



## Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition

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19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

### **MOTION BY THE HONOURABLE MCHENRY VENAANI ON THE RENAMING OF THE BUITEPOS BORDER POST TO MR. LUDWIG KANDUKETU STANLEY BORDER POST**

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

1. I stand before you to advocate for the renaming of the Buitepos Border Post to the Ludwig Kanduketu Stanley Border Post. Studies from authoritative bodies like the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa and the Ghana Statistical Service substantiate that the act of commemoration is far more than symbolic. It is an intelligent, strategic investment in the nation's collective conscience and economic vitality.
2. This act of renaming is not merely ceremonial but monumental in the tapestry of Namibia's history. Ludwig Kanduketu Stanley was not just a participant but an essential architect in Namibia's fight for independence. His

courageous role in aiding the escape of founding President Sam Nujoma into exile in 1960 catalyzed our liberation struggle and culminated in a sovereign Namibia.

2. This vital role did not go unnoticed; Stanley was specifically commissioned by Paramount Chief Hosea Kutako to aid fellow Namibians on their dangerous journey into exile. Recognizing Stanley's essential qualities, Chief Kutako, an influential figure in Namibia's quest for independence, entrusted him with the monumental responsibility of aiding those attempting to break free from colonial oppression. Consequently, Stanley's fearless and decisive actions become a cornerstone deserving unequivocal acknowledgment.

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3. The late Dr. Ngarikutuke Tjiriange, a distinguished national hero, has provided an irrefutable account that accentuates Mr. Stanley's unwavering bravery. In Dr. Tjiriange's own words, "In 1964, Stanley jeopardized his personal safety to facilitate the safe passage for me and my fellow compatriots—Rapatua Batholomeus Tjivikua, Karumburumbu Rahimisa Kahimise, Marukuyani Reinhard Kapuikie, and Jephta Kapute—allowing us to elude capture from law enforcement agencies in the then Bechuanaland Protectorate and South West Africa, guiding us to Sihitwa."

4. Dr. Tjiriange further elaborates on the perilous environment in Makunda: "Being in Makunda without prior authorization posed an inherent risk, due to the collaborative efforts between South African and British law enforcement. Mr. Stanley, however, exhibited no hesitation or trepidation. With audacious resolve, he transported me and my comrades to Sihitwa in

When the Chiefs' Council  
under <sup>Paramount Chief</sup> Hosen Kutako around 1940-50  
established the first Black Intelligence  
body known as Ozohoje. <sup>Oral History</sup>  
and accounted from late Bishop Kambury  
Kafikury Katjiongu and Absai ~~Kandara~~  
Kandiekira account that Stanley  
played a vital role in aiding his  
missions that facilitated both petitions  
and escapes. These routes allowed  
Namibians to get international exposure  
that Pether culminated in bringing  
Rev Michael Scott with Special Envoy  
Friedrich Hera Maharero / son of legendary

his new vehicle, where he safely transferred us into the care of Mr. Daniel Munamava. Demonstrating remarkable selflessness, Stanley put his own safety in jeopardy for the greater cause of Namibian liberation."

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

5. The proposed renaming would elevate the significance of this border post from a colonial vestige to a memorial of a "revolutionary father," as termed by the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma. It would make Stanley's enduring contribution to Namibia's liberation and nation-building an integral part of our national geography.
6. The symbolism is profound, as Stanley's life was interwoven with both Namibia and Botswana, the two nations linked by the Buitepos Border Post. His journey from birth in Windhoek to his tragic end in Botswana epitomizes the cross-border unity crucial for national liberation and progress.
7. The potency of naming public spaces is irrefutable; it can frame our history, values, and aspirations. Renaming this border post will solidify Stanley's role in Namibian history, strengthen our sovereign identity, and inspire future generations to continue the journey toward a self-defined nation.
8. Not too long ago, the renaming of the Ondangwa Airport to Andimba Toivo ya Toivo Airport fostered national unity and identity. In South Africa, landmarks like the Nelson Mandela Bridge also underscore how naming

public spaces after national heroes fosters national unity and identity while serving economic interests. The airport in Ondangwa and the bridge in South Africa serve as both vital infrastructure and a standing testament to Andimba Toiva ya Toivo and Mandela's unifying role in a post-apartheid Namibia and South Africa.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

9. Thus, the renaming of the border post is not just a symbolic gesture; it's a bold statement of identity and purpose. Replacing the name Buitepos with that of Ludwig Kanduketu Stanley signifies a transition in our national narrative, one that aligns with our ethos of resilience, liberation, and cross-border collaboration.
10. The current name, Buitepos, an Afrikaans term, serves as an anachronistic blemish that undermines our international standing. By renaming it after Stanley, we make a significant diplomatic gesture, projecting values like resilience and forward-thinking to the global community.
11. It's vital to remove both overt and insidious colonial remnants, such as this border post's name, to complete our journey toward complete sovereignty. Place names are not merely labels; they are signposts in our collective psyche, influencing our self-perception and international image.

12. Retaining colonial names hampers our evolution, echoing an era of subjugation and diluting our independent identity. Replacing them liberates our public consciousness, inducing a collective shift toward a genuinely sovereign Namibia.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

13. The names that grace our public spaces either empower or subjugate us. Renaming to honor Stanley reclaims our historical and cultural narrative, emphasizing Namibia's triumph over adversities.

14. This initiative extends far beyond mere semantic alterations; it serves as a deliberate and robust assertion of our national identity. By etching Stanley's name into our physical landscape, we do more than commemorate an individual; we enshrine a legacy of resilience and liberation. This becomes a guiding star, illuminating our path as a nation and adding substantive depth to our continually unfolding narrative of overcoming adversity and achieving freedom.

15. The proposed renaming serves as an enduring homage to Stanley, fusing his narrative of sacrifice, fearlessness, and valor into Namibia's geographical and psychological landscape. It becomes more than a point on a map; it stands as a profound educational monument for current and future generations. As they traverse this renamed border, individuals will be compelled to engage

with Stanley's legacy, making his story an integral part of the collective memory and shared experience of the Namibian people.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

16. In conclusion, renaming the border is a corrective and prescriptive act, aligning our historical experience with our future trajectory. We are not merely changing a sign; we are affirming a new social contract that honors our past while shaping our future.

17. Renaming public landmarks in honor of pivotal figures serves as a multidimensional strategy that transcends mere commemorative value. This practice not only enhances national identity by embedding the legacies of these figures into our public consciousness, but it also fosters social cohesion by offering shared symbols of unity and pride. More than mere monuments, these renamed landmarks become interactive arenas that invite critical dialogue, reflection, and educational enrichment. Additionally, they hold economic significance. By evoking a sense of heritage and distinctiveness, these landmarks can attract both domestic and international attention, thereby boosting tourism and local businesses. Far from being static memorials, such landmarks are dynamic cultural assets that continually enrich our evolving national story, serving as both tribute and ongoing catalyst for communal values and aspirations.

18. I urge all Honourable Members to support this important motion. Renaming the border post does not just pay homage to Stanley; it transforms our national landscape. This is not a mere cosmetic change; it's a strategic redirection that impacts our collective identity and destiny.

**I so move Honourable Speaker**