

Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho  
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**2015 Posthumous Pan-African Icon Award to Tanzania's first President, Julius  
Kambarage Nyerere**  
**Theme: "Afrika United for Peace, Stability and Prosperity for All"**  
10 September 2015  
Windhoek Country Club

H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia  
Madam Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia  
Hon Ministers and Members of Parliament  
Hon Maureen Hinda, PACON Chairperson  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
Senior Government Officials  
Members of the private sector and civil society  
Media  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I attend the 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 Posthumous Pan-African Icon Award, to commemorate Tanzania's first President, Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

As the UN Resident Coordinator and a daughter of the African soil, I relate to PACON's mission to promote strong leadership and socio-economic development in Africa, based on Pan African values.

Individuals such as Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela and Julius Nyerere, showed courage, integrity and dedication, and as such made a difference in the lives of millions of women, men and children, despite formidable challenges.

Today's commemoration provides an opportunity to pause, to reflect and most importantly to be inspired by the sacrifices and achievements of statesmen such as "Mwalimu" Julius Nyerere.

President Nyerere's efforts to foster nation building and social development in Tanzania during his time in office led to concrete political and social gains.

These included the merging of Tanganyika and Zanzibar to become Tanzania, the construction of the TanZam railway to export Zambian copper through Tanzania instead of apartheid South Africa, increasing life expectancy from 35 to 52 years,

reducing infant mortality rates from 190 to 137 per 100 000 live births and improving literacy rates from 33% to an estimated 85%<sup>1</sup>.

These accomplishments were all the more remarkable given the resources that Tanzania provided to liberation movements in Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and beyond.

Namibia was borne from the struggle of the brave men and women who fought for independence; and through the support of Pan Africanists such as Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

During years of struggle, many Namibians were provided a home in Tanzania. It was under Mwalimu's leadership that the concept of "ujamaa" that we should all work together for the common good entered the popular lexicon.

Today, a more stable and prosperous Africa is on the rise due to the foresight and efforts of statesmen such as President Nyerere, one of the founding Fathers of the OAU.

Namibia is part of this transformation

Since independence, the number of poor people has been reduced from 7 to 3 out of every 10 people; 99% of all children have access to education; 84% of Namibians have access to safe water and malaria mortality has been reduced by 90%<sup>2</sup>.

Namibia ranks number 4 in Africa in gender parity in parliament (at 47%)<sup>3</sup> and ranks number 9 globally.

Notwithstanding these achievements, there is still unfinished business in Namibia.

Poverty and inequality remain high especially among female headed households, pensioners and subsistence farmers. One in every three people is unemployed and youth unemployment stands at 39.2%<sup>4</sup>. Coordination and implementation gaps still exist.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, today let us take courage and inspiration from President Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere for the task at hand.

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<sup>1</sup> President Mwinyi, International conference of the Arusha Declaration

<sup>2</sup> Namibia MDG Report, 2015

<sup>3</sup> Article: Conditions of women remain bleak in Southern Africa, [www.sabc.co.za](http://www.sabc.co.za), 21 August 2015

<sup>4</sup> Labour Force Survey, 2014

Let us salute the example of a selfless, humble and honorable man who worked for the common good of all Africans at home and in the African diaspora.

Let us build on the rich legacy of our founding fathers to strengthen Africa's agenda for emergence and create more positive stories; not only on the continent but also here in Namibia.

We in the UN share in the vision of 'Peace, Stability and Prosperity for all' and look forward to working with you in turning it into a reality.

I thank you!