



Republic of Namibia

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

BY

HON. DR PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**AT THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR THE
LATE CHIEF SETH MADAWA KOOITJIE**

TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2019

SOUTRIVIER

To the bereaved widow, family and Topnaar Traditional Community of the late Chief Seth Masawa Kooitjie who passed away on 24 January 2019.

We at the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development have learnt with profound sadness about the sudden passing of Chief Seth Madawa Kooitjie on 24 January 2019 in Walvis Bay, Erongo Region at the age of 65 years.

I extend our deepest sympathy on behalf of the Government of Namibia and in particular on behalf of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, to the bereaved widow, children, family, Topnaar Traditional Community and indeed to the entire Namibian nation who mourn the passing of a compassionate traditional leader.

As the line Ministry responsible for Traditional Authorities and who have worked closely with the late Chief Seth Kooitjie and who have known his rare leadership attribute since his recognition as a Chief in 1998 we share the profound sorrow which you experience as a result of his sudden departure.

We have known the late Chief Seth Kooitjie as a traditional leader who had the needs and welfare of his Topnaar community at heart. He had provided leadership to his community with passion and magnanimity and had worked tirelessly to ensure that their basic needs for education, health and for their livelihood are met. Testimony to this, are the clinic, the school and early childhood development facilities that were constructed at his initiative at Utuseb in the Kuiseb valley. The late Chief Kooitjie advocated for the socio-economic development of the Nama speaking communities as the Chairperson of the Namas Traditional Leaders Association.

The late Chief Kooitjie was an influential leader of the eminent Council of Traditional Leaders. He played a pivotal role in its deliberations at its annual meetings and thus providing a critically needed leadership role in this council. Similarly, he represented the council on its High Level Investigation committee as chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively; and was thus involved in the investigation and resolution of Chieftainship succession disputes. He will be dearly missed by his peers in the Council of Traditional Leaders who he served with selfless dedication. The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is indebted to him for his valuable contribution to the strengthening of Traditional Authorities governance.

We thank the Almighty God who had given us a visionary leader who had served our communities and country with selfless dedication. May we all find solace and be comforted in the belief that the late Chief Kooitjie has accomplished his earthly mission and we should therefore entrust him to the merciful hands of his creator to have his eternal rest.

On behalf of myself, the Deputy Minister, the Executive Director and entire staff of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, I once again express our deepest condolences to the widow, Mrs Diane Kooitjie the children family the Topnaar community and to the Namibian nation. May the Almighty God comfort us all and give us fortitude to overcome this great loss of a beloved husband, father and traditional leader.

May his soul rest in peace.