
GENOCIDE AND REPARATION
GUIBEB'S LOBBY OF GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES



Members of the Media, I have invited you to this briefing in order to inform you, and, through you, all and sundry about the latest gimmicks of the Namibian Government by using the newly-appointed Namibian Ambassador to Germany, HE Mr Andreas Guibeb.

I would assume that, by now, most people in this Komando Hall would know that our government has created a deceitful negotiating scheme in the form of so-called "Sub-committees", a "Technical Committee", a "Political Committee" and eventually, of course, Cabinet itself all involved in formulating a negotiating position intended to specifically exclude the leadership of the Ovaherero and Nama People from direct and substantive discussions with the German authorities. This is of course in direct violation of the Resolution adopted unanimously by the Namibian National Assembly on 26 October 2006.

But now lately, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Whilst nobody knows what is being negotiated by the two governments, since everything is kept under a cloak of “secrecy and strict confidentiality”, the Namibian Ambassador, HE Mr Andreas Guibeb, has been instructed from Windhoek to play another trick, this time with all the German Parliamentary parties. He started with the Green Party and the Left Party requesting them to withdraw their Motions from the German Parliament and join all the other political parties in the German Parliament and to come up with (AND I QUOTE)” a common all-Party German Bundestag resolution that should in its content simply endorse the outcomes of the ongoing German-Namibian government negotiations.”

Is this a common diplomatic practice that an ambassador of another country would interfere in the parliamentary politics of a host country and start asking members of parliament or their parties to withdraw their Motions in support of ongoing so-called negotiations in his/her country?

Is it not even strange that whilst the Namibian Ambassador is lobbying the support of the German Parliament for the mess at home, we have it on good authority that (quote) “Even the German Parliament is not informed of the content of these negotiations.”

Members of the Media, through you, let it be known that –

The Ovaherero and Nama Traditional Leaders Council on Genocide and Reparations rejects this latest ruse of the Namibian Government through its Ambassador with the contempt it deserves.

We salute and welcome the position taken by the Left Party by not succumbing to the unholy pressure put on them by our Government to withdraw its Motion as a sincere and solid solidarity support for the legitimate demand of the Ovaherero and Nama for dignity and restorative justice.

We do not understand and consequently feel ashamed that our government that does not seem to have any respect for the rule of law, disrespects and flouts its own Resolution, violates International Conventions, Principles and Protocols governing the rights of victims of Genocide is now trying to enlist the parliament of another sovereign country to violate international norms ONLY

BECAUSE it wants to deny the Hereros and Namas (its own citizens) their entitlement under international law and under its own Constitution. And obviously this is done because they are Hereros and Namas. We view this as discrimination based on our tribal being. Otherwise, what is “tribalism” then?

Director of Ceremonies –

Members of the Media-

A lot of people have been asking me or wondering why the Namibian Government is denying the Hereros and Namas the right to negotiate directly with the German Government.

Quite frankly, I don't know and I don't think the Namibian Government will tell you and me the honest truth. However, if I share with you what I think might be the reason, it might throw some light into the darkness of the past.

To do so, allow me to quote a bit at length from the following passage:-

*“After Namibia’s independence in 1990 and German reunification in the same year, the Hereros instituted claims for reparation from Germany. By then, however, the two states had already agreed to establish a special relationship due to their historical ties. For the German government, these special relations entailed providing Namibia with more developmental aid than any other country. At the time of writing (2004), such aid had amounted to approximately 500 million euros. **For its part, the Namibian government agreed that continuing developmental aid, together with the German Democratic Republic’s support for the South West Africa People’s Organisation (SWAPO) during the struggle for independence against South Africa, made reparation payments void.**”*

Might the answer, or the problem, perhaps not lie therein?

Is the Hon. Minister of International Relations, Mrs. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah aware of this agreement?

Could the aid that SWAPO was getting from the German Democratic Republic count for the Herero and Nama Reparation, especially when nobody during the struggle was raising the issue of Genocide or Reparation to make today's

demand for reparation (null and) void? What was the form of this aid – cash or in kind and how much?

If there should be a denial of this agreement, how did this researcher, by the name of **Jan Grofe**, come to know about an agreement of this magnitude to refer to it in his research document under the aegis of a highly respected German public funded foundation?

The same passage goes on to state (and I quote):-

*“By then, however, the **two states** had already agreed to establish **a special relationship** due to their historical ties.”*

When the German and Namibian government officials talk about these “historical ties” , does this refer to the other areas of colonial “German South West Africa”, even those areas like Kaokoland, Ovamboland, Kavango and former “Caprivi” which were never (de facto) colonised by Imperial Germany in 1904 – 1908?

The areas that were (**de facto**, as well as **de jure**) colonised by Imperial Germany were the two areas that used to be called “HEREROLAND and NAMALAND below the “Police Zone” and if people talk of historical ties, it must refer to and understood as referring to the historicity of the Hereros and Namas of those two areas, and as such it would make no sense to exclude them from directly negotiating with the German Government on their genocide that took place only in those areas and against them.

That is why we, Namas and Herero victims of General von Trotha and his likes shall always say:

It cannot be about us, without us; anything about us without us is against us.

Finally, Mr President, we are not spoiling for a fight with Your Excellency; we are only trying to assert our right. The spirit of “Harambee” that we hear is going to be explained very soon in Germany by one of Your Excellency’s Ministers will never solve the problem of our exclusion in Namibia, because explaining the meaning of a Swahili word in Germany won’t solve our problems in Namibia.

The problem is between us, the victims, and the Germans and it is only a matter of common sense that talks or negotiations must be between us and the Germans!

It is as elementary as that!

I conclude by expressing the utter shock of our people that our own Government is now actively campaigning against our rights and interests; it is asking the German Parliament NOT to agree with the Namibian National Assembly that:

- a. What happened to our people was Genocide;
- b. That Germany must offer an apology to our people
- c. That Germany must pay reparations to our people
- d. That Germany must sit down and negotiate with leaders of the affected communities.

This is what we demanded, this is what our Parliament endorsed, this is what ordinary citizens of Germany are demanding, this is what German Opposition Parties are calling for in their motion, but this is what the Swapo-led Government of President Hage Geingob is asking the opposition Parties in Germany not to support. Instead Ambassador Guibeb who is an off-spring of the Nama-people has been instructed to put pressure on the Opposition Parties to withdraw their motions!

What a betrayal of the Blood that Waters the Freedom of this Land!

Thank you!

Any questions?