



SWAPO PARTY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**CONTRIBUTION BY HON. PAULA KOOPER ON THE MOTION OF THE
GENOCIDE MEMORIAL MUSEUM TABLED BY HON JOSEF
KAUANDENGE ,NUDO CHIEF WHIP**

4. APRIL 2023

Deputy

Hon. Speaker;
Hon. Members

Allow me to add my views on the Motion regarding the establishment of a Genocide Memorial Museum for the 1904-08 genocide.

This Motion tabled by Hon. Kauandenge, talks or request for the establishment of a Genocide Memorial Museum in the introductory phase of it (the motion) and also in its conclusion and I quote "I therefore urge you across party lines in this Parliament to support this Motion for the establishment of a Genocide Memorial Museum".

But again talks of a Genocide Remembrance (Memorial) Day as was first introduced by former MP ^{Hon.} Usutuaije Maamberua according to the motion. I therefore wonder, what exactly is it what ~~the~~ ^{Hon} MP Kauandenge wants? Is it both, perhaps?

As a matter of fact, Hon. Members, I am not denouncing the idea, because first and foremost I am also a descendant and a daughter of this soil and specifically the Nama community being mentioned in this motion.

I am of the view that ^{this} ~~these~~ matters be approached tactfully and holistically, stating necessary historical facts that brought about the independence of this Nation, Namibia.

My first question that comes to mind is then; what was the purpose for the establishment of the **Independence Memorial Museum**? And does it perhaps not address what is contained or requested for in this particular motion?

Yes, indeed the "Genocide Memorial" depicts the 'untold hardships and suffering' at the hands of the Schutztruppe, the troops of the German colonial empire during the 1904-08 war which we are all aware of today. But fortunately; Honourable Kauandenge; is also rightfully mentioning that many other communities were also affected by the Von Trota extermination order and not necessarily the Nama and Ovaherero communities and that is indeed a fact that all of us cannot deny.

Hon. Speaker;
Hon. Members

Upon enquiry I have learned that the first floor of the Independence Memorial Museum, titled "Colonial Repression", commemorates early resistance leaders of Namibia and the timeline of the country under South African rule.

The second floor, titled "Liberation", commemorates the South African Border War and the role of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) during that conflict.

The third floor, titled "Road to Independence", details the activities of SWAPO Party, United Nations Security Council Resolution 435, and includes a viewing platform of the Panoramic Hall of the museum.

I was thinking, maybe if enough is not told and depicted in the "Independence Memorial Museum", on the Nama/Ovaherero Genocide, why can't we then dedicate extra space or floor at this museum to tell more and depict the genocide in this particular museum.

In conclusion, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, a separate museum or a shrine is indeed not such a bad idea, but we then need to think of the cost factor and perhaps a particular side/place that such a monument/museum/shrine is to be erected or build. The Nama/Ovaherero war was fought almost across the country, I am now particularly thinking of the site in the Vaalgras area where the great Hendrik Witbooi was killed and many other side depicting this history.

I so submit Hon. Speaker. I thank you.