



**Tribute to the memory of the late Nii Allotey Odunton  
by Her Excellency, High Commissioner Lumka Yengeni, the Permanent  
Representative of South Africa to the International Seabed Authority during its  
27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly from 1-5 August 2022**

**Mr President**

I have the honour and privilege to pay tribute to the memory of the late Nii Allotey Odunton on behalf of the South African delegation. South African delegation aligns its statement with a tribute delivered by Ghana on behalf of the Africa Group.

- South Africa is proud to be associated with the late Nii Allotey-Odunton – our big brother.
- He was the second Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority.
- He was an illustrious son of the Continent.
- He did very well as the SG of the Authority.
- He devoted substantial parts of his working life in the service of the Authority and humanity in line with the principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind.
- He was a humble soul.
- Contrary to popular opinion, humility is not a matter of weakness or passivity.
- Humility is strength.
- Our best tribute to him is not found in words or ceremonies – but in actions that take up the torch he passed to us.
- We will forever be inspired by his example.
- We are still mourning the passing of this giant from Ghana, the son of soil of Africa.

**I thank you for your attention.**