



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENT

BY

**RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY HON. U MAAMBERUA IN THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE GENOCIDE.**

22 June 2017, AT 14H30

Last year, on the 21 July 2016, the Right Honourable Prime Minister briefed the House on the status of the genocide reparations between Namibian GRN and German Authorities. She informed the House that January 2017 was the target date for concluding the negotiations.

1. Hon. Prime Minister what had happened to the deadline of January 2017? If that deadline has shifted what is the new date for the negotiations to be concluded?

1.1 Negotiations are taking place between two sovereign states, namely Namibia and Germany. As such, it is expected that negotiations takes place in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect between our two countries. What I indicated to this August House last year was that “Namibia is focused only on expeditiously delivering justice to our people. The negotiations will be concluded before or later than January 2017, **so long all issues have been comprehensively dealt with and an agreement reached**”.

1.2 Namibia has submitted her position to the German Government in our substantive document handed over to Germany on July 6. 2016. The next stage of engagement between the two negotiation teams will only commence, once Germany has responded to the Namibian position, as outlined in Namibia’s position paper.

I would like to inform this August House that Namibia is still awaiting for response from the German Government. The deadline of January 2017 was based on the assumption that Germany would have responded to the said Namibian position paper. Thus, the next stage of negotiations and the deadline thereof depends on the response from the German Government.

2. Do you anticipate that negotiations will be concluded before the German Elections that are scheduled to take place in September 2017?

2.1 In negotiation, you cannot predict when your counterpart is going to say “yes” or “nay” to your demands. As I said earlier, we are a sovereign state therefore the outcome of the negotiations is not hinged on the general election taking place in Germany. The conclusion of the negotiations will depend on the German Government providing a satisfactory answer to the Namibian position.

The Namibian negotiation position remains:

- a) That Germany acknowledge that what happened in Namibia during 1904-08 is genocide committed by the German imperial troops;
- b) That Germany renders unconditional apology for the genocide; and
- c) That Germany pays reparations to the Namibian people for the genocide committed.

3. Is GRN worried that if negotiations are not concluded with administration of Chancellor Angela Merkel, that it will mean a serious reversal of any progress that you have made to date.

As I have stated above, the negotiations will only resume, once a satisfactory answer is given to Namibia’s position paper submitted to the German Government in July 2016. We will engage and negotiate with whoever is at the helm of the German Government until the negotiations are concluded between the two countries.

We have to take into consideration that there is a complex political situation within Europe and Germany itself. We are not in a position to conclude that a political change in Germany will necessarily result in a negative outcome to our negotiations. However, having made a fair progress in our negotiations under the current German Government, it would be preferable to reach a conclusion before any change.

4. **If any, what is the progress that you have made on this matter and what is the current status of the negotiations?**

There has not been any contestation or challenge to the facts which form the substance of our case.

5. **In your view, are the German authorities still committed to the process of the negotiations or have there been any change of heart and attitude on the side of the Germans.**

The Namibian Government is not aware of any change of heart or attitude by Germany, regarding the genocide negotiations. We have not been informed of a change of heart by the German Government. The negotiations are on course.

6. **It is true that the German authorities continue to link the development aid given to Namibia and the special initiative project to the Genocide Reparations.**

The Namibian Government has not received a formal reply to our position. The position of our Government is that there should not be any link or confusion between development aid and genocide reparations.