that his remains be interred at the National Heroes Acre in Windhoek, Khomas Region on Saturday, 4 July 2020. A State Memorial Service will be held in his honour on Friday 3 July 2020. President Geingob has directed that a period of national mourning be observed in honour of the late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga, during which all flags in Namibia will be flown at half-mast with effect from Thursday, 2 July 2020 to Saturday, 4 July 2020.

President Geingob conveys deepest sympathies to the wife, Mrs. Eveline Ndapewa Shipanga, the children, the entire family, including comrades and friends.

Bio Data of Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga

1. The National Honours Advisory Committee, in terms of Section 9 (1) of the Conferment of National Honours Act, (Act 11 of 2012) by way of a round robin consultations following Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga's death on Monday June 29, 2020 at his residence in Windhoek agreed on June 30, 2020 to empower the Chairperson of the Committee to forward a recommendation to the President on the

conferment of an honour of interment of the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga by the state taking into account the following attributes:

2. That the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga is noted as a teacher who taught Namibia's first crop of political leaders amongst whom H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob and thirty-two others are listed.

3. That the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga is noted facilitated the exchange program of teachers from Namibia to travel to Germany and learn from their German counterparts. This was to encourage and motivate the Namibian teachers to yearn for more knowledge and improve the education system that they were confined to in a colonial Namibia.

4. It is also noted that the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga influenced the German Government to construct the Katutura State Hospital to the dislike of the then apartheid regime. As a result, the white minority regime copied the same idea and constructed the Windhoek Central Hospital for the use by whites only.

5. That the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga is recorded as one of the first members of the First Delimitation Commission of Namibia as established in 1990.

6. That the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga is further recorded to have served the country as a member of the first Electoral Commission of Namibia.

7. That the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga is noted to have made immense contribution towards the liberation struggle of Namibia. Notable amongst various roles he played during the struggle, is the underground network he had with his fellow comrades such as the Late Daniel Tjongarero and Mr. Engelhard Gariseb at a time when they coined phrases like "the bicycle tires" to mean a convoy of the South African army vehicles while "my sons kite" meant aero planes

flying". These coded phrases were used to convey a lot of information from Namibia to SWAPO office in London during the liberation struggle.

8. In conclusion, Mr. Lazarus Martin Shipanga stood firm in his believe to work for the liberation of Namibia even when it was dangerous to do so. He used his soft voice and silently navigated the terrain of the liberation struggle negotiating, advising, mentoring, inspiring and encouraging in a selfless manner as demonstrated by him being granted a veterans status of Namibia liberation struggle in August of 2013.

9. Having considered the above attributes, the NHAC agreed to recommend that;

The President considers to confer a Heroes Funeral to the Late Mr. Martin Lazarus Shipanga by interring his remains on a date and place preferred by his family.

10. It is my trust that your office will consider the above recommendation.

ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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