



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION, YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES

OFFICIAL TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF RAS SHEEHAMA AND JACKSON KAUJEUA JUNIOR

It is with deep sorrow that the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture joins the nation in mourning in the passing of Ras Sheehama, one of Namibia's most prolific musical legends, who has left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape.

Since Namibia's independence, Ras Sheehama stood as a voice of resilience, unity and truth. Through his distinct sound and unmatched artistry, he gave our nation a soundtrack that not only entertained but also carried the weight of history, social commentary, and hope. His songs *Cassinga*, *Inotila*, *Travelling*, *City Young Girl*, *Poverty* and *Nekwa* remain timeless reflections of the liberation struggle, the triumph of independence, and challenges of independence, and the lived realities of Namibians across generations.

A true artist, Ras Sheehama embodied the words of Nina Simone — that it is the duty of the artist to reflect the times. His music went beyond entertainment and was not just melody, but a mirror of society, a call for justice, and a celebration of life's joys and struggles. For more than three decades, his distinct reggae sound, deeply rooted in Namibian identity, resonated with audiences at home and abroad, cementing his place as one of our nation's cultural icons.

Ras Sheehama leaves us with a collection of memories and a body of music that will inspire and comfort many, for generations to come. He left us with his gift of melodies and lyrics unmatched. We thank him for the greatest show. We thank him for his collection of memorable songs that will forever remain etched on the Namibian cultural landscape — a mark of his brilliance. His was a distinct voice, a singular character, a musical legacy and an irreplaceable presence in Namibia's artistic community that will forever be woven into the fabric of our nation's identity. There will always be only one Ras Sheehama.

In the same week, the nation also mourns the sudden passing of exceptional musician Jackson Kaujeua Junior, son of the late Jackson Kaujeua, one of Namibia's celebrated liberation struggle and post-independence musicians.

He passed away after a battle with cancer, only two days after Ras Sheehama's departure. Both Ras Sheehama and Jackson Kaujeua Junior were exceptional musicians: profoundly talented, deeply authentic, and unwavering in their artistry. Both lived their destiny as designed by the Almighty, without falter, and lived full lives doing what they loved most — creating music that moved the spirit and uplifted the nation.



On behalf of the Ministry, we extend our deepest condolences to Ras Sheehama's widow, Saskia Sheehama, his siblings, his children as well as to Jackson Kaujeua Junior's mother, his relatives, and the entire Sheehama and Kaujeua families.

Our sympathies are also with the wider Namibian nation, which has lost two cultural icons in the span of days. Their legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of our people and in the powerful songs they have left behind.

May their souls rest in eternal peace.



Mbumba Erastus Haitengela
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

