Shipoh, however, emphasised that the possibility of putting the skulls in the museum will only be considered upon agreement of the traditional authorities and in case they do not want to bury the skulls themselves.

Government plans to build an N$8-million Memorial Museum, next to the Alte Feste, where the Reiterdenkmal Monument is currently situated.

The museum is aimed to visualise documentation of the Namibian history, starting from the early resistance until the liberation struggle, including student politics.

The Deputy Director of the National Museum, Esther Moombolah-Göagose, said they do not know when exactly the skulls and bones will arrive in the country.

"We do not want to delay the process further but we will get the remains here as soon as consultations with the traditional authorities have been concluded," Moombolah-Göagose said.

Consultations with traditional authorities are earmarked for next month.

She also noted that they want to consult with other countries that might have remains of Namibian people in their possession before bringing the remains from Germany.

"We don't want to bring the remains one by one but want to do it at once," the National Museums representative said.

According to some media reports, the University of Freiburg in Germany, where the skulls are stored, said that the skulls and bones were a "cultural heritage".

The skulls are those of indigenous Ovaherero and Nama victims of the uprising of the tribes against German colonial rule between 1904 and 1908.

Thousands of indigenous people perished as a result of the extermination order of the chief of the German colonial armed forces or Schutzhuppe, General Lothar von Trotha.

Numerous prisoners of war died in concentration camps in Windhoek, Swakopmund and Lüderitz.

An German scientist, Eugen Fischer, had requested skulls of the dead for research to support his theory of the superiority of the European brain over that of the African.