



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENT

BY

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PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ON

ON THE GENOCIDE RELATED ISSUES

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

16 MARCH 2021

Honorable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

I raise to apprise the House on the status of negotiations on genocide, apology and reparations between Namibia and Germany.

1. In 2015, Namibia and Germany commenced with genocide negotiations, following the 2006 Namibian Parliament Resolution. Both countries have appointed Special Envoys who are negotiating on behalf of the two respective Governments. The negotiations have now taken close to five (5) years.
2. Namibia's negotiation strategy is based on three (3) Pillars, namely: Genocide, Apology and Reparations. This means:
 - Germany should acknowledge to have committed Genocide in Namibia during the period 1904-1908;
 - Germany should render an unconditional apology, delivered at the highest level to the Namibian Government and people, in particular the affected communities; and
 - Germany should pay reparations.

3. Between 2015 and 2020, eight (8) rounds of negotiations were held alternately in Berlin, Germany and in Windhoek and Swakopmund, Namibia. The last round, which was the eighth (8th) was held in Swakopmund, Namibia from 12-13 February 2019.
4. At the conclusion of the eighth (8th) round of negotiations, the two negotiating teams agreed on a Draft Declaration, which is the narrative of the events which took place between 1904-1908. This Declaration, therefore, detailed:
 - a. The historical events that led to the Genocide by the Imperial troops in Namibia between 1904 to 1908.
 - b. The German Government has agreed to render an unconditional apology to the Namibian Government, people and in particular the affected communities; and
 - c. While the German Government agreed to negotiate the issue of redress (reparations) which they consistently referred to as “healing the wounds”, they refused to accept the term reparations. The Namibian side, with the intention of demanding restorative justice from Germany, find the term “healing the wounds” inadequate. Currently both sides are discussing alternative terms

such as Reconciliation and Reconstruction, however, an agreement on the terms has yet to be reached.

5. MILESTONES REACHED SO FAR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

- 5.1.** Having not reached an agreement on the amount of reparations, the Namibian side has proposed to the German side to look at projects, as a way of moving away and not be bogged down by the reparations quantum.
- 5.2.** The said projects will cover areas of water provision, rural and peri urban electrification, road network construction, housing, education, vocational training, value addition, agricultural development and value addition, land acquisition and development, etc. Within the framework of the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and Vision 2030. The projects will be implemented in the seven (7) identified regions where the affected communities predominantly reside, namely Karas, Hardap, Khomas, Kunene, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa and Erongo Regions.
- 5.3.** Germany has indicated that they were willing to give Namibia an amount of money for the implementation of the mentioned projects. However, this amount is far below meaningful reparations. This

amount is also not acceptable to Namibia, given the loss of lives, land and cultural heritage of the affected communities and the impact the genocide has today on the Namibian nation in general. The German Government is indicating willingness to revise their offer but not to the amount which Namibia is asking. Hence, negotiations are ongoing.

5.4. In the meantime, the Technical Committee on Genocide, Apology and Reparations which is composed of representatives from Government and the affected communities is working on the costed projects in the areas mentioned above.

5.5. The affected communities have been consulted and have made inputs into the projects framework, in terms of their developmental needs.

6. There were further contacts made with our Government by the German Government on this issue recently, where it gave a new offer and expressed its willingness to further negotiate on its offer. This development, which is very recent, is subject of consideration by Government as is usual, and the affected communities and the nation will be updated and engaged in the usual way once Government has considered the communication from Germany.

Thank you Hon. Speaker.