Heroes Day

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By Asser Ntinda

From SWAPO website: www.swapoparty.org

He is really the Father of the Nation. Congratulations to Dr Sam Nujoma for showing them how to do it on Saturday morning at the Community gardening project in Khomasdal. The project of hope will keep the young boys and focused. Viva Cde. Nujoma.

Posté by FSK.

I am touched by the speech of HE Robert Gabriel Mugabe. I hope will keep the young boys and focused. Viva Cde. Nujoma.

Posté by Cde.

Land of the Brave

Namibians in their own hands, and it meant that they should plan, establish new frameworks for governance, build institutions and resources to fund development programs to foster progress.

“It meant cultivating an enabling political climate to promote national reconciliation and mutual understanding after decades of war and conflict. This was necessary because the colonial regime attempted to pit our people against each other through the tactics of divide and rule,” he said.

“Our people have been able to live together in peace and harmony as brothers and sisters. This has made Namibia one of the most politically and socially stable countries on the African continent. We are proud that Namibia is one of the oasis of peace and tranquility on our continent.”

It is unnecessary to remind ourselves of the task of nation-building. Namibia needs all of us to do our part and contribute to the development of our country, the strengthening of communities and the revitalization of our social fabric.”

August 26, 1966, was a red-letter day in the history of Namibia, a day when Namibian under the banner of SWAPO finally decided that enough was enough. After many years of painstaking political campaigns and peaceful negotiations, Namibians finally decided on that day that the most effective way to dislodge the colonial regime of South Africa from Namibia and bring about country’s independence was through the barrel of the gun.

A poderous encounter between combatants of the South West Africa Liberation Army, SWALA, and the then apartheid colonial forces took place on that day, at Omuhua gombashu, in northern western Namibia, currently known as Omusati Region. It was a war that would last for 23 solid years and unfortunately Namibia’s independence was not delivered on time.

When the war started, SWALA combatants had only PPSH sub-machine guns and a few semi-auto-

matics rifles. When it ended in 1989, PLAN combatants had at their disposal heavy pieces of artillery and anti-aircraft machineguns such as T-35 Soviet made tanks, Stella C-2ms and the feared Stalin Organs, the BM14 barrel rocket launchers.

When SWAPO launched the armed struggle, Hendrik Verwoerd, the then racist Prime Minister of South Africa, announced with great confidence and arrogance that what was obtaining in “South West Africa” was no more than a serious clash between law and order on the one side and lawlessness and murder on the other. South African Police in South West Africa would “nib in the bud at a matter of weeks.” He was wrong. The next 25 years that followed ended with Namibia’s independence, which he sought to prevent by all means necessary.

Namibia’s war for liberation – the longest in Africa – provided sober lessons for Pretoria. It taught the apartheid leaders that fanaticism was no match for patriotism, and that a nation critically short of advanced weapons could hold off an enemy with vastly superior resources through the use of innovative tactics, highly motivated forces and a capacity for large-scale military operations.

Over the years, PLAN had grown into a formidable army, able to launch sustained armed attacks on enemy installations. During that war, Pretoria had committed more than 10 000 troops to active military combat in Namibia, and was spending more than three million Rand a day to maintain its huge army in Namibia in a futile attempt to contain the deepening and broadening of SWAPO’s armed liberation activities.

Had it not been for PLAN’s combatants’ military activities in Namibia, no one could talk about Namibia’s independence in 1989. Through the barrel of the gun, PLAN combatants made racist troops pack their bags and go home for good, signaling the end of what some historians called Pretoria’s worst military blunder – the money the apartheid regime spent on fighting SWAPO, the costly war which it never happened. In 1986, Pretoria claimed to all and sundry that it had become the “only country in the world” where the newspaper had been banned.

The late 1970s and early 1980s saw apartheid South Africa’s large-scale military involvement in Namibia and southern Angola. Facing defeat in Namibia and Angola, and bogged down in township demonstrations back home, South Africa’s army and police became overstretched and short on resources.

Pretoria came up with another plan – Operation Butterkill. — which saw able-bodied whites between the ages of 18 to 55 being registered for what came to be known as the “Citizen Force.” Because of the many old men serving in the “Citizen Force,” it was soon mockingly nicknamed the “Dads’ Army.” The call up for the crooks of the “Dads’ Army” meant that Pretoria was deploying its last reserves into combat.

The coming into being of the “Dads’Army” bolstered SADF’s strength numerically. Or so Pretoria thought. With so many men under arms ready for combat – old as many of them were anyway — Pretoria thought and probably believed that it was as solid as a rock. No dream was too distant, no bridge too risky to cross. New operations were hatched, and ground was broken to invade Angola, once again. Millions of dollars were lavished at supersonic speed to fulfill Botha-Malan’s hegemonic dreams.

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