

## MOTIVATION SPEECH BY: KAZENAMBO KAZENAMBO (HON)

### CITIZENSHIP STATUS OF RETURNEES ORIGINAL OF NAMIBIANS FROM BOTSWANA

Honourable Speaker,  
Honourable Members,

1. The purpose of this motion is to call upon our government to take a serious deep look on all the complexities surrounding the citizenship status of the returnees of Namibian origin from Botswana and displacements caused by German Genocide on Namibians.
2. While one acknowledge and appreciates the concerted efforts that are being made by the Namibian Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, and the Botswana High Commission in Windhoek in addressing matters concerning the provision of Namibian National identity documents to these returnees, a lot still need to be looked into and ironed out by all stakeholders concerned.

Honourable Speaker,  
Honourable Members,

There are many unresolved matters that make many of the returnees from Botswana to suffer in silence in their country of origin. Some of these issues amongst many others are the following:

~~The issue of registering Ovaherero and Ovambanderu returnees of Namibian origin from Botswana as Namibian citizens by Registration not by Descent is not only considered as an insult and controversial by many, but it is also considered as an inhumane and shameful discriminatory practice, therefore an illegal practice by our government against these returnees.~~

The Ovaherero, Ovambanderu, Namas and Damaras fled from this country between 1904 – 1908 as political refugees who were persecuted and killed by German imperial Colonial troops, therefore it is unacceptable that our government

Not Applicable

treat their relatives or offspring in the unacceptable manner it does. It is hypocrisy of the highest order on our part, that we have declared Chiefs Samuel Maharero, Hendrik Witbooi, Jacob Marenga, Chief Kahimemua Nguvauva and other as Heroes for having led the war of resistance against the German imperialist, yet we treat as foreign or second-class citizens the offsprings of the very same people they led, and who some fled into exile during the war of resistance.

Majority of these patriotic Namibian returnees from Botswana have not been only been inspired to love and return to their country of origin Namibia by the return from Botswana and reburial of the remains of their Chiefs such as Samuel Maharero, Hijatuvao Nguvauva and his son Salatiel Nguvauva from Botswana, Chief Tjiseseta from South Africa, Harunga Vita Tom from Angola but many of their brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers have fully participated in the just concluded liberation struggle which resulted in the birth of Namibia as a free and sovereign nation state, the Republic of Namibia in 1990.

It is real shame on us that we appear to be discriminating against the relatives and offsprings of the likes of late Daniel Horekamungu Kazejararue Munamava, late Hanganee Katjipuka Kavezeri, late Kaleb Day-by-Day Tjipahura and many others who have made brave sacrifices for the liberation of their country of origin. Please let us assume a moral high ground, let us have conciseness in our daily political conduct, therefore let us provide and register returnees from Botswana with the citizenship by descend which they naturally deserve and of which they are entitled to.

Some of these returnees are offsprings and relatives of the freedom fighters who fought battles in Okahandja, Okandjira, Ohamakari, Otjihenda, Otjunda and many other battlefields and hot spots during our war of resistance.

Some of them are offsprings and relatives of patriotic freedom fighters who participated in one form or another in the just concluded liberation struggle. I am saying this because the Ovaherero and Ovambanderu in the diaspora in Botswana did not only assist freedom fighters like the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, Professor Mburumba Kerina, Late Advocate Jariretundu Kozonguizi and many other freedom fighters who went into exile through Botswana, but their children



filled the ranks of South West Africa ~~National~~ Liberation Army (SWAN~~L~~A) later to be known as the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) in the ~~then~~ Tanganyika at Kongwa. Some of the freedom fighters of Namibian origin from Botswana they were there. In some of my Namibian compatriots from Botswana were there, myself and many other Namibian patriots at the battlefield we participated. Late PLAN combatant and Commander Hanganee Katjipuka Kavezeri blood waters our freedom as fallen at the battlefield in Zambia fighting for the liberation of this country. Late Kaleb Day-by-Day Tjipuahura from Mahalapye, Botswana, was detained in Robben Island after he was arrested in the military field as a PLAN combatant in north eastern Namibia.

In conclusion, let me briefly point out that none provision of citizenship to many of these returnees result in them no belong recruited in the army, police, no scholarship from government for them etc. of some the youngsters have got no documents to show to the immigration officials because some of their guardians have passed on (died) long time ago upon their return to Namibia. These are to me of the complexities surrounding this matter.

I submit.