



MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES

Director of Ceremonies;

Madam Johana Ndambu Sikondo, the Chief Mourner, the Children and the entire family;

(Hon. Bonifatius Wakudumo, Governor of Kavango East Region)

Hon. Sirkka Ausiku, Governor of Kavango West Region and all other Regional Governors present;

Hon. Vicky Mbawo Kauma, Vice-Chairperson of the National Council;

Hompa Alfons Kaundu;

Members of Parliament;

Hon. Sivaku Joseph Sikongo, Chairperson of Kavango West Regional Council;

Regional Councillors;

His Worship Gabriel Kanyanga, Mayor of Rundu Town and all other Mayors present;

Local Authority Councillors;

All regional leaders in your respective positions and of course your Spouses;

Fellow mourners;

The media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The National Council has learned with great sadness about the sudden death of the late Hon Johannes Kahonzo Sikondo after a short illness on Sunday, the 19th of September 2021. The message was devastating, because the Late Sikondo was both a colleague of mine at the National Council and the Kavango West Regional Council.

This is the second loss for Kavango West Region in a space of three years, after we lost the late Hon. Rosa Kunyanda Kavara during the 5th National Council (may her soul continue resting in eternal peace). The late Sikondo was sworn-in as Member of the 5th National Council on Monday, 07 May 2018 to replace the late Hon. Kavara at National Council, and again as a member of the 6th National Council on the 15th of December 2020.

A sudden loss of a family member, a friend or a colleague such as that of Hon. Sikondo come with a deep pain and many questions without answers. No amount of words will completely erase this sorrow; but as believers we usually hang on the faith we believe in. We believe that this faith will take us through the slow healing process.

The National Council is equally pained by the loss of our colleague and comrade, whom we relied upon so much to bring forward the issues of regional and national concern to the House.

Fellow mourners,

I have no doubt in my mind that the late Sikondo would have done more for his constituency, the region and the country at large as a Member of Parliament. His contribution was analytical and vibrant and it became

immediately clear that he had the ability to study issues before taking the floor.

Fellow mourners,

The late Hon. Sikondo's contributions will forever be remembered at the National Council.

Reflecting on his debates in the August House, the late Sikondo contributed on the Namibia Deposit Guarantee Bill. In his own word, he said the following: *“This Bill has come at the most important time after the nation witnessed the collapse of the SME Bank, and the depositors’ hard earned money has not been recovered. The lessons we have learned from the collapsed of the SME bank is a bitter one, it has left a bitter taste in our mouths but has opened our eyes, hence, the introduction of this Bill.”*

He further went on to say that the establishment of the Deposit Guarantee Fund shows that the Government is not ready to let the Financial Institutions gamble with depositor’s money. This fund will safeguard the money deposited in these Institutions and clients will not be at the mercy of these Institutions as it has been the case in the past. Once the Act is passed and enacted into Law, it will restore depositors’ faith and confidence in our Financial Institutions.

In addition, he cautioned that it was his belief that those who will serve on the Board of Directors of Namibia Deposit Guarantee Authority will be men and women of high ethics, integrity and class; men and women who are not about petty squabbles and power struggle with leadership of the authority. Those appointed to run the Namibian Deposit Guarantee

Authority should do so with integrity. They should learn from the mistakes of others and not to repeat the same mistakes.

This sentiment alone tells us that the late Sikondo had a great understanding in the areas of finance and business, the experience he took to National Council, as a Member of Parliament.

The late Honourable Johannes Sikondo was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the National Council on Education, Science, ICT and Youth Development.

Dear mourners,

Namibia has lost a leader and a nationalist. Clearly his commitment to work towards a prosperous Namibian society was never in doubt as can be discerned from his own words. Therefore, his legacy should inspire us to soldier on. Normally, Regional Councilor's positions or political office bearers' positions in general are given to people who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of the people or communities.

I must confess that the late Hon. Sikondo is an example of political leaders described above. Surely, he was a Councilor of note. In the timespan that he was a Member of Parliament at National Council, he left an indelible mark in the memories of fellow Parliamentarians.

Fellow mourners

On behalf of the National Council and indeed on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt and deepest condolences to the Sikondo family, residents of Ncamagoro Constituency and the people of both Kavango Regions.

Finally, it is indispensable to note that the late Hon. Sikondo will be remembered as a loyal servant of the people and an agent for change for the betterment of the socio- economic conditions of all Namibians.

Comrade Sikondo was a man who had less words but more action, full of confidence, as if he had no challenges that we all go through in life and always had a plan B, which was known as Mzee plan. The Mzee plan was commonly used whenever the Council member got stuck on a plan, then the late would always suggest that there is always a Mzee plan, referring to plan B. The Mzee plan slogan is an inspiration he got from the wisdom of the late veteran politician Mzee Kaukungwa.

We wish the family a God-given strength and comfort during this period of great loss. May the soul of Johannes Kahonzo Sikondo rest in eternal peace.

I thank you.

Lukas Sinimbo MUHA, MP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
01 September 2021