

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE MEMORIAL
SERVICE OF THE LATE SILVANUS VATUVA**

SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

OMUNGWELUME

OHANGWENA REGION

**Check Against Delivery*

**Bereaved Widow, Mrs. Helena Vatuva, Children
and the Entire Bereaved Family;
Hon. Elia Irimari, Governor of the Oshana
Region and other Governors present;
Regional and Local Authority Councilors;
Ohamba Meekulu Martha Mwadinomo Kristian
Nelumbu;
Religious Leaders;
Traditional Leaders;
Fellow Mourners;
Members of the Media,**

**We are gathered here to pay our last respects
and bid farewell to a man whose life was
characterized by hard work and dedication to
serve fellow human beings. A man whose
departure from our midst has not only been
felt by his family and friends, but by many
Namibians who have been following his work
with admiration, from the early years of our
country's independence. A man who had an
obvious passion for building a better Namibia
by enabling equitable access to services**

through good governance at the level of local government.

Today, we celebrate a life well-lived and in service of our country. We pay tribute to a man who gave true meaning to what it means to be a servant of our country and her people. As the first Commissioner for the northern regions and the founding Governor of Oshana Region, late Comrade Vatuva was a pioneer of Local Government administration in an independent Namibia.

He played a crucial role in assisting the central Government in dismantling Apartheid Bantustans, and the setting up of administrative structures in the Oshana Region. Governor Vatuva will therefore be remembered for his immeasurable contribution to the development of Oshana Region in general, and Oshakati in particular.

At this hour of grief, we have gathered here to show our love and sympathy to the family of

late Comrade Vatuva and to thank them for sharing this great man, a servant of the people with the rest of Namibia, allowing him to make a contribution to the development of a better Namibia.

We are grateful and we are here to assure you that you are in our prayers and we share your pain as you navigate through this difficult journey.

During this difficult time of grief, let us all seek solace in the word of God. The consoling words of the scripture in Joshua 1:9 read, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

May God give us peace and the ability to accept that we cannot change. May the soul of Governor Silvanus Vatuva rest in eternal peace.

I thank you.