

THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER
MR. HAGE GEINGOB
OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA

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MBANGURA WOODCARVING CO-OPERATION
P.O. BOX 86
RUNDU
NAMIBIA

DEAR SIR

RE: MBANGURA WOODCARVING CO-OP : STATEMENT ON LAND REFORMS

In the traditional and generally accepted sense of the term "Land Reform", means the redistribution of the rights for the benefit of the small farmers and agricultural labourers.

The Colonial Regime divided the land into two categories named:

- (a) The so-called Bantu Stand;
- (b) and the white area or commercial farmers.

Due to this result the population in the commercial area has increased from 4% (four) to 90% (ninety), especially in the Kavango region the population has increased between 1981 and 1991 from 105 (one hundred and five) to 690 (six hundred and ninety), this caused overpopulation and unemployment to be the main factor.

Therefore we the Mbangura Woodcarving Co-op have the following suggestions to make.

- (a) The people in the Communal Area should own their own land in order to farm or to cultivate their own trees for their woodcarving, in the respective area allocated for them by the government. These people depend on farming and woodcarving as it is part of their tradition.
- (b) These people should be given the right to own their own sawmill.
- (c) Provision should be made by the Land Bank of Namibia to provide credit to the respective co-operations and co-operatives and farmers or woodcarvers who wish to start out on their own.
- (d) The Government should also grant them the right to make loans in order to purchase machinery and other necessary modern equipment in order to produce first class

products.

- (e) Governmental assistance is also required to provide an expert for the respective co-operatives to enable them to manage their own administration in a professional manner.

The reason for requesting the help of a professional is, during the Colonial Regime we never had the opportunity to learn the know how in farming and cultivating trees, that knowledge was withheld. We are in desperate need of such a person to teach us farming and cultivating.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF LAND ALLOCATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Mbangura Woodcarving Co-operative suggests the following:

- (a) In the communal area there should be officials of the Administration.
- (b) Officials should be elected democratically.
- (c) A farming committee should be elected by the people of the respective areas.
- (d) The unutilised land should be given to those people who will make full use of the land.
- (e) The communal areas should be extended as the population has and is still increasing, as well as in the commercial areas.
- (f) Farmers who own more than 10 (ten) farms, should get compensation from the government and return the farms then to those less fortunate.
- (g) Foreigners who own farms should give their farms to the people who need them most.
- (h) A Commission of Enquiry should be established in order to establish how people have obtained these farms.
- (i) We also suggest that the Land Bank of Namibia should be instructed to assist the black farmers and co-operatives financially to enable them to obtain the necessary, may it be land, machinery or other equipment.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion we wish to express our feelings concerning the land reform. We feel that all farms and land should be handed back to the people to whom it belongs.

SANTOS