

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE OF A MOTION

BY

Hon. Dr. Ester Muinjangué, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services

(Signature:.....)

Hon. Speaker –

I give notice that on Wednesday, 6 October 2021, I shall move the following:

The events of colonisation on the African continent and Namibia in particular are documented since the days of the first European settlers. Much of our history is written from the perspective of the colonisers while the viewpoints and experiences of the Africans is largely ignored.

It was concluded that at independence, perhaps with the excitement and euphoria that prevailed, both the government and the people thought that the new dispensation was going to bring about the healing of wounds and help us all move on. We were all wrong and the truth is quite evident in the communities and amongst the descendants of the victims of the 1904 – 1908 Ovaherero and Nama Genocide. To the contrary, GRN established a Ministry of Veterans' Affairs which deals with matters of those who were involved in the 1966-1990 war of liberation which was fought by all Namibians including the descendants of the victims of the 1904-08 Ovaherero and Nama Genocide even those who were born in the Diaspora.

At this juncture in our lives, it is undeniable that the issue of genocide is not only about reparations and apology. It is more than that, from healing emotional wounds, re-writing our own history to preserving and sharing memoirs of our ancestors. This is an issue that will not end with reparations but it has a long way to go, it needs to be tackled head-on to find a direction, develop indulgence and deal with it on a day-to-day basis from an institutional point of view in a strategic way to help, assist and advance the communities that were almost annihilated by the Kaiser's German imperial regime.

It is therefore, against this background that on 6 October I shall move that this Assembly

Discusses and Recommends that an **Office, Agency or the Commissioner for Descendants of the Victims of the Ovaherero and Nama 1904-08 Genocide** be established for humanistic and historical reasons. This is best practice globally, with examples of the Azrieli Foundation in Canada, Shoah Foundations in most countries and the Holocaust Antisemitism Foundation in New Zealand.

I so move Hon. Speaker.