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OVAHERERO/OVAMBANDERU COUNCIL FOR THE DIALOGUE ON THE 1904 GENOCIDE (OCD-1904)

September 16, 2015

Media Release

OCD-1904 ENGAGEMENT FOLLOWING MARTIN SCHÄFER'S (SPOKESPERSON OF THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY) ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD CALL THE MASSACRE OF THE HERERO AND THE NAMA ACTUALLY GENOCIDE

We, the OCD-1904 Council, responsible for the dialogue on the reparation for the evils committed by the German government to the Namibian people, in the years 1896 to 1908, hereby informs our people and the international community through the mass media that we took note of negotiations being pursued by our Namibian government and the German government which resulted in the announcement by Martin Schäfer's (Spokesperson of the German Foreign Ministry) on 10 July 2015, that the German Government would call the massacre of the Herero and the Nama actually a Genocide. This public revelation and acceptance of guilt by a high office of the German government is a step in the right direction towards our resolve to earn restorative justice for the genocide committed in Namibia from 1904 to 1908.

Nevertheless, OCD-1904's conviction is that not only was such admission of guilt long overdue, but it felt short of an **official apology** and a commitment to initiate a process of **restorative justice** for the descendants of the victims of the 1904 to 1908 wars of extermination and genocide.

The OCD-1904 therefore, as a responsible and patriotic Council operating under clear guiding principles is working around the clock to engage the Namibian and German governments, Legal fraternity both at home and abroad, and the international solidarity groups so that the future rounds of genocide negotiations will be structured on a pillar of

mutual trust and the best interest of all the stakeholders, notwithstanding the fact that there are primary stakeholders and secondary stakeholders to the genocide issue.

Our honest appeal to the followers and symphyses of OCD-1904, locally and internationally, is to continue upholding a great sense and spirit of accountability, maturity and patience which they have been practicing ever since the OCD-1904 struggle for restorative justice was launched at Opuuo, in Kunene Region, on 02 May 2005.

Justice should come to all those who are directly affected by the impact of the 1904 to 1908 German wars of colonization and extermination but not to individuals who are seeking to promote their egocentric agendas.

I thank you

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ueriuka F Tjikuua', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr. Ueriuka F Tjikuua
Secretary: OCD 1904