Horst's 55th Newsletter

October 2024.

Once in a lifetime.

On 5 October 2024 the coronation of my nephew Otto Charles /Uirab, to the Swartbooi Traditional Authority, took place. The Swartbooi's are part of the Namaqua who in turn belong to the Khoekhoe or Khoi peoples. The two-day event took place in rural Fransfontein, Kunene Region, Northern Namibia.

Nephew Otto was anointed or crowned as Gaob, Kaptein, or Chief to the Swartbooi Traditional Authority. He is the youngest of the Uirab siblings and was previously appointed by his, now late, mother Emma, as the custodian or purveyor of the oral history of his/our people. The event, performed according to ancient tradition, evoked wonder, joy, melody and colour, where deeply held rites and unique a language mixed with modern times. This was an invocation of cultural expression which colonizers and apartheid rulers stamped on to extinguish with racist contempt. All this now re-asserts itself in the face of a new threat, that of AI, mobile phones and globalization.

Kaptein Daniel Luiperdt retired after 38 years as Kaptein of this community. He stood down due to ill health. His chosen successor was nephew Otto. His nomination of Otto met with approval by all Swartboois in this region. Some 800 people, old and young, came to join in this age-old traditions of symbolism rooted in the harsh semi-desert that has marked their long history.

What a delight to be included in a community event that takes place once in a generation only! I felt especially humbled to be asked to speak to the gathering and to trace the linkages the Swartbooi's have to people of other cultures and complexions, in my case the European connection. How did it happen that not just once white missionary and colonial genes became part of a people who continued to be Swartbooi, and others who had chosen to call themselves 'white'? (The text of my address delivered at the inauguration is attached.)

Pictures of the event itself can be found below or on my web page: www.horstkleinschmidt.co.za.

See attached:

- **The programme of the day.**
- **Horst's address about the genetic link of the Swartbooi Uirab's to the Kleinschmidt's.**

- **Berlin cousin and author, Ursula Trüper, warned about renewed German exploitation.**
- **Pictures, clips and cuttings.**

See below book cover of: Namibische Gedenk- und Erinnerungsorte – Postkolonialer Reisebegleiter in die deutsche Kolonialgeschichte, by Bernd Heyl, published by Brandes & Apsel Verlag, Frankfurt, 2021.
I strongly recommend that, if you read German, to read this book and to recommend it to German tourists to Namibia. The author provides a well-researched counter to 96 Namibian public monuments and buildings (protected by law) that are visited, that convey nostalgic, naïve or false narratives of the period they represent. 85 of these prominent places refer to the German colonial remembrances.

Regards,

Horst

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The break of a new dawn

EVA-RAHEL JOHANNES

TESTED, APPROVED & TRUSTED ... The newly crowned gooch Charles Otto Williams Ui!oab of the Swartbooi clan proudly dons his ceremonial attire during the coronation ceremony in Franzfontein.

TOURISM – POWERED BY GONDWANA

And….. *ascerbic comment*

1. The billionaire-millionaire-rich-man curse.

In a recent Sunday Times article, journalist Thabani Khumalo states that notionally SA supports a 2% wealth tax of the super-rich. There are 3000 billionaires globally; several are South African. In 2021 it was estimated that if such tax was levied on SA billionaires, R160bn tax could be raised annually. Such is the political power of the rich in this country that no ANC, let alone a GNU dare discuss, let alone levy such a tax!

For justice and equality to have any meaning we need a discussion that goes way beyond a wealth tax. Why is it that exploitation is first allowed to take place and then some of it might be clawed back by taxes?

Instead, we the most unequal country, just get more unequal by the day!

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*2.**ugees - produced by Empire(s).***

The USA, the UK and EU countries are constantly beset with 'keeping refugees out'. Walls, fences and endless political spats deal with demeaning the lives of South American, Carribean, African, Middle Eastern and Asian refugees.

Public debate, also in SA, lacks perspective and vigorous debate about what it is that causes people to leave their home countries.

Without any doubt the USA, whether Democrat or Republican is the most persistent culprit, with its wars from Viet Nam all across to Palestine that has made people to flee their countries. But just as culpable are Europe former colonial powers who left behind chaos or depravation – and without ever paying a fair price for the extractive commodities they source to this day!