



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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9 July 2021

Prof. Mutjinde Katjiua
Secretary General and Chairperson of the Transitional Committee
Ovaherero Traditional Authority
C/o Clemence Kapuuu and Ephraim Hei Street
Comando. No. 2
Katutura
WINDHOEK

Dear Prof. Katjiua

**STATE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE OMBARA OTJITAMBI
JOVAHERERO, ADV. V. RUKORO**

1. Following the conferment of the national honour to the Late Ombara Otjitambi, Adv. Rukoro by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, I, as Chairperson of the National Preparatory Committee informed the Family on 18 June 2021, about the said conferment and requested that we work together to execute the said State Funeral. Upon further consultation, you informed me that the Funeral of the late Ombara Otjitambi is being arranged by the Ovaherero Traditional Authority (OTA), therefore all matters pertaining to this funeral should be communicated through you, as Secretary-General and Chairperson of the Transitional Committee.
2. In pursuit of the above, I wrote a letter to you on 21 June 2021, explaining that in the execution of the State Funeral, Covid-19 regulations should be strictly

observed, adhered to and the Funeral should take place within the stipulated time frame (days).

3. However, in your response dated 23 June 2021, the OTA informed me that the Ovaherero community will bury the Ombara Otjitambi, according to their own customs and traditions. Therefore, it was the desire of the OTA that the costs associated with the State Funeral should be allocated to the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.
4. In our consultative meeting on the same subject matter held on 30 June 2021, you reiterated and made it clear in the meeting that the OTA will bury the late Ombara Otjitambi on 18 July 2021, in accordance with the Ovaherero traditions and customs. Therefore, the State should fit itself in the said traditional burial. However, the National Preparatory Committee has indicated that a State Funeral has its own protocols and is conducted in its own customary fashion which is different from the traditional burial.
5. In view of the above, I am writing to communicate to you that the understanding reached in our last meeting was that the OTA will conduct the burial of the late Ombara Otjitambi, in accordance with the Ovaherero community traditions and customs.

Yours sincerely


George Simataa, (Ph.D.)

SECRETARY TO THE CABINET AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

09/07/2021

