

Speech 2

Chief P.S.M. Kooper

Nama Traditional Authority

Dear Moderator,

allow me once again to recognize the protocol as introduced and continue from where I stop the previous contribution.

I will be brief this time because the essence of the questions that I left hanging in my previous intervention was meant to generate answers whether German people want to risk its public fund by investing under the current clouded proposition by the Namibian government?

First and foremost, allow me to recap from the dialogues of the German Empire:

- The Imperial Chancellor of Germany, von Bülow stated that von Trotha's extermination order is inconsistent with the principals of Christianity and Humanity (24 November 1904)

- Bülow further stated that the extermination order was “demeaning to our (German) standing among the civilized nations of the world”.

- On Expropriation Order (Imperial Decree of 26 December 1905), Matthias Erzberger of the Centre Party stated in the German Reichstag that the Decree will leave the natives impoverished and enslaved, making it impossible for them to improve their lot by their own.

- August Bebel of the German Social Democrats said that German Imperialist intend was always to “wrest the land from the natives and transfer it to the settlers”.

These were words expressed by fellow Germans at the time. But they were met by equally strong opposing views by those in support of such monstrous deeds. Frankly speaking, what was said then and what we are saying today remains the same – and that is the whole truth.

The massacre of the OvaHerero and Nama people was inhumane in every respect. Imagine, forcing a person to remove the flesh- in other words cleaning the skull- of your brother, sister, father or mother from his or her body so that it can be used for a racist research? Almost an indelible trauma which continues to hunt us all! We are victims of this heritage today!

Our claim to demand a detailed and sincere apology from the German brothers and sisters through a Bundestag resolution to be confirmed by a communication presented by the Germ Chancellor or President is justified.

Only a detailed and sincere apology can open the doors for dialogue towards reconciliation and restorative justice for the descendants of the victims.

We want the Namibian and German governments, the civil societies of these two countries, international community – including the United Nations to recognise and support the affected OvaHerero and Nama communities residing worldwide to pursue restorative justice for the crimes of genocides committed against our predecessors.

We believe in the Christian likeness which “blesses the hands that gives and blesses the hand that receives”. Yes, if and when a detailed sincere apology is offered, the necessary measure must be in place to make the event a worthy historical exercise.

A joint research program by German, Nama and OvaHerero people concerning the genocides can take-off as an essential prior exercise for setting the parameters within which the objectives of an apology can be realized.

We consider the demands for restorative justice on genocide not as a privilege for enrichment but a necessary fair and just condition to restore our people to where we would have been, had it not been for the displaced morality of the German predecessors.

The OvaHerero and Nama people endured a slow and agonizing death with the view that they had to vanish from the scene. Our focus therefore is to ensure what we say is true and what we do is right. In other words, our actions are consistent and to the point.

With these few words I support all of the elements of the proposed Resolutions with the exception of the 80% and 50% human losses. We do not agree with any of the estimates of the times because of noted discrepancies in estimates. This is however not the platform for discussing our position but I wish to be on record that the Nama leadership have a different opinion about the estimates of +-80% Hereros and +-50% Namas that are wiped out.

I thank you!