

# SKULLS OF MY PEOPLE

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# **SKULLS**

**My People** is an account of the first genocide of the 20th century perpetrated by Germany in Namibia that took place between 1904 and 1908. Over 100 000 people were killed and hundreds of skulls of Herero & Nama people were taken to Germany for racial scientific studies. This film is a testimonial account of the descendants of the Herero victims of that genocide and their fight for the returning of those skulls, for justice and for reparations from the current German government.

The protagonists of **Skulls Of My People**, Ms. Utiua Esther Muinjague and the Paramount Chief Adv. Rukoro will be attending the African Premier. The filmmakers as well as the individuals featured in the film are looking forward to meeting with the press and will be available to give interviews on the film, discussing issues of genocide, reparation and the on the going lawsuit against the current German government.

**Skulls of my People**, the first of four films from their South African NFVF (National Film and Video Foundation) funded slate, won for best Cinematography, Directing and best Documentary Feature, losing out on the nomination for best editing at the 2018 SAFTAs (South African Film and Television Awards). **Skulls of my People**, which was also funded by the IDFA Bertha Fund and the Gauteng Film Commission (a provincial film body in Johannesburg South Africa.

The next titles on their slate are a film called **Underweight**, which uses the sports fraternity of rugby as a litmus test for race relations in South Africa, followed by a film speaking on the **Fees Must Fall Movement** and the economics that gave rise to it. The final film on the slate is yet to be decided.

**Director Vincent Moloi**  
**Cinematographer Marius van Graan**  
**Offline Editor Ikaye Masisi**  
**Online Editor Dave Rypstra**  
**Original Score Zethu Mashika**  
**Executive Producers Lodi Matsetela**

**Makgano Mamaholo**

# SKULLS

## FILMMAKER'S STATEMENT

By Vincent Moloji

The post-colonial relationship between Western countries and Africa is complex; where victims, still this day, suffer from past injustices perpetrated by Westerners to Africans but gives all is in harmony. In the case of this film, *Skulls of My People*, the relationship between Germany and Namibia is awkward and to a large extent dishonest as it creates a false equivalence between two countries. In 1904 Herero and Nama people resisted the taking of their land. That resistance was met with extreme evil butchering of people, including kids and women that one can imagine. And so far no one is disputing these facts; at least, during the making of the film, I found no reasonable evidence that argue to the contrary of these facts. The Namibians, particularly the Herero and Nama people, have been deeply affected by the genocide. This has left most descendants of the victims of that genocide landless, widespread poverty, spiritual and cultural disorientation in the country of their birth. And this impoverishment is of a direct consequence of the genocide that was driven by land grab in Namibia by Germans. It is said about 80% of commercial land in Namibia, this is also the case in neighbouring South Africa, still remains in the hands of white people who makes about 10% of the population. These are scientific hard facts that can be checked. And such unequal social climate is not ideal in building a better future relationship between the two continents. While in most cases, governments in Africa seem to protect their former colonial masters; there is a growing impatience and frustration from people on the grounds who are feeling the pain of poverty on a daily basis.

