

## NEWS

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### FOREIGN MINISTER OF NAMIBIA PAYS TRIBUTE TO MANLEY

KINGSTON, April 8 (JAMPRESS):

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia, Theo-Ben Gurirab, has paid tribute to former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Michael Manley who died on March 6 and was given a State funeral on March 16.

Following is the text of his letter.

"Early this year when I was passing through New York, I saw Comrade Michael Manley on a current affairs TV programme, "Like It Is", moderated by Brother Gil Noble.

"It was the quintessential Michael Manley himself: eloquent, undaunted, visionary Pan-Africanist, internationalist as well as a vigorous champion of all the just causes of the nations and people of the Third World.

"I was so moved and felt exceedingly proud that I knew and walked with Comrade Michael Manley over many years. Brother Gil Noble's timing was just perfect.

"The part of the interview which was most significant was the time he spent talking about Cuba's historic role in Angola, in particular, and in general, the support and solidarity that Jamaica had assumed as her duty to give to SWAPO and the ANC in their struggles to end colonialism and apartheid in their respective countries. That was the time of the most critical war situation in the region of South West Africa.

"I was compelled to reflect on the great Marcus Garvey's legacy as a driving force behind Comrade Manley's commitment towards Africa in the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

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"African Diaspora produced yet another giant who was a courageous opponent of foreign hegemony in the Caribbean and ardent advocate of unity of the nations and people in the region. For me, that long interview would stand the test of time as a testimonial to his life and times on the world scene.

"As Prime Minister of Jamaica, Comrade Michael Manley had the presence of mind and wisdom in assisting SWAPO to build up technical capacity during the struggles by helping us to train many young Namibians in various fields in his country. Today they are productive citizens and destined to become future leaders. SWAPO could always count on Jamaica in various international fora.

"We are consoled by the fact that another equally able and committed son of the land of Marcus Garvey, Rt. Hon. Comrade P.J. Patterson, has assumed the mantle both as the Prime Minister of Jamaica and leader of the PNP. Comrade Patterson is dedicated to preserving and enriching the noble ideals and heritage that Comrade Manley stood for.

"During the official visit of H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia, and his delegation to Jamaica in October 1995, the discussions held with both the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and with Comrade Michael Manley confirmed the shared vision for the future and the practical ways for promoting mutually beneficial co-operation between the two sides.

"Namibians in all walks of life would want me to express our heartfelt condolences and fraternal solidarity at this time of sadness to the Government and the people of Jamaica and in particular to you, my dear sister, Mrs. Glynne Manley, and to the other members of the bereaved family.

"In Namibia, we will always think highly of his heroism and achievements. This we assure you, my dear sister, and the rest of the members of your family.

"With my very best wishes and highest consideration. And may his soul rest in peace."

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