



**Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia and President of the fifty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly**



*Keynote Address*

**Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab**  
***President of United Nations General Assembly***

Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab is Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia, a post he has held since his country became independent in March 1990. He is also a Member of Parliament. As a member of the South West Africa Organization (SWAPO) Central Committee and Politburo, he is regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Republic.

A seasoned diplomat and negotiator, Dr. Gurirab served for 14 years as SWAPO's Chief Representative to the United Nations and, later, as its Permanent Observer. From 1986 to 1990, he was SWAPO's Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Throughout these years, he played a major part in negotiations leading to Namibia's independence.

He was one of the first SWAPO leaders to return home, in 1989, to help organize pre-independence elections. He was also one of the leading SWAPO negotiators of the ceasefire agreement, signed in March 1989, between South Africa's apartheid régime and SWAPO, which set the pace for elections in Namibia and its transition to independence.

Elected in 1989 to Namibia's Constituent Assembly, Dr. Gurirab was a key drafter of the country's Constitution. That Assembly became the country's first National Assembly in 1990.

Dr. Gurirab holds the title of Dean of African Foreign Ministers. In over 35 years in the field of international diplomacy, he has known and worked with three generations of world leaders and five Secretaries-General of the United Nations. Working to promote regional and subregional cooperation, Dr. Gurirab represented Namibia in 1995, on the bureau of the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers. He is also co-founder of the African-Latin American Initiative, an organization which brings together the countries of Africa and South America in a network of cooperation, solidarity and partnership aimed at promoting their mutual development.

Dr. Gurirab's political career began in 1963 when he fled his homeland to Tanzania. He was to remain in political exile for the next 27 years. In 1968, upon being awarded a United Nations Fellowship, he proceeded to the

United States to study. In 1964, he was appointed one of SWAPO's troika of Associate Representatives to the United Nations and the Americas, serving in that capacity while simultaneously pursuing his education. A United Nations Fellow throughout his university career, in 1998 Dr. Gurirab received an award from the World Association of former United Nations Interns and Fellows. Earlier this year, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree from the University of Namibia, in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy.

Born in Usakes, Namibia, Dr. Gurirab graduated with a teaching diploma from the Augustineum Training College in Okahandja in 1960. He went on to study at Temple University in Pennsylvania where he obtained a B.A. in Political Science in 1969 and an M.A. in International Relations in 1971.

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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New York, NY 10016

**FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET**

Ref.: .....

**No. of pages:** (Including this one) **1**

**Date** : **11 August 2003**

**To** : **Ms. Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjèga**  
**United Nations**

**To** : **(212) 963-3892**

**Fax No.** : **Martin Andjaba, Ambassador & Permanent Representative**

**From** : .....

Kindly find the attached letter addressed to you by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia.

Regards.

Attn: Mr. Teguest Guer

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA*****Prime Minister***

**Ms Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjèga**  
Founder/President  
African Action on AIDS, Inc.  
02 Boulevard East, Suite 12N  
Guttenberg, N 07093  
United States of America

**07 August 2003**

My Dear Ruth Bamela,


I express my huge regret for the delay in responding to your letter of 23 May 2003.

Initially, after receiving the letter, I had to consider a full plate of official engagements at home and abroad, including a possible trip to North America, and the UN. This compounded my choices and priorities.

Unfortunately, during the proposed timeframe, I must be at home, as my Head of State will be abroad. This is a constitutional and protocol requirement.

Given this dilemma, I am empowering my Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Libertina Amathila, to represent me and participate fully in the planned activities of the New York AIDS Film Festival, September 17-21 2003.

I will always be associated with your dedicated efforts and networking to save lives.

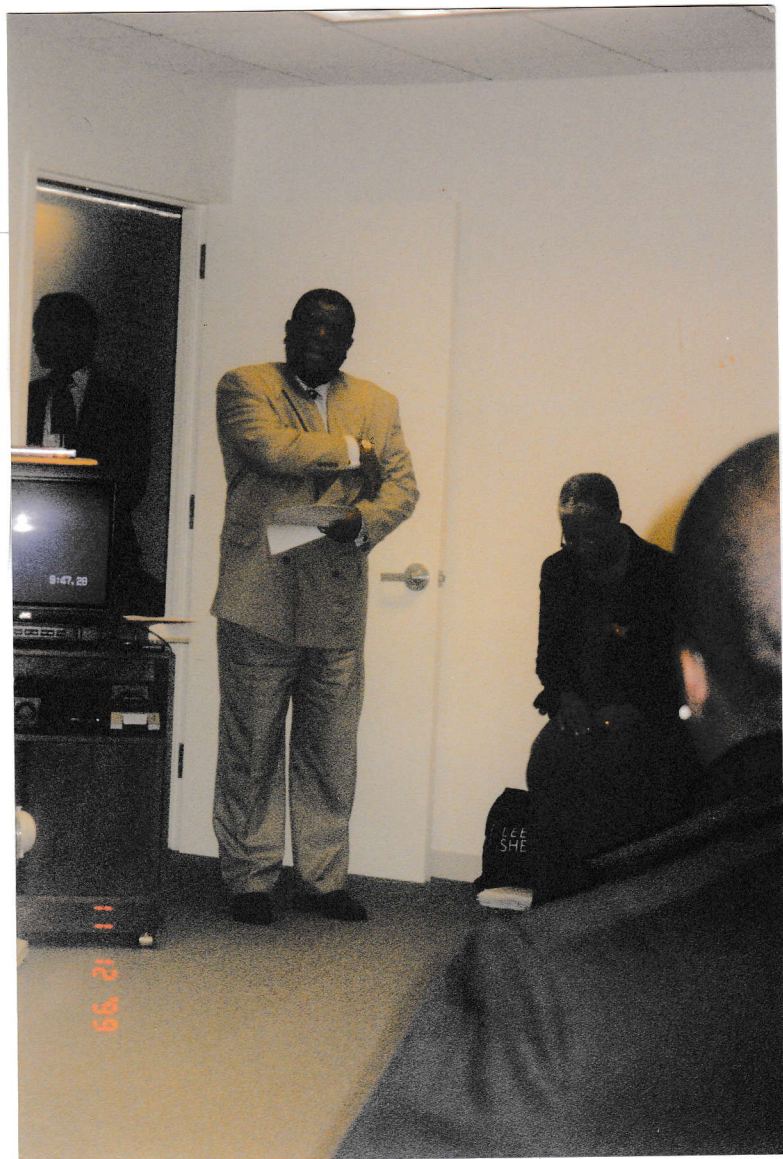
  
Theo-Ben Gurirab, MP  
Prime Minister

cc: H.E. Ambassador Martin Andjaba



2000

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION  
Hon. Theo – Ben Gurirab, participates  
to an AAA meeting organized at Bahai  
Centre, New York.





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Hon. Theo – Ben Gurirab, at a fundraising  
For AAA activities organized by Loris Crawford,  
AAA Treasurer and Founder of Savacou Art Galery  
New, York







AAA e-NEWS BRIEF – AUGUST 2018

## THEO-BEN GURIRAB: AN AUTHENTIC LEADER

Your contributions keep us going! Please send a tax-exempt check payable to one of African Action on AIDS' addresses below

### Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/S AC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

#### "JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes "MA YEM, MA BO":

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

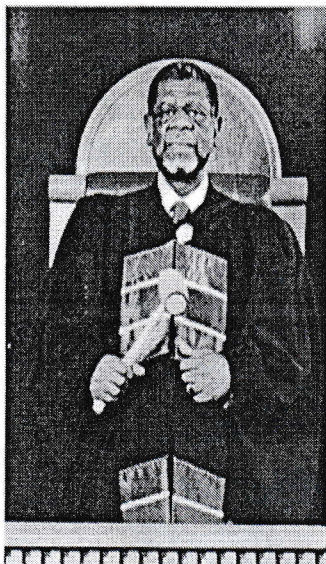
#### "Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicine

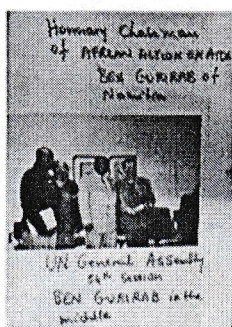
#### "Women's economic autonomy" through our Scholarship Programme.

This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

*It is with deep sadness that we inform members and friends of African Action on AIDS (AAA) of the passing of one of the principal architects of Namibia's diplomacy, stalwart of the Anti-apartheid and freedom struggle, former President of the United Nations General Assembly 2000, and HONORARY CHAIRMAN of African Action on AIDS, Theo-Ben Gurirab. AAA has very few things to add to this sad news, except to recall how honored we felt, when in year 2000, he concluded an important UN GA meeting and immediately came to attend our simple gathering.*



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We welcomed him by saying: "AAA is extremely honored by your presence here today. We are overwhelmed and do not have the usual flowery words used in diplomatic circles, because we are simple people. But as simple people, we know how to detect AUTHENTIC BEHAVIOUR! We recognize in you a person who always sides with the oppressed, the poor, and the weak. Starting with your own country Namibia, you sided with your people when freedom was needed more than bread. The award you are most proud of is the one you received from the United Nations interns in 1998, you made the plight of the children the focus of your mandate, and today, on the most important day of the United Nations marking Human Rights Day, you chose to be with the smallest group in town. We are very grateful. The energy of your presence fills us, boosts us and will spread our activities far afield..."

### REST IN PEACE!

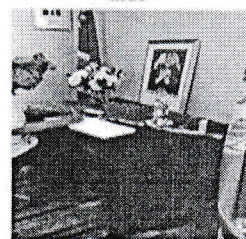
#### PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) Memorial Service at the General Assembly Live <http://webtv.un.org/live-now/watch/general-assembly-108th-plenary-meeting>.
- 2) Memorial Service held on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the National Black Theatre, located at 2031 5<sup>th</sup> Ave (125<sup>th</sup> St Harlem)
- 3) Condolences Book opened at the Mission of Namibia, 135 East 36 St. NY, NY, 10016 on 18, 19, 20<sup>th</sup> July from 10:30 AM- 4:00 PM

Ruth Bamela Engo,  
President of African Action on AIDS



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Contacts: [www.africanactiononaids.org](http://www.africanactiononaids.org) - [www.facebook.com/africanactiononaids](https://www.facebook.com/africanactiononaids)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Namibia <[namibia@un.int](mailto:namibia@un.int)>

Date: Thu, Jul 26, 2018 at 8:34 PM

Subject: RE: Message to HE Neville Gertze

To: ruth engo <[ruthengoaaa@gmail.com](mailto:ruthengoaaa@gmail.com)>

Dear Ms. Ruth Bamela Engo,

Your email was received with appreciation and brought to the attention of Ambassador Gertze.

Kindly find his response herewith:

**"It was my honor in spite of the sad circumstances that brought us together to mourn in solidarity and to appreciate the outstanding work that you are doing. I extend to you best wishes, continued progress and success."**

Best Regards,

Dina

Namibia Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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