



# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT BY  
HONOURABLE DR. ALBERT KAWANA, MP  
REGARDING THE HOLDING OF AN  
INQUEST FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF  
FRIEDA NDATIPO, A CHILD OF THE  
LIBERATION STRUGGLE

23 APRIL 2015

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WINDHOEK

1. Honourable Speaker, I rise to make a Ministerial Statement. Honourable Members of this august House may recall that on 27 August last year, Namibia lost its national under unclear circumstances, the late Comrade Frieda Ndatipo, one of the children of the Liberation Struggle.
2. You may further recall that the late Comrade Ndatipo was shot dead by an unknown person when the children of the Liberation Struggle attempted to march to the SWAPO Party National Headquarters to seek audience with the SWAPO Party leadership on issues relating to possible employment opportunities in Government institutions.
3. Following the unfortunate event, the then Right Honourable Prime Minister, His Excellency Comrade Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, assured the nation that there would be an impartial investigation into the death of the late Comrade Ndatipo. In terms of Article 91 of the Namibian Constitution, the Ombudsman was then requested to investigate the circumstances of Comrade Ndatipo's death. A Joint Commission of Enquiry of reputable Professionals in various disciplines was assembled by the Ombudsman to carry out an impartial investigation.

4. A report was subsequently submitted to me and to the Prosecutor - General in December last year. The Prosecutor - General was requested to decide whether or not to prosecute on the available evidence. After extensively studying the report, the Prosecutor - General declined to prosecute on the available evidence. The decision of the Prosecutor - General was communicated to the Ombudsman on 10 April this year.
5. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, you will recall that this matter generated a lot of public debate. A citizen of our country lost her life in unfortunate circumstances. Our President who was then Prime Minister promised the nation that the Government will do everything possible to establish what exactly happened. Against this background, I have decided in my capacity as Minister of Justice, to invoke the Provisions of Section 7 (3) (b) of the Inquest Act, 1993 (Act No.6 of 1993) to request the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice to designate a judge of the High Court to hold an inquest.
6. I am pleased to report that the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice has acceded to my request. Allow me, therefore, Honourable Speaker to take this opportunity to thank one of our finest and most efficient jurist, the Honourable Deputy Chief Justice for his prompt response.

7. I therefore call upon all stakeholders to ensure that an inquest into the death of the late Comrade Ndatipo is held as soon as possible and give maximum cooperation to the High Court..