



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF WHIP

26 April 2023

Honourable Speaker,

"Honour their Ashes, Follow their Flames"

1. **Honourable Members** of this esteemed gathering, we find ourselves in the midst of the 23rd year of what has been commonly referred to as the African century. This is a significant milestone, given the eventful nature of the previous millennium and the 20th century in particular. It is worth noting that at the start of the 20th century, Namibia was regarded as a nascent backyard of colonial powers that had imposed their will on its people for the sole purpose of exploitation.
2. Throughout the course of the century, our people endured and resisted this colonial imposition through various means, including numerous wars of resistance waged by various tribes. Sadly, these wars of resistance have often been mischaracterized as "wars of pacification of Africa" in the literature of the West, as noted by the distinguished academic, Professor Kwesi Kwaa Prah.
3. The second phase of this resistance was marked by the emergence of nationalist movements, which, while political in nature, often mirrored the Western outlook. It was during this phase that the independence process began, culminating in the inauguration of post-colonial, or more accurately neo-colonial, states.
4. As we look at the world at large, we cannot help but notice that Africa is lagging far behind in terms of technological and scientific innovation. While Asia has made significant strides in these areas, we are left behind and struggling to keep up.
5. In my view, it is imperative that we recognize the importance of African history, cultures and languages as we seek to propel the continent forward. Our rich cultural heritage and diverse linguistic landscape must be harnessed as a source

of strength and innovation. It is only by embracing our own unique perspectives and approaches that we can truly forge ahead in the global arena.

6. Furthermore, I firmly believe that meaningful development in Namibia cannot be achieved without unity. Unity in diversity. Unity in purpose. Not façade unity. Not fake unity. We must work together, across borders and boundaries, to address the many challenges that we face. Whether it be poverty, disease, or political instability, we must come together and find common ground to build a better future for ourselves and for generations to come.
7. Let us embrace our African identity and heritage, and let us work together in unity to build. It is with this spirit of Pan-Africanism that the Pan-African Students Society (PASS) of the University of Namibia (UNAM) hosted 'The African Origin of Civilisation and the Destiny of Africa' conference in Windhoek on 24-25 May 1999.
8. Again from 28-29 May 2005, we hosted the 17th All African Students Conference (AASC) on "Pan-Africanism-Strengthening the Unity of Africa and its Diaspora" at the University of Namibia.
9. The only one thing we shouldn't do is to kill good ideas and concepts by loading it with unnecessary political appointments to lead this projects. Look at the noble idea of Pan-Africanism and the subsequent creation of the Pan-African Centre of Namibia (PACON). It became highly politicized and took a natural death.
10. If it was within my powers, I would have merged the building of the Genocide Memorial Museum with morphing PACON into University of Namibia as some sort of an institute. Renegade Nahas Angula ended up creating his PAISAS-The Pan-African Institute for the Study of African Society. Ego sometimes kills good ideas and concepts.
11. Let the work on the conceptualisation and construction of the Genocide Memorial Museum start in its earnest so the Pan-African community, and by implication whole Pan-Africanism community in the world be proud about our collective history.

I so submit!