



Hewat Beukes, Namibia Workers Advice Centre

- **Hewat is a Socialist who led the socialist movement in Namibia since 1984.**
- **Since 1974 Hewat was a member of SWAPO and the de facto, leader of the SWAPO Youth League.**
- **Between 1977 and 1980 Hewat was mostly in jail by detention without trial.**
- **Hewat was a leader in the union movement and in 1991 when it was formed the Workers Advice Centre, to fight the attacks against working class gains until present.**

For many years now, the Namibian Workers Advice Centre has been run from the Windhoek home of Erica and Hewat Beukes.

They have been forced to fight a legal battle over many years to defend the premises against legal and financial chicanery. Many homeowners in Namibia have suffered from this evil, but in the case of Erica and Hewat Beukes a further element has been state and political attempts to silence and paralyse their campaigning work.

During the struggle, for example, their access to electricity and water has been illegally cut off.

Now they are involved in a legal appeal which could secure their title to the premises. They need to raise money to finance the technical costs of the court case.

<https://workersinternational.info/tag/erica-beukes/>

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Monday 11 July 2016 · Windhoek · Statement on Genocide Reparations

The present actions of the German State with regard to both development aid and the reparations demands of the Nama and Herero peoples are clearly aimed to aggravate the ever intensifying tribalised conflict in this country. It is a dangerous situation unfolding in which the demand for reparations for genocide has turned into a serious threat of tribal conflagration rather than into its intended restitution of historical wrongs and fraternity and co-operation between the Namibian and German Peoples.

We attach copies of hereto two articles: One from the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" and one from "The Namibian" regarding the issue of War Reparations. The German article conveys to the German People information and expectation that genocide had been acknowledged, that there will be apology, that thereafter there will be discussions with the Herero and Nama for the purposes of conciliation. The Namibian article conveys to the Namibian People that there will be no discussion with the Nama and Herero People, that the restitution will be through projects negotiated with the Namibian Government.

In 2006 the National Assembly the legislative power of the Republic of Namibia unanimously passed a Motion to call for negotiations between Germany and the Herero and Nama Peoples for restitution for genocide. All organs of the State and the parliamentary parties were tied to this Motion. The Bilateral Partner of the Namibian Government, Germany, had to abide to it.

Both disregarded this Motion and by that token the National Assembly itself. In his 16 April 2016 State of the Nation address President Hage Geingob made the unequivocal declaration as his Government's Policy:

1. The Government denies that there was genocide.
2. There were no mass killings.
3. The Government rejects reparations for the Herero and Nama.
4. The Government does not support the demand for apology and War Reparations.
5. The Government shall not be part of the campaign of the Herero and Nama.
6. The Government blames Germany for acknowledgment of genocide, which kept the issue alive.

The Ambassador and the German envoy in the first week of July 2016 reiterated that for undisclosed reasons they speak only to the Namibian State, they give money for projects only to the State and it is the prerogative of the Namibian State how they employ funds given to them.

The said declarations of the Special envoy and the Ambassador are merely a consummation of the *de facto* situation in Namibia with regard to the "Special Initiative" and "Development Aid". The "Special Initiative" was started in 2008 apparently in response to the said Motion. This "Initiative" was a "Bilateral Initiative" to assist the "affected" communities of German colonialism. The money was taken by Government officials – on a tribal basis with no financial reporting, the Southern Peoples Allegiance reported. Members of the Nama Technical Committee and the Southern Peoples Allegiance requested the Bundestag for audited financial reports. The Bundestag replied in writing that the Namibian National Commission had the said reports. The National Planning Commission denied that they had financial reports. The situation is continuing in which it is reported that German money for "affected communities" is taken by individuals of the Government without any formal procedure.

The German Government has now learnt to meet any request for financial reporting and audits with the cynical response of the sole prerogative of the Namibian Government to expend money at own discretion no matter what it was given for. This is then meant to dispose of the demand for the normal practice of accounting and no audit may be expected.

"Development Aid" is managed by the Germans themselves. However, it is expended in Ovamboland on infrastructure and prestigious luxury buildings for the sole purpose of advancing and strengthening a corrupt commercial class against the poor and working class. It is not employed for production, creation of employment and as a contribution to improved living standards or improved infra-structure for social amenities. No minimum wage is allowed, taxes are not paid, and such abuses as paying casual workers with locally brewed drink are common. Thus German Development Aid is geared to put the still existing Ovambo contract labour in intensified bondage.

At the same time, it spawns increasing resentment nationally where it is unfortunately and worryingly seen as tribal favouritism as German "Development Aid" is not expended on the rest of the country.

The question of *bona fide* efforts at addressing the extreme national abuses of the German colonial era meets with no credibility. They are insincere and devious. It comes through as an underhand at least tacit understanding between the German and the Namibian States to turn the exercise into a farce. This is proven by the fact that the German State here in Namibia state that they have no business with the Herero and Nama, and the Namibian regime states openly that it rejects the notion of genocide.

This is a clear absurdity and a rebuff to the campaign against the genocide. The question is put beyond doubt when consideration is given to the fact that the National Assembly with its Motion is disregarded and the issue of negotiations is taken to the Cabinet, which is the Executive.

But the heart of this matter is that Germany – as it did during the Resolution 435 era and before – does not recognise the Namibian Peoples' right of self-representation. It will not recognise that the victims of the Namibian Holocaust wish to represent themselves and foist upon the people their own conditions and choice of representation with catastrophic consequences.

The German regime in the past elections assisted and promoted national elections which were run by Indian Government technicians to the exclusion of Namibians. Before the process of elections was finalised, they declared the elections free and fair. The elections were done with Indian Electronic Voting Machines without any verification or means to verification. They declared the elections free and fair while there is an ongoing dispute.

This was an open pronouncement that the Namibian Nation is not a Sovereign People!

We are warning that Germany's insincere, malicious and dishonest actions is fuelling the tribal conflict created by the Namibian State. Germany's dishonest and insincere pretensions to alleviate the harm caused to this Nation and to Africa by the near extermination of the Herero and the Nama Nations, is the poisoned chalice!

We are sliding to a catastrophic tribal conflict.

We must not allow it to happen.

The misinformation of both the Namibian and German Peoples by the Namibian and German States is pre-empting any possibility of conciliation between the two Peoples.

We ask the German People to continue and strengthen their support for the reparations campaign of the Nama and Herero Peoples according to the Motion of the Namibian Parliament in 2006 which calls for discussions between the German Bundestag and the Herero and Nama Peoples in the same manner as was done in the Jewish case.

We remind the German State in particular that the Namibian State's leaders still refuse to account for thousands of Namibians who disappeared under their regime and thousands who were killed by them. The remains of the murdered Namibians have not yet been returned or identified to their Namibian families.

This is a continuing crime against Humanity.

This is an extremely reckless and irresponsible Namibian regime.

We demand from the German Government to cease with its efforts to revisit a next catastrophe on the Namibian working people.

We note that the incredibly undemocratic and highhanded attitude of the Bundestag at present has moved us not a millimetre back from the attitude of Lothar Von Trotha and the Deutsche Kaiserreich.

Namibia Workers Advice Centre