Germany Sitting on Time Bomb – Kazenambo

By Charles Tsjikindi
OKAHANDJA – The Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Kazenambo Tsumabu, says while Government acknowledges and regrets the pain of the Ovaherero people for the German occupation, it also has a moral obligation to protect the descendants of those who had committed atrocities against the Ovaherero people, in the interest of the rule of law.

In a strongly worded statement at the recent 50th annual commemoration of the Red Flag here, Kazenambo expressed concern over the pace at which the German government was exiting the country.

"Wealth was acquired at the barrel of a gun in this country by German colonial forces at that time, something which unfortunately still has a burning in the minds and ways of Bia for most Namibians today. We call on the German government to read the mood and act now, as they sit against a time bomb," he said.

Kzenambo noted that even though the paradigm shift is now changing towards unity of purpose between the German government and the Ovaherero, it is also time to confront challenges and make Germany acknowledge the deeds committed against the Ovaherero and Namibian people.

"We should guard against jealousy and envy as the enemy will be standing miles laughing at us while taking each other for selfish gains. This economy belongs to all of us, therefore should try to live in peace with one another," he said.

As is custom, a traditional priest led the delegation of Ovaherero and other members of the public to the gravesite of fallen ancestors at dawn last Sunday, where they paid their respects with the German colonial administration during the Second World War.

Leading cultural figures such as Tsoonk Kavuma, Tsumeb, and Tsumabu said the event was an opportunity to remember the sacrifices made by the ancestors.

Kzenambo also expressed concern over the slow pace of the German government in unveiling the statues of fallen soldiers.

More Voices Rise for Return of Skulls

By Charles Tsjikindi
OKAHANDJA – The Namibian government has passed the matter of the return of skulls to Germany to the National Heritage Committee to facilitate the repatriation of cultural artefacts, so that they can be respected here.

A week later, the 50th commemoration of the Red Flag Day which marks the end of the conflict of the Ovaherero under Chief Samuel Mahlangu, usually marked by a solemn event, was held in the country.

The Chief's last call on Namibian soil was to leave a legacy of unity among his people in calling for the repatriation of the remains of Mahlangu.

The German government promised in 2006 that they would return the skulls, as they are considered to be a sacred part of Ovaherero history. The government says it is working on the return of skulls, including the remains of fallen soldiers and other cultural artefacts.

The OOC also called for the removal of skulls from the graves of fallen soldiers and other cultural artefacts, which must be returned to Namibia.

We want the remains of each skull to be returned to Namibia so that we know they are secure if Eugene Mahlangu, a son of the fallen soldiers, said.

Mahlangu, known as the "Red Flag" or "Red Flag Day," was a key figure in the Ovaherero uprising against German colonial rule in 1904.

The skulls, which are kept in an open area, were used to protest against the German government's policies and to demand the return of Namibian lands and resources.

The skulls were also used as a symbol of resistance against the German government's policies and to demand the return of Namibian lands and resources.

In 2010, the Namibian government signed a treaty with Germany, outlining the return of cultural artefacts, including the skulls, to Namibia.