

**Official Funeral Service  
For Paramount Chief of Ovaherero People**



**Advocate Vekuü Reinhard Rukoro**

16<sup>th</sup> July 2021 & 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**“OMBARA OTJITAMBI”**

★ 11 November 1954      † 18 June 2021





# Tribute to Ombara Otjitambi



✱ Sunrise: 1954  
👑 Coronation: 2014  
✝ Sunset: 2021

*“Omuatje wa Rukoro  
waanaa Mukandi  
Orukoto rwombarata  
ngu ma pund’ ozongombe  
monganda ma rara”*

**Ombara Otjitambi:** Kombunda ondiro joMbara Otjitambi, Dr. Kuaima Riruako, Ombara Otjitambi Adv. Vekuui Rukoro otjazikirue me Hungiro mombura ndji 2014; Omundu Omukuendata uondjiuo nene jaMateve jaHango Karukua kaHango; kuihe omuatje uaHijamberimuna uongombe ja Tjombe tjaMukuandongo ohamungira ajazepa tjandje jaurozongama; ongombe jetu oningandu ndjaendere morutjindo ruaKamatjene Kozombuzovatua nderi ongombe jaNgamune jahonini.

Eje uakuaterua moTjiwarongo tjourutenda; ooKongombe ja Kambirongo ondjeo ndjiri ko Muhona ua Kaoko; mombura indij 1954, tijari 11 Tjikukutu. Eje uekurira nanjendere mOkondomba, mongunja jaKanjote, mongejama jaKavehungira kozondundu zetu ozondorozu mutenja, ozombapapa utuku, ndahoreka omuzandu uaMasango, ingwi okare kotjipara hijaKambatjitativi. Neje omumazu tjimai maende mekerihonge.

**Early life and Education:** **Ombara Otjitambi Advocate Vekuui Reinhard Rukoro** was born in Otjiwarongo, a farming town in central Namibia — then known as South West Africa on the 11 November 1954. His parents are Mr. Hijavara Kuhanga and the late Ms. Ndjizehinga Rukoro. He was raised by his grandmother Ms. Wilhemine Kaondeka Menjono in the village of Okondomba in Omatjete area in the Erongo region. His maternal siblings are Mrs. Uaengua Veronica Vihanga and Mr. Kazandundova Kuhunga. He grew up in an extended family of close to 10 siblings which included among others the following people: Mr. Mbambati Menjono; Mr. Juku Tjazuko; Mrs. Selma Mapoha; Mrs. Rukee Karumbu; Mr. Tjipundi Rukoro; Ms. Mbapewa Juliane Mbundu; Mrs. Uparura Vihanga; Mr. Verikenda Rukoro; Ms. Mbazuva Rukoro and Mr. Gabriel Rukoro.



**Ombara Otjitambi** attended primary school in Swakopmund and Karibib, and secondary school at Döbra. His school mates were among others Messrs. Blue Karimbwe. Late Erenfried "Bankrotier" Kandiimuine; Rukee "Bankrotier" Tjingaete, Bernhardt "Bankrotier" Zaaruka; Dr. HKuri Tjipangandjara; Stouter Ochurub and Johannes Tokwe. In 1980 he started tertiary education and obtained an LLB (Honours) degree from the University of Warwick (Coventry, England) in 1983, and an LLM degree from the Washington College of Law (Washington, D.C., United States) in 1987. He was a great soccer and rugby player and a great boxer too; he was known as Rocky in the boxing circles.

**A seasoned politician:** Advocate Rukoro joined the South West Africa National Union (SWANU) in 1975 and became its secretary-general but left with a group of dissidents in 1978 to form the South West Africa National Union Progressives (SWANU-P). He returned to SWANU, again became secretary-general in 1984, and the party's president in 1989. SWANU, like SWANU-P, merged into the Namibia National Front (NNF) prior to the 1989 elections that preceded Namibia's independence. Advocate Rukoro became president of the NNF and took the only seat gained by the party. He thus became a member of the Constituent Assembly of Namibia where he was one of the main drafters of Namibia's Constitution.

When Namibia officially became independent in March 1990, Advocate Rukoro became deputy justice minister — a post he held until 1995. Politically, Advocate Rukoro switched allegiance to the ruling South West African Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO) in the mid-1990s, and the lawyer served as the country's attorney general until 2000, before pursuing a corporate career.

**Empowering and influential corporate leader:** Advocate Rukoro was an influential businessman after his political career went on hold. He was chairman of the former national carrier Air Namibia until 2004, while serving as the Managing Director for Sanlam Namibia (2000 -2004). He also served as a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for First National Bank Namibia (2006-2013). Thereafter Advocate Rukoro was also CEO of the Meat Cooperation of Namibia (Meatco) organization between 2014-2017.

**OvaHerero Chieftainship: "Your legacy shall linger on..."** After the June 2014 death of Dr. Kuaima Riruako left the position of the Paramount Chieftaincy of the OvaHerero people vacant, Chief Fanuel Tumbee Tjombe acted for a short time. He died weeks after taking the position. In September 2014, Advocate Rukoro was appointed Paramount Chief. He led his tribe for 6 years and a half when he died in a Windhoek Hospital after a short illness on 18 June 2021.

**His aspirations and wishes:** Ombara Otjitambi was passionate about the "Namibianisation" and localisation drive in all spheres of our economy with the focus of lessening dependence on South Africa and empowering the local operations with skills and building talent. He fought for inclusivity and a prosperous Namibia especially on the land question. Economic Independence of all Namibians and especially the Ovaherero people stating that **"ami hivanga okunana otjuana otjisiona". Poor in the sense that Ovaherero people has been hereto deprived of their ancestral land and worthy possessions.** He was an advocating for sustainable development and growth at home with regards to farming and food production.



**“Muniovita” amplified our cause of reparations and restorative justice – “Nothing about us without us.”**

In 2017, Ombara Otjitambi Advocate Rukoro and other Herero and Nama leaders filed a class-action lawsuit in New York to try to force Germany to pay reparations, an effort which fell short when the court ruled the principle of sovereign immunity made the case against Germany inadmissible. Ombara Otjitambi Advocate Rukoro used his position as paramount chief to bring attention to the genocide case, remaining a thorn in the side for Germany. When negotiations between Namibia and Germany commenced in 2015 — with the aim of getting Germany to admit the early 20th century killings amounted to genocide and reach some kind of financial settlement — Ombara Otjitambi Advocate Vekui Rukoro consistently rejected Germany's insistence on dealing bilaterally with the Namibian government instead of the affected ethnic groups, insisting on representation. On a visit to Germany in 2016, Ombara Otjitambi said that a German apology not backed by reparations would be an “insult to the intelligence not only of the Namibians and the descendants of the victim communities but to Africans in general.”

**Ombara Otjitambi Advocate Vekui Reinhard Rukoro – Ovijano:** Omukuendata uaja Mateve, ua Hango, PC Rukoro, omunaa Rumburo rua Mutambo, omuatje ua Mama Nanduruka ua Nehova ua Mbumba ja Kombero. Omunaa Kuejuva uo Hauari, ovandu uonduezu ondauro ndjiharondo ketambo ra tjamua ngombe, airi ongombe, ootjeja na Tjirongo, oo Konemba na Kamana, oo Ngeke na Natuu. Okujana, maana mo Vakuejuva uo Muati, imba ovahahu uondenjeka mbumaveereke ovandu mbumaverukumue, ovanatje vaTjongua tjaKasimbona ina omutena uaKanauanga ovandumberi komutumbozohe kozongombe zaKajonakatjoruku, oohokuru kanjama katangara uongombe ja Njanekua narire orumbembera. Ovanatje va Kamati na Tjitumba.

**Ombara Otjitambi Rukoro** omuatje uo vanatje va Makono wa Tjindjou, imba va Mutirua wombamba ya Tjitombo, oua Kakuṭa kondjima onduezu ndjimaiu amijandja omake. Ovanatje va Tjikara Tjakarokua imba va Kamundjindjiri wa Kauwo, mbatupuka otjikara moru Tjandja rua Mazera na Ndjombo ya Katuze.

**Ombara otjitambi ouondua** ndji ja Mungunda wa Kujambura wa Ndjamo, indji ja Tjizu tja Nangari na Kahengombe, onduezu jourambakaa. **Ombara Otjitambi jo Vaherero Advocate Vekui Reinhard Rukoro omusya uo vandu mba:** Ngueipingena, Katjamana, Kausengua wa Ngamue onune wa Kandimuine wo Tjihaka. Omusia uo vanatje va Mateve imba mbaundjua po Vihunino vyakondjombo ja Honini, imba mbaaveumbu ovita mbijovihau no mbunda jo muti.



**Programme**  
**Special Funeral Service**

- **For Paramount Chief of Ovaherero People**  
**Advocate Vekuui Reinhard Rukoro**



**Memorial Service**  
**Commando No.2**  
**Windhoek, Khomas Region**  
**16<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Special Funeral Service**  
**Ovaherero Paramount Chiefs Burial Shrine**  
**Okahandja, Otjozondjupa Region**  
**18th July 2021**



## Day 1 – Virtual Memorial Service

### Friday – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Commando No.2 , Windhoek, Khomas Region

Programme directors: Messrs Edison Uapingene and Kavee Rijatua and Ms. Joyce Muzengua  
(Rotational basis)

Time	Event
8:30 :	National and AU Anthems
8:40 :	Welcoming Remarks by director of ceremonies
8:50 :	Opening Prayer and Scripture Reading by Reverend Ketjijere (Oruano Church)
9:00 :	Ombimbi/Omujane/Omuhongonene
9:10 :	Eulogy by Mr. Gerson Katjimune
9:20 :	Ombimbi/Ondoro (Ululation)

#### Messages /Tributes (Strictly 10 minutes per person)

##### Message on behalf of the Diaspora

9:30 :	SA Representative – Pastor Papo
9:40 :	Botswana Representative – Chief Kahiiko
9:50 :	UK Representative – General Owetz – Mr. Oversea Tjongarero

##### Message on behalf of friends and Comrades

10:00 :	Prof Diescho
10:10 :	Mr. Festus Muundjua
10:20 :	Michaela Hubschule
10:30 :	Mr. Vetumbuavi Mungunda

##### Message on behalf of the Corporate World

10:40 :	Mr. Erwin Tjipuka – CEO – First National Bank of Namibia
10:50 :	Mr. Sakaria Nghikembwa – Chairperson of the Momentum Metropolitan Namibia Board
11:00 :	Mr. Tertius Stears - Group Chief Executive Officer of Sanlam Namibia
11:10 :	Message by Honorable Rodman Vezemba Katjaimo – Katutura Central Constituency Councillor
11:20 :	Message by Mayor of the City of Windhoek – Dr. Job Shipululo Amupanda
11:30 :	<b>Tribute Video</b>

##### Message on behalf of Political Parties

11:40 :	SWANU – Honorable Tangeni Iiyambo
11:50 :	NUDO – Honorable Dr. Utjiua Muinjangué
12:00 :	LPM – Honorable Bernadus Clinton Swartboo
12:10 :	PDM – Honorable McHenry Venaani
12:20 :	SWAPO – Honorable Sofia Shaningwa
12:30 :	Message on behalf of H.E. Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia
12:40 :	Message on behalf of H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation
12:50 :	Message on behalf of Government: H.E Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia



### **Message of the USA and Canada -Diaspora Representatives**

- 13:00 : Canada - Mr. Door Mize, Representative
- 13:10 : Message on behalf of the Association of the Ovaherero Genocide: Dr. Ngondi Kamatuka – The President
- 13:20 : Message on behalf of the NTLA's Genocide Technical Committee – Mr. Deodat Dirkse -Secretary General
- 13:30 : Message on behalf of the OGF – Mr. Nandiasora Mazeingo – Chairperson
- 13:40 : Ombimbi/Ondoro (Ululation) – (Video)
- 13:50 : Message on behalf of Otjokujambera Peer Group

### **Message on behalf of the flags**

- 14:00 : General Feld Marshall Katavize Puriza – Erapi ro Tjizemba
- 14:10 : General Feld Marshall - Mr. Nathanael Mbaeva - Erapi ro Otjingirine
- 14:20 : General Feld Marshall Kambirongo – Erapi ro Tjiserandu

### **Message on behalf of Traditional Chiefs**

- 14:30 : Chief Jonas Tjikulya - Ovadhimba Traditional Authority
- 14:40 : Chief David Kavari of Tuvero Community
- 14:50 : Chief G.U. Rutjani - Otuzemba Community
- 15:00 : Chief Kooper - Representative of the Nama Traditional Leaders Association
- 15:10 : Representative of the Ovambanderu Traditional Authority
- 15:20 : Chief Turimuro Hoveka of Otjimana Traditional Community
- 15:30 : Chief Sam Kambazembi of the Kambazembi Royal Traditional Authority
- 15:40 : Paramount Chief Aletta Nguvauva of the Mbanderu Traditional Council
- 15:50 : Chief Raphael Hijangungo Kapia of the Zeraeua Traditional Community
- 16:00 : Chief Mureti of the Mureti Royal House
- 16:05 : Omukwaniilwa Fillemon Shuumbwa Nangolo - Ondonga Traditional Authority
- 16:10 : Chief Boas Tjingaete - OTA Otjingirine
- 16:20 : Chief Immanuel /Gaseb – Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders
- 16:30 : Chief Vipura Kapuuu – Chairperson of OTA Chief Council

### **Performance by Paul Williams Shipanga**

### **Tribute on behalf of family**

- 16:50 : Tribute on behalf of the Children and Grandchildren
- 17:00 : Tribute on behalf of the Widow
- 17:10 : Paternal (Oihe) by Mr. A.K.Kuhanga
- 17:20 : Maternal (Oina) by Mr. M.V. Rukoro
- 17:30 : Vote of thanks – Prof.Mutjinde Katjiua – Chairperson of the OTA Transitional Committee
- 17:40 : Announcements by Directors of Ceremonies
- 18:00 : AU and National Anthems

End of Program



## Day Two - Special funeral service

for Ombara Otjitambi jovaHerero Advocate Vekuii Reinhard Rukoro

Sunday – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021,

Ovaherero Paramount Chiefs Burial Shrine

Okahandja, Otjozondjupa Region

Programme directors: Prof. Katjiua and Mr. Kazombiaze

### Time Event

02:30 : Departure from the NAMBOB funeral parlour via Commando No.2, Windhoek to Omutukururu, Okakarara Constituency.

14:00 : Arrival at Commando No.1. Okahandja

- Ombimbi/Omujane/Omuhongonene & Ombimbi/Ondoro (Ulation) & Horse parade

14:30 : Arrival of Family Members, Window and Children at the Chief funeral site

- Arrival of the Casket
- Ondangere -
- Casket is taken to the grave site
- National and AU Anthems
- Opening Prayer and Scripture Reading
- Ombimbi/Ondoro (Ulation)
- Tribute on behalf of the Children by Mr. Nguvii Rukoro
- Message on behalf of the Red Flag by Ongejama Kamuhapita
- Message on behalf of the OTA – Chief Vipuire Kapuuo
- Paternal – Mr. A.K. Kuhanga
- Maternal – Mr. M.V. Rukoro
- Ombakero – Omuhonge

### Laying of the Wreaths

- The Children representative
- The Widow
- OTA Representative
- Vote of thanks
- AU and National Anthems

11:00

End of Program

**NB!! MEMORIAL MODES OF OPERATION:** Covid-19 regulations will be strictly adhered to:

1. tributes will be livestreamed,
2. no audiences allowed at Commado no.2;
3. drive-through tributes for invited individual at allocated time-slots only,
4. Pre-recorded video's and Zoom/ Teams opportunities.





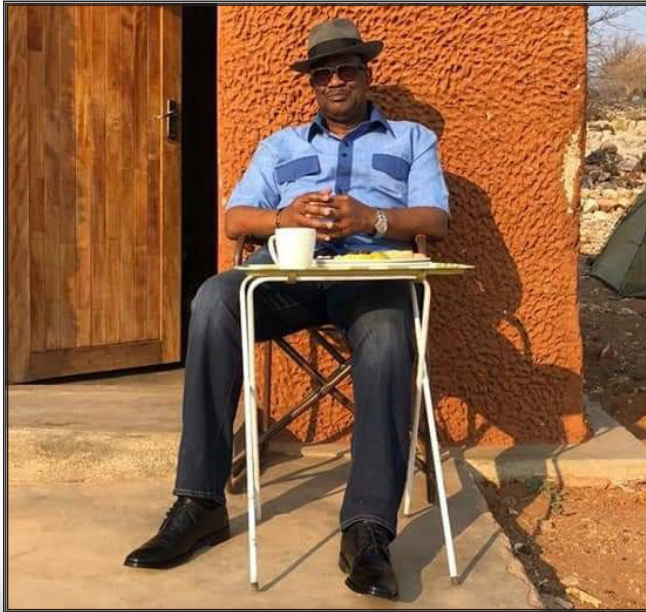




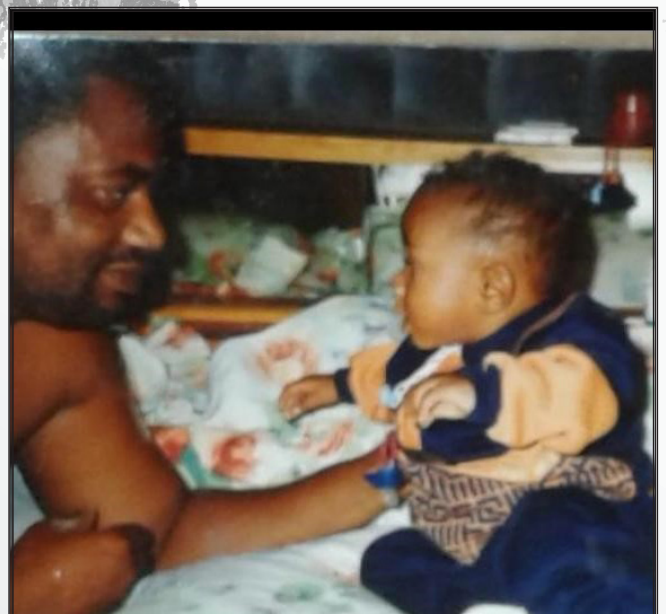
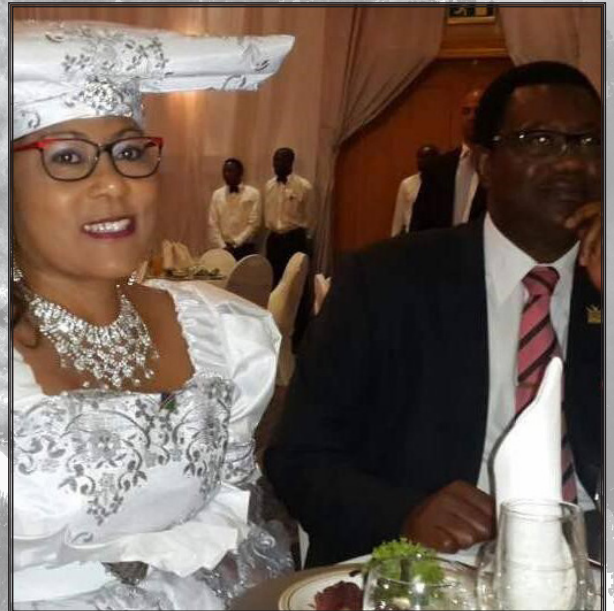
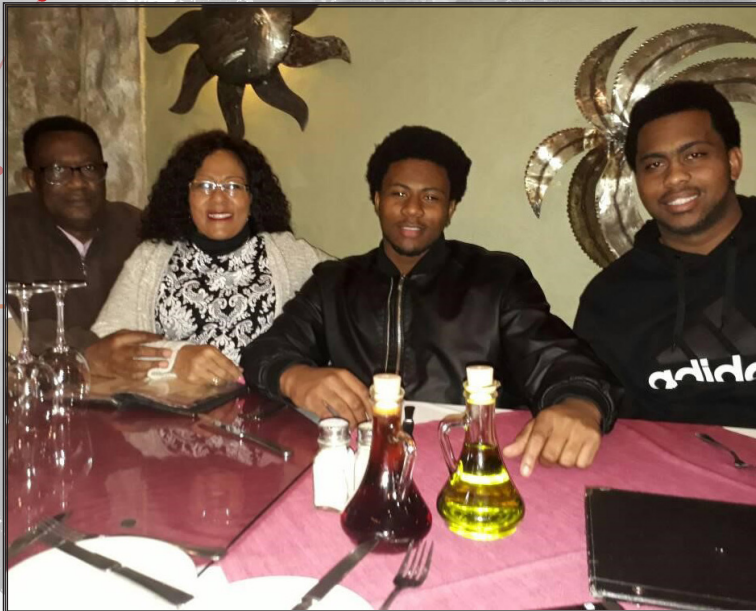
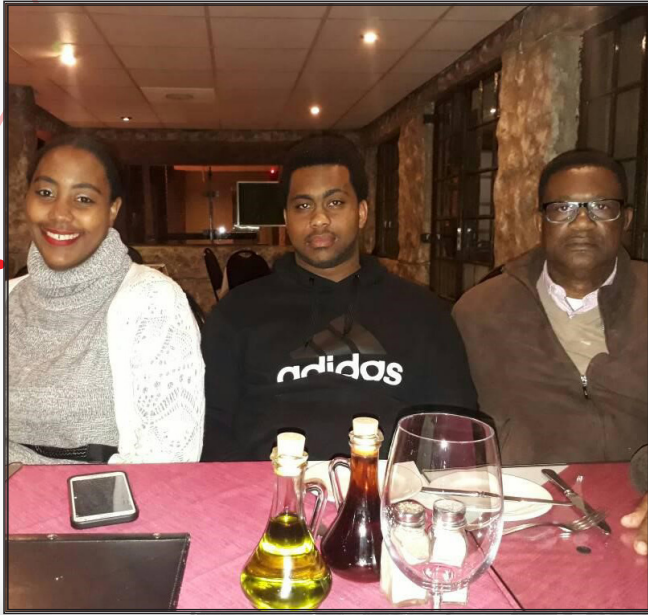
























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