Silence can and is deafening and surprising to unbelievable heights. It baffles the family, society and the nation to-date. We are reminding and rekindling the memory of one of Namibia’s pioneering, philanthropic and successful business gurus in the north. He owned nine business enterprises in the north. This is none other than David Sheehama (Mwaalwa, Ovila yopevu) who was assassinated on 14 March 1980 in his own home. Cry the Beloved and what and why did it happen? Why are we not telling the truth?

Legend has it that he was brutally murdered by the mercenaries of Sellois Scouts formed in the then Rhodesia and who became the elite hit squad of the notorious Koevoet. The reason for his death can only be ascribed to his unflinching and unwavering love, loyalty, dedication and commitment to his country and quest for the independence of this Namibia. The Land of the Brave.

Sheehama was an avowed freedom aspiring son of the soil and closely associated, linked and connected with his political home-ground, namely, the SWAPO Party and its military wing, the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). Going down the memory lane, the following are noteworthy:

Sheehama was clandestinely trained in military warfare by Commander Zulu, Aminutena wa Nandenga, the stalwart of the Northern Front. The afore-said is still alive and resides in Oshakati.

Sheehama patriotically and, certainly, at his own peril, volunteered to transport PLAN’s armed caches from Angola into Namibia. Commander Zulu recounts that on the first mission when Sheehama saw the loads of guns, he piously kneeled and literally kissed the barrels of those liberating paraphernalia. Sheehama supported the PLAN combatants holistically. Speak about their clothing, food, shoes, toiletries and the like, he knew when and how! Sheehama was one of the few, if not only, business person known to the PLAN combatants in Omusate, Omunandi, Eefitu, Omulema to mention but a few. Many are still healthy but a few. Sheehama was also known as helping the PLAN combatants inside the country by foregoing them accommodation, bicycles to facilitate mobility, clothing, food and other needs. What a daring patriotic, in need!

One worthy thing that many remember is that when he re-stocks his shops, he makes it a point to prioritize balls of wool for use by the youngish, initiated and puberty-like PLAN soldiers to masquerade as women for breasts and wearing skirts to avoid unwarranted scrutiny and control by the security forces.

Sheehama was endlessly prodded to waiver, surrender, skip the boat and abdicate his patriotic obligations. He was physically tormented and persuaded to join the colonial Bantustan and puppet government lackeys.

Sheehama was one of the “political graduates” of Osire, the notorious slaughter house of the much feared “terrorists”. They were mangleing with scorpions, tortoises, snakes and the like. That was the cruelty of the system. Thanks to the SWAPO government, it has now become host of our brothers and sisters of the bedeviled countries across the width and breadth of the citadel of humanity, our continent, Africa.

Sheehama was unavering in his commitment and despite the relentless threats, intimidation and assault upon his person, property and family, he stood the test of the time until his demise. After the incarceration at Osire, he pre-warned a close friend, Tate Namholo from Tsunabke: “Boers have money and can put it down on

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