



Dr. Sam Nujoma in different motions during the struggle.

Ndilimani

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recalling some of the old SWAPO songs that had kept the liberation movement going in the early 1960s and 1970s as Namibians prepared to wage the struggle for independence.

He caught almost everybody by surprise when recalled some



Ndilimani Cultural Troupe performing at one of the SWAPO Party rallies. Photo by Anna Nakambale.

of the old songs hitherto unknown by the youngsters and most probably forgotten by some of those who were there at that time. The songs will be part of Ndilimani's next album,

songs that kept as going during the difficult years of the liberation struggle," said an enthusiastic and charismatic Dr Nujoma. "Those were not easy days. It was tough but our

will also take people, young and old, down memory lanes to trace the roots of Namibia's liberation struggle as waged by Namibia's forefathers and the generation that followed and stepped into



SPYL Secretary, Dr Elijah Ngurare, with Dr Sam Nujoma.

due to be launched soon.

"These are some of the

moral was very high. That is why we defeated the apartheid



Ndilimani's Manager, Jessy Nombanza with Dr Nujoma.



Ndilimani's Willy Amutenya with Dr Sam Nujoma.

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colonial regime and got our independence on March 21st 1990.

"The sons and daughters of this country bravely shed their blood and lost their lives for this country to be free. Our struggle started long ago when legends like Hendrick Witbooi, Ipumbu ya Shilongo, Mandume Ndemufao, Tjamuaha, Jan Jonker, and many others, said 'no' to colonialism and apartheid domination."

Ndilimani's next album is not only likely to be a hit but it

their shoes and waged the struggle to its logical conclusion.

"We thought we should bring in the voice of Founding President Nujoma in this album because it is unique," said Jessy Nombanza, Manager of Ndilimani Cultural troupe. "He was there throughout since the formation of SWAPO and his voice would add flavor to this album as it takes us back to those glorious years in our country's history. We are proud of that history."

Ndilimani was set up in 1980 by SWAPO cadres under the direction and supervision of the late Peter Nanyemba, then SWAPO Secretary of Defence. When it started, it only had rudimentary instruments.

But Founding President Nujoma took it upon himself to mobilize funds and support around the world until the band acquired modern instruments which it effectively used to mobilize Namibians inside the country and in exile to rally be-

hind SWAPO. It also contributed tremendously to keep the international community aware of the Namibian cause, rendering political, diplomatic and material support to SWAPO.

"Ndilimani was the source of our moral," said Dr Nujoma. "Its songs kept the moral of the combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, very high. As Commander-in-Chief of PLAN, I know that very well. We had other songs that our combat units at the fronts composed. That is why we were able to defeat the Boers at Cuito Cuanavale together with the Cuban Internationalist Forces and Angola's FAPLA forces."

"The US and Britain supported the apartheid regime. They gave it arms, including nuclear weapons to frighten countries like Angola and Zambia. Zambia was bombed so many times, and Angola's southern part was virtually occupied by the apartheid regime."

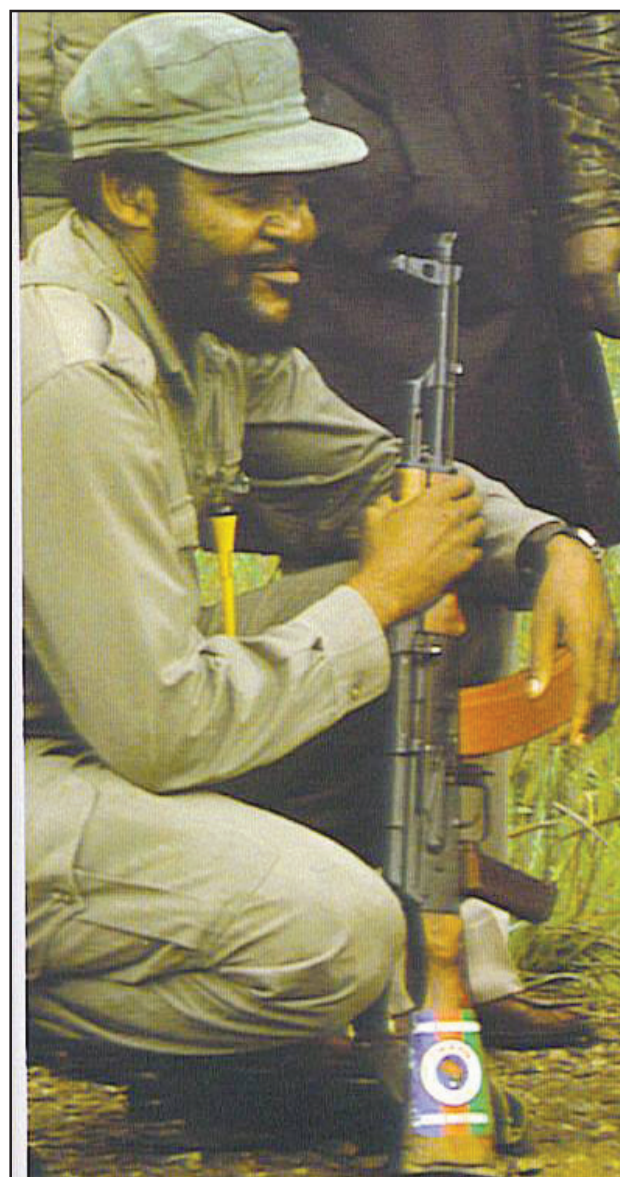
"But at Cuito Cuanavale, we

taught them a lesson. They came back running as their jetfighters could not match those that we had at our disposal, like Mig-23s. Cuito Cuanavale was a turning point in the history of our country. It was that battle that forced the Boers to sign the ceasefire and agreed to the implementation of Resolution 435."

During the struggle, Ndilimani travelled throughout the world to perform at international events in countries such as USA, Holland, Finland, Germany, USSR, (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Norway, Zambia and many other countries.

Ndilimani means Dynamite. It was the late Nanyemba's combat name. He died on April 1st, 1983 in a car crash. The Ndilimani Cultural Troupe that he helped create returned home in 1989 and it was one of the noted features at SWAPO rallies during the 1989 election campaign that saw SWAPO winning with a landslide victory. Today, SWAPO Party cannot imagine its rallies without Ndilimani.

"We are proud of Ndilimani," said Dr Nujoma. "It has made us proud as a nation. Keep it up."



The late Peter Nanyemba, who was instrumental in setting up Ndilimani.