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Press Statement

The Deportation of Asylum Seeking Namibians in the United Kingdom

1. The Ovaherero nation has learned with utter disgust and total dismay about the missive dated 17 February 2023 that was issued by the Executive Director of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation to several ministries on the matter of Namibians seeking asylum in the United Kingdom. We have in the same breath learned of the assertion of deportation either by will or by force that were made by the rather arrogant and condescending High Commissioner Moore who purportedly speaks for the United Kingdom but in our view transmits a shameful, self-serving and discriminatory message at the behest of the Namibian Government.
2. It is our considered view that High Commissioner Moore, a supposed high ranking officer of a state that welcomes millions onto its shores, wouldn't put up such a petty and unwarranted protest with a miniscule population of oppressed and suppressed Namibians today seeking refuge in the United Kingdom, unless spurred-on by the Namibian administration! A Namibian Government which continues on a (now open) agenda of molesting the interest and pursuits of minority communities, particularly the genocided victims who today remains dispossessed, displaced, and condemned to conditions of squalor and destitute on the periphery of the Namibian society. Genocided victims whom the Namibian Administration unprovoked and single-handedly seeks to disarm in their pursuit for justice, by wholly appropriating the right and space to defining their justice to itself, resulting in their consequent exclusion! The said exclusion is something our nations today are litigating in Namibian courts and elsewhere.

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3. The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, which is supposed to speak in and for the interests of all Namibians and must therefore vouch for their total advancement irrespective of ethnic orientation, race, creed, gender and or cultural background, seemingly celebrates and rejoice that 90% of asylum claimants from Namibia in the United Kingdom had been rejected! The Ministry is thus willingly participating in the planned unlawful deportation in breach of international law that governs 'Migrations' and the Inalienable Rights of Persons to seek refuge and better opportunities across the globe. This is despite the fact that Namibia is an active member of the family of nations, and more so the United Nations and Commonwealth of Nations where it ratified and domesticated all relevant international instruments codified under Art. 144 of the Namibian Constitution.
4. The Ovaherero nation has never been lost to the solemn truth that the great majority of those who today faces uncertainty as a consequence of the apparent new British migration policy administration approach, vis-à-vis claimants from Namibia, presumably sanctioned by the Namibian Administration, are of Ovaherero origin and or ancestry. As such we wish to put it on record, that WE as a nation parted with considerable resources to ensure that our youth who otherwise faces daily abuse, exclusion and systemic structural and inherent violence by agents of the state administration, finds an escape route to a world where their worth and labor will be appreciated for their own advancement and indeed their communities back home. In this pursuit, as a people who encountered countless chapters of deprivation, marginalization and open state sponsored hostilities in history but time and again pulled ourselves up by the bootstraps, we remain utterly unapologetic and steadfast in our resolve to survey and explore all available opportunities and escape windows, wherever they maybe around the world, to give our children and nation a fighting chance.
5. Accordingly, we are aware that 90% of Namibian asylum seekers in the United Kingdom are descendants of victims of the Ovaherero and Nama genocide who fled Namibia on the back of societal violence owing to prejudice and stereotyping against their sexual orientation and identity which in Namibia remains unprotected. Further too, we know that there are many who took off for compounded reasons, not least, the permanent minoritization as a consequence of the 1904 – 1908 Genocide, material



marginalization, structural exclusion, systematic discrimination and nepotism rampant in the Namibian state administration and its configuration.

6. It is known that migrations do not occur solely due to failed states, armed conflict, and persecution but for economic reasons as well. Accordingly, those who seeks to trivialize this matter and narrow its scope and reach to such simplicities better be schooled that there are more elements to this rather complex aspect of state policy and interface with other actors than they may care to admit.
7. In the specific case of Namibia, where Ovaherero and Nama nations were stripped bare of their material possessions by the German genocidal campaign, not least their looted land and its associated wealth which continues to be in the hands of settler occupiers and their descendants, including some of British heritage, the above premise couldn't be more true as our people are left eking out a living on the margins of society with no land to call their own and thus subjected to hitherto unseen levels of poverty and economic marginalization, therefore the flight to other parts of the world to escape economic subjugation and molestation.
8. There is a misplaced and unfortunate sentiment, harbored most in the Namibian diplomatic circles, that Namibians seeking refuge in foreign lands injure the Namibian image and reverses gains Namibia is alleged to have made over the years. The Ovaherero nation wants to debunk that misconception and myth AND assert that Namibia's image is either diminished OR advanced by the actions of the Namibian state administration itself which thus far have not been positive and or encouraging to say the least. As a reference point, the Namibian state administration keeps all kinds of rogue friends and associates, e.g. North Korea which is known for grotesque levels of human rights violations; Russia which unprovoked invaded a sovereign state [Ukraine] and today remains at war with that state against principles of interstate relations as enshrined in the UN Founding Charter; and China which, in spite of pronouncements on the contrary, continues to deny the inalienable rights of the people of Uyghur, Taiwan, Tibet and Hong Kong to self - determination and, governance; not least the many inexplicable and shameful UN system abstaining votes on clear-cut instances of gross human rights violations AND as such cannot be faulted on others when it tanks as it does today.

9. The said Namibian image is chiefly not aided by the mismanagement of public resources at home which today sees leading officers of the state incarcerated for alleged looting of public resources; a spiraling out of control ever-burgeoning public debt which now has reached unsustainable levels; a health and education system that's completely collapsed with wasteful leakages but also a shameful rising percentage share of young Namibians whose lives continues to be undercut by an inferior education that fails to give them neither skills to be absorbed as worthy economic workers nor innovators of their own decent lives supporting jobs.
10. In this regard, the Ovaherero nation declines the scapegoating plot against our people and expose this self-serving posture by the British and Namibian Administrations for what it is, an ill-conceived strategy that will go nowhere and thus have no winners. Specifically thus we ask High Commissioner Moore who conveniently elects to be an accomplice in the assault against a people battered by the imperial German state, in cahoots with the British empire and long denied of their due justice for reparative atonement, what British interest is served by an unlawful, unjust, forceful, ill-informed presumably Namibian state spurred deportation of Namibians who, in accordance with international law and alongside many others from different parts of the world, sought and or continues to seek refuge in the UK as is legitimately their right to do so?
11. Furthermore, High Commissioner Moore, may be reminded that the English at a specific time in history found the situation at home, in clumsy and impoverished 18th and 19th century England, untenable and therefore sought refuge in other parts of the world, not least Africa where they continue to this day to loot resources with the specific reference point of Namibia where they are sole and principal plunders of the precious stones (not least the diamonds) through their associated conglomerates of thieving companies.
12. It is our fervent view and considered counsel that High Commissioner Moore as a practitioner of interstate relations at the behest of the British state which owes its standing and prestige in the world to more than the ingenuity and industry of its populace but more so the thieving expeditions around the world of the Englishmen of yesterday, specifically in this part of Africa, be rather fixated with pursuits of inter-



nations cooperation anchored on the advancement of British home interests but equally its solemn responsibility and liability as a former colonial power built on the back of many enslaved, oppressed and dispossessed peoples of the world. Ovaherero and Nama nations as victims of the first genocide at the turn of the last century, at the hands of the English's own cousins [the Germans], with their aid, are uniquely placed as peoples whose interests and pursuits the United Kingdom, alongside its German cousins, must seek to protect, defend and promote to ensure sustenance and survival as part of grand responsibilities all former criminal states shares and have to-date not redeemed. Not least, the brutal, racist and genocidal past which continues to define European history must guide High Commissioner Moore's pursuits as a British diplomat and remind him to never be led by parochial interests of the Namibian political elite that's driven by the devilish desire to suffocate and subjugate a people perennially abused throughout history.

13. We as the Ovaherero nation therefore affirm our unequivocal and unambiguous rejection of the shameless call made by the two conniving governments to gang up on innocent citizens of the world exercising rights that are universally enshrined for all persons facing persecutions and or deprivation of economic opportunities to seek refuge in any parts of the world they so deem appropriate and beneficial to them. Their actions are a direct affront to international law and is in contravention of state obligations to protect, promote and defend such interests of all persons.
14. As Ovaherero nation we thus vow to defend and guard this solemn right of our people wherever they may find themselves across the many territories they reside in today as a consequence of the Genocide, with all might and will at our disposal.
15. We further reject what to us is a Namibian state administration engineered and or inspired process of targeting Ovaherero in the diaspora and beyond for deportation and consequently disarming them off the ability to sustain themselves and their communities back home AND categorically deems this atrocious campaign a second phase of a genocide pursuit begun by Germans more than a century back. And thus commits to pushing back against such injustices, which we will and can!
16. As we wind up, we want to pose the following questions and or commentaries to High Commissioner Moore and his Namibian counterparts who seems to be reading from the same sheet:



- a) What are the grounds that 90% of asylum applications submitted, as claimed and seemingly celebrated by the Namibian state administration, failed? We believe that there should be an explanation as to why such an alarming rate of claims would have failed and further what was done to inter alia assist the said claimants to access sought asylum as is legitimately their right to do so.
- b) Further we ask was/is there a proper communication process with asylum seekers, grace periods awarded and expression of what needs to be done for them to safely and legally remain in the UK?
- c) Most worryingly to us, we register our gravest concern that a dangerous precedent, and in our view a flagrant violation of international rules and norms, is created when Namibia (a country accused of failing to protect, promote and defend the interests of those seeking asylum elsewhere) is today not only making public pronouncements about how many such claims had apparently fallen short, but remains fully enmeshed in the “evidently ill-conceived and bound to fail” deportation plans concocted between the two respective governments for which it is now convening inter-ministerial meetings.

Issued by:



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