

THE LAND QUESTION

THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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INTRODUCTION:

The Land question is fundamental to both the political and socio-economic dispensation, which, without seriously addressing and redressing this burning issue in the newly independent Namibia the nationalist petty-bourgeoisie politics would be tantamount to a "dog chasing his own tail" This is why we in The Workers Revolution Party take this question very seriously from our own class position.

The wealth of any given society is based on three pillars, i.e. land, labour and capital. The productive class force of humanity, labour, is dependent on land whereas the parasitic class, the capitalists usurp both the labour and the land. Hence the class contradiction and it emerges in production and distribution. The productive forces has been rendered stagnant. The nation can no longer feed itself, everywhere hunger and famine are prevalent. The stagnation of the productive forces is the crisis of the working class movement. This is a crisis which the Workers Revolutionary Party is poised to resolve.

Having made this introductory remark allow me to state the purpose of this paper.

The purpose of this paper is three fold:

1. To look at the present state of the land issue from both the functionalist and the structuralist approach and put a minimum solution.
2. To look at the spatial distribution of the agricultural land in contrast to labour- capital relationship on the land and suggest our minimum solution.
3. To critically review the anticipated resource papers, expert representation and conference contribution in overall conjunction and dialectically point out appearances behind the essence.

Look for rational kernel beneath the mystical shell.

The agricultural land in Namibia is spatially divided in three components

- a) Private Commercial Farms
- b) Small private holdings
- c) Subsistence Communal land

Now let me take one in turn of this order.

Private Commercial Farm:

The Private Commercial Farms spatially occupies the greater portion of all the arable agricultural land. Together, these farms contribute the major portion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). They are run on the basis of the capitalist mode of commodity production, how efficient or inefficient they may be. The capitalist mode of commodity production presupposes the presence of the wage worker who is exploited, and the capitalist who is after super profit. There can be no any other relationship between these mutually contractictory classes other than exploited and exploiter. But before making any comment or observation let us subject this relationship, we say above, to a structural analyst approach.

Structurally, the Private Commercial Farms are well, as convention is understood, structured. There are the management component (the capitalist or his proxy), then capital in terms of equipment, cash in the bank and loan facilities, then defined land in so much hectares and the labour force to hire and fire.

In short, they make a profitable existence and contribute to the Gross National Product (GNP).

On top of these, the system enjoys a powerful protective state and private apparatuses which in turn see to intervene to ensure the optimum conditions for the reproduction of capitalist property relations.

The functional school of thought would have us to believe that aforementioned structures being functional, without applying normatic judgements, is correct. Dyfunctions in the system being viewed as normal capitalist practices. The survival of the fittest is the name of the game.

The eventual victim is the farm worker.

Our minimum call for the farm worker: They the farmworkers are comrades in arms of the urban proletariat. The farmworkers produce agricultural consumer goods while the urban workers produce industrial consumer goods. We cannot stand idly while this anarchy in production goes on.

Therefore, we call in our minimum demands that the farmworkers must be organised in the respective unions as the capitalists are already being organised themselves to perpetuate their exploitation. However, such unions

must be independent of the state, the government, and government sponsored unions. Our call is that liberation is the task of the workers themselves.

Marginal Farmers

Marginal farms are the privately owned land which is unprofitable for the owner depending on his subsistence depends on periodical work in urban areas. (Case in point Re. both where farmer has to work in Windhoek to sustain land.) The neglected week-end farmers who supposedly own the land but siphoned off tax money to the detriment of the farm labourers.

Our minimum demand is for the marginal farmers is a low-interest rate loans to make his farm productive.

We call on them to join their comrades in their own farmers union to address this contradiction.

Peasantry

The peasantry is constituted as a dumping ground for surplus labour or disabled proletariat. They try to make a subsistence on overcrowded unarable land where their produce is sold on a bias market. This relationship is a relationship of the exploiter and the exploited.

The class relationship of the exploiter and the exploited is the cardinal point of our struggle.

We call for the cooperative unions of the peasantry to market their goods on a competitive basis. These unions must demand no-interest loans and subsidies to be productive and demand for agricultural expertise from the state under their own control. We call on them to reject the present patronage of state-run projects which is inherited from the old Bantu-administration which imposes the authoritarian method of farming. But, which is so designed to smother and control the demands of the peasantry.

The peasantry must be free to design their own regulations and elect their own leaders which are accountable and can be replaced on the call.

THE DEMAND OF THE PEASANTRY

The demand of the peasantry is that their expropriated land be returned. We as the Workers Revolutionary Party respond to that demand. However, the independent demand from the peasantry must not be construent with the petit bourgeois state call for land nationalisation. It must be an independent demand from the peasantry themselves.

For us the Workers Revolutionary Party respond to that demand and advance it. However, experiences in independent African countries have once again showed that the petit bourgeoisie can only expropriate land for their own benefit and their bourgeois aspirations. (Case in point: Kenya.) The peasantry in Namibia must not allow them under the banner of the peasant plight to do exactly that. Neither should the peasantry allow the petit bourgeois regime to use this conference to put the land question on ice. We want land reform based on the peasantry's demand NOW! TODAY!

We therefore call:

**HOAGANAS BACK TO ITS PEOPLE
OUGAIGANAS BACK TO ITS PEOPLE
ALL LAND BACK TO ITS PEOPLE**

PS: We shall participate in this conference with the view to contribute to any other other question that can alleviate the plight of this nation. We reserve our standpoint to attack the deviant views that may come into this conference. We will accept the positive contributions from our class position.