



SWAPO PARTY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**CONTRIBUTION BY HON. EVELYN !NAWASES-TAEYELE ON THE
MOTION OF THE GENOCIDE MEMORIAL MUSEUM TABLED BY HON
JOSEF KAUANDENGE ,NUDO CHIEF WHIP**

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members,

Since Independence, the SWAPO led government has been seized with the issue of the Genocide. And as I will elaborate and debate in my speech, it is evident that this matter was dealt with by the Founding President, by the Former President and now by the Current President.

- Furthermore, all three Presidents, have proven that the cry for justice and reparations of the people is a rallying and unifying call of the government to bring closure to this psychologically, economically, politically charged and emotive chapter in the history of Namibia.

The walk from early resistance struggle towards an Independent Namibia was long and bitter. We thank our early resistance heroes and heroines who have paved our way for the Liberation struggle of our Land. The construction of a Museum in honour of the Resistance Period of which Genocide is an integral part, is thus, only fitting.

- The ‘resurrect or’ cannot be the ‘suffocator’ of the wishes and the bellowing for a justified reparation, and befitting tendering of an Apology to Namibians.
- Just bear in mind, that no price is ever going to be enough for what we have suffered and lost both in human lives and materially.

Hon Speaker, Hon. Members of this August House,

I am deeply beholden for the opportunity to provide appropriate scope and context on the matter of the Genocide Museum.

- The matter under discussion was brought by Hon Josef Kauandenge, Nudo Chief Whip on 28-02-2023 in the National Assembly of Namibia, and is about the Genocide Museum.
- Hon Speaker, please allow me to give proper context to the matter at hand. The emphasis by Hon Kauandenge on the people whom he affectionately described in his submission as the Nama and the Herero, are part of the rest of the people of Namibia.
- Therefore, the quest for a Museum for the stated reason is not for certain people only, but for everyone who is in this country including those alongside the Zambezi river to those alongside the Kavango river to those alongside the Erongos, the Kunene River to those around Oshanas just to mention but a few. Hence, such an institution must be of national significance and therefore must serve as a learning,

research and historic institution to all Namibians. It is important that all Namibians must embrace and appreciate such a museum as part and parcel of collective suffering of Namibians in general and the Nama, Herero, Damara, San in particular.

- I need to put emphasis on this Hon Speaker - we need to appreciate the fact that different people paid the price for independence at different times, in different locations and in different forms; but it was all for our sovereignty. This Hon Speaker, Hon Members resonates with the Bargain Cost Theory that:

“Everything comes with a price. You can never gain something if you do not sacrifice something of equal value”.

- The context should be - the Genocide Museum is to provide learning on all aspects of the genocide, and that this museum will be displaying a very important epoch of this nation, in search of its identity, independence and nationhood.

- The Museum will house artifacts, objects and educational materials relevant for the education of all the people because the ordeal and aftermath of the atrocities and looting of resources is still reverberating and is causing socio-economic tremors evident in the revolting and insurgent conduct of the people.

- The fact that Namibia does not have a dedicated Museum displaying the timeline alluded to is true; but it is a denial and a serious misdemeanor and twisting of facts for some unknown reasons; that the submission deliberately ignores and negate the fact that the genocide of this country is dedicated a space in the independence museum, it is also depicted at the Mural works at the Heroes Acre and it is for this reason the Shark Island was declared a National Heritage site.

- If we could recall events of the past, I wish to refer the House back to a time during which this particular issue was a topical issue. Two public driven matters were the establishment of a Genocide Museum and to find a Genocide Remembrance Day to recognize this very important epoch in the history of this nation.

- The Parliament sent a team around and to on which the Heritage Council was also part in order to assist with technical advice on the possible dates and reason for the declaration of a Genocide Remembrance Day. The final recommended date from National Assembly based on the Report of the Genocide Remembrance Day is the 28 May which was referred through the line Minister to Cabinet to weigh in the merit for final decision and implementation.

- The Museum under discussion has been talked about for a long time and is not a new idea. I am informed that an artistic presentation has already been made concerning the planning and design of this Museum.
- As for the Genocide Museum, several proposals as to the venue at which this Museum would be erected were proposed and they included Gibeon, Shark Island etc. to fortify the legend Auta !Nanseb's contributions.
- Honorable Speaker, Hon. Members. The plan to build a Genocide Museum was even reinforced more explicitly when the skulls and the Whip were repatriated from Germany, the historical occasion that I was privileged to be part of under the leadership of former Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa. Therefore, the Motion on Genocide is already being worked on and is underway. The completion of the Hosea Kutako Homestead of which His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia has recently paid visit to assess the progress made and of course; allocation of the funds is to be considered and deliberated upon for this noble plan to find structural expression to its logical conclusion.
- Hon Speaker, Hon Members it is a Big Yes!!, Yes!! for a Genocide/Resistance Museum in Namibia not because Rwanda has a depiction of our history in their Museum, but for authentic and sincere recognition, and to fortify that epoch as part of our journey to independence. A ministerial delegation already visited the Rwandan Genocide Museum for benchmarking.
- Let us not be oblivious of the efforts by the government by denying programme, initiatives and activities geared towards nation building and unity of this nation. Governments since independence have bestowed ultimate honour and respect for the precious blood which was shed by our ancestors.
- It is therefore; very regrettable that Hon. Kuandenge is reversing the forward strides of the government to unite the people of this country.
- In conclusion; Hon Speaker, Hon Members given my understanding and the interpretation of specific phrases in the submission by Hon. Kaundenge, I cannot help but pick up serious blend of elements that are bigger than tribalism as a standalone. Therefore, allow me to conclude my contribution with the following statement: By building a tribe you destroy a nation. Let us built One Namibian and One Nation. Where everyone is equal and whereby possibilities, and opportunities are accessible to all. Let us resolve to add our weight behind the efforts that are already under way to have the peoples' Genocide Museum build for the nation and

not for tribes. This is a healthy premise on which a Nation can be built. Today we may have tribes and clans, but tomorrow we may only have Namibians, seeing themselves only as Namibians. Hence, such National Assets, like the Genocide Museum, shall belong to Namibians.

I so submit Hon. Speaker. I thank you.