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BY

AMINUIS COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE

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Mr Chairman, Your Excellency Honourable President, honourable Prime Minister, distinguished members of Parliament, permanent secretaries of various Departments, members of the press, ladies and gentlemen.

If we have to talk about the land issue, first and foremost we have to find out how it happened that today we set quoped with the problem of ^{this} kind which so much needs solving.

Mr Chairman, this issue is historical and if we want to dig out in the past the only path there to is history. When the German colonisers came in Namibia they ^{started} forcing the black people from their original living places which was the central part of Namibia. This led to the Herero/Nama uprising of 1904. The Hereros and Namas lost the battle. They lost their lives and their properties and the land was occupied by foreign forces. More than 800000 Hereros died in the Herero/German war. Many Hereros died as a result of the military action against them, i.e. in battle. Probably a still greater number died when they fled through the waterless Omaheke after the battle of the Waterberg. Many also died in the German concentration camps at Swakopmund and Luderitz.

The land that belonged to the Hereros who took part in the war or uprising was proclaimed as "CROWN-LAND" and reserved ~~were~~ established for the Hereros.

To be very short, today Namibia is free but still the land is in the hands of minority whites. When are the black people going to reap the fruit of the hard won independence of Namibia? This conference here today must be the determining factor of how the land must be reformed.

We the Aminuis Community Representatives suggest the following:

1. that communal farmers with more than 200 cattle be encouraged and assisted by the government to obtain commercial farms so as to leave the communal farms for the not-so well-to-do farmers. They also should be given at least a period of five (5) years to establish themselves before they start paying money back to the government.
2. that the communal areas be divided in commercial farm units of about 5000 hectares.
3. that an independent institution be established to deal with the buying and selling of farms
4. that the government should take the initiative of negotiation with the foreigners who have farms in Namibia used for games.
5. that the not-so well-to-do communal farmers be given opportunity to practise co operative farming

Thank you very much Mr Chairman.