

Commander 'Zulu' honoured with house

Edson Haufiku

The Vice President of the Republic of Namibia Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, official handed over a three bedroomed house to liberation struggle stalwart Phillipus Amutenya Nandenga at Oshakati on Friday, 10 July 2020.

Popularly referred to as Commander Zulu, Nandenga is the founding commander of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia's (PLAN) Northern Front, who joined SWAPO in 1963.

Nandenga, becomes another beneficiary of the mortgage-free home constructed through the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Housing Programme as a token of appreciation for the sacrifices of the liberation struggle heroes and heroines towards emancipating Namibia from the yoke of colonialism.

During the handover, the Vice President narrated the historic journey of Nandenga, saying the former PLAN commander is a liberation struggle stalwart who was unwavering in his contribution to the independence of Namibia.

“When the hour of reckoning called it was Patriots in the likes of Comrade “Zulu” that were willing to sacrifice their own blood and the blood of those that would continue to oppress and destroy the aspiration of a people seeking the right or pursuit of liberty and self-determination. Therefore, nothing could be more befitting than presenting this beautiful dwelling to this brave and courageous son of the soil”.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Rear Admiral (rtd) Peter Vilho reminded those in attendance that veterans of the National Liberation Struggle have been identified and categorised as a special focus group by the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

“Given the special needs of our veterans, it is imperative that we always serve and treat them in a dignified and respectful manner. It is against this background that we are gathered here to witness this house handover to a very notable veteran, who sacrificed his youth in ensuring that the motherland Namibia as we know it today is free from colonial rule by the racist South African regime” the Minister said.

He assured Nandenga that his immense contribution to the attainment of Namibia's independence has been documented for present and future generations.

Nandenga expressed his appreciation to the government for recognising his contribution to the independence of Namibia. "I feel honoured and remembered for what I have done for the country and this house accorded to me is an assurance that my liberation struggle journey is engraved in the history of our country."

Nandenga was trained in numerous areas of military engagement and possessed great political consciousness. He also served as a field medic, intelligence officer, Political Commissar and Regional commander.

He was decorated with numerous accolades, which include the Omugulugwombashe Class 2, Class 3 and Class 4 medals.

After independence, Nandenga, proudly served in the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) until his retirement in 2008 with a military rank of Colonel.

Photo caption:

Photo 1:

TOKEN OF APPRECIATION: H.E Dr. Nangolo Mbumba cutting the ribbon together with Col (rtd) Phillipus Nandenga (r) and the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs on the left.

Photo 2:

EXULTANT: Col (rtd) Phillipus Nandenga and wife Maria Nandenga.

Photos: Edson Haufiku