

Representatives: 1. Solomon Tjipura

National Archives
of Namibia

2. Uanjanata Hijerunguru

(18)

Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers, distinguished guests and the house at large. On behalf of the Ojitiwo community I would like to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for inviting us to and so doing making it possible for us to give our humble contribution in regard to land reform.

For the purpose of land reform we have divided the issue into two divisions, i.e. Commercial areas and Communal areas.

1. Commercial Areas

We appeal to the government to persuade or if necessary to compell vast land owners to make land available for sale to the government. Nobody in Namibia should be allowed to possess land in excess of 10,000 hectares in cattle breeding areas and 2000 hectares in regions normally used as small stock farming areas.

We believe all commercial farms are in fact stolen property but in the spirit of national reconciliation and in accordance with our constitution we propose the government should make a thorough investigation of the way in which such farms were obtained in order to determine prices and not to be guided by market prices.

Non productive farms especially those belonging to foreigners should be repossessed by government and compensation be made to the owners.

All farms bought in this way should be sold to qualifying blacks only. No foreigners should be allowed to buy further farms.

Farms in Namibia for a period to be determined by government.

All farms bought in this way should be handed over to the land bank which should be reshuffled to accommodate the victims of colonialism in their board of directors. The criteria as to who qualifies would then be in the hands of the land bank.

However we propose the following

- (a) Deposit - 5%
- (b) Grace - 5 years
- (c) Terms - 30 years
- (d) Interest Rate - 4%

2. Communal Areas

The whole of communal areas must be demarcated in viable farms

units, to be allocated *ex gratia* to the people already residing in that particular area, on the condition that they improve the units in commercial farming units.

The farmers should be placed in categories in order to determine their position in regard to the allocation of farming units.

The farmers should be given soft loans from the Land Bank to improve the units allocated to them.

In regard to deposit, interest rates, grace and terms the same principles as mentioned above should apply.

Give the land back to the people

Thank you.