



Lephalale Municipality

Tel: 014 763 2193
Fax: 014 763 5662

Private Bag X136
Lephalale
Website: www.lephalale.gov.za

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Press Statement

Hereroes Visit

As part of celebrating their 110 years of their heroic Herero revolt, a delegation from Namibia led by Paramount Chief, Vekuii Rukoro, visited Lephalale Municipality on 22 September 2017.

The Paramount Chief outlined the purpose of their visit which he said was to commemorate the 1904 genocide of the Herero and the Nama people by the German Empire. The visit was also meant to ensure that Namibians based in South Africa and other parts of the world join in the festivities of the celebration.

According to the Telegraph Newspaper, The systematic extermination of up to 100,000 Herero and some 10,000 of the Nama people by German colonial troops is widely regarded as the first genocide of the 20th century, and a precursor to the Holocaust.

Tens of thousands of Herero and Nama were driven into the Namibian desert to die of starvation and dehydration. Others were sent to concentration camps where they died of disease and abuse. Many victims were beheaded, and their skulls sent to Germany for scientific experiments.

Acting Mayor, Cllr William Motlokwa, said the Herero's are known for their undying revolutionary spirit. "When colonisers realised the strength and unity of the Herero, they embarked on Herero and Nama genocide, which is a racial extermination and collective punishment that the German Empire undertook on German South West Africa (Namibia). The Hereros fled to neighbouring countries, most of them fled to Botswana, Angola and South Africa".



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“All of us who are seated in this council chamber have a common history of struggle for liberation. It is just that we are separated by the man-made borders. That is why Namibia was called South West Africa before it was renamed Namibia. We both suffered heavily during colonization. Most of our freedom fighters spent jail term together at Robben Island”.

Queries:

Conscious Chiloane
Communications Manager
LEPHALALE MUNICIPALITY
Tel: 014 7621496
0787251020
Email: conscious.chiloane@lephalale.gov.za