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Cuba reiterates bilateral cooperation

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Namibia's long-time ally, Cuba, yesterday vowed it will continue to render support to the Namibian people where needed and continue to assist in the country's development efforts.

The visiting Vice-President of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, Salvador Valdes Mesa, said this yesterday when he met the National Assembly Speaker, Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, in Windhoek.

"It is our duty to cooperate with Namibia. Just like we stood by your side during your struggle for independence, we are ready to stand with you during your implementation of socio-development projects," assured Mesa. Mesa told Gurirab that opportunities to increase trade and economic relations exist.

"I also want to thank Namibia for always supporting Cuba in the United Nations General Assembly," said Mesa.

Gurirab on his part thanked Mesa for the visit and urged leaders from the two countries to share visits more frequently.

"The last time I was in Havana was in 2008, it has been too long and I even feel ashamed to say when last I was there," Gurirab said.

He told Mesa Southern Africa would forever remain indebted to the people of Cuba for their support during the liberation struggle.

"If it were not for Cuba, Southern Africa could have been a very different region right now. You consolidated the independence of Angola, expedited our independence struggle and you contributed to the end of apartheid in South Africa," said Gurirab.

The Namibia-Cuba relationship has opened many doors for young Namibians over the years.

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They temporarily relocate to Cuba to pursue their education, especially in medicine and engineering.

Cuba has also over the years assisted Namibia by providing medical personnel to assist at local public health institutions.

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