

## National Archives of Namibia

### INTRODUCTION

The question of land is one of the immediate burning issues <sup>in</sup> post-colonial Namibia. In Oshakati region one of the regions which have borne the brunt of the liberation war and has stood in the fore-front of the liberation struggle, the question of equity, inter alia in land distribution, is seen as an immediate challenge facing the new government. The people of the region feel very strongly about equity in general, however land is particularly important in this region for several reasons:

- ✗ a) this is one of the most densely populated areas in the country;
- (b) agriculture is the number one economic activity of the region and
- (c) the high rate of unemployment in the region makes agriculture even more significant.

In the past few weeks discussions on the land issue were held in many parts of the region. Regional workshops have then pooled the ideas from these meetings and debated them at large. What follows in this document is a summary of ideas from these deliberations.

### PROPOSED BASIC PRINCIPLES ON REDISTRIBUTION OF LAND AND THE LAND QUESTION

*in Oshakati Region*

- ✓ 1. Land should be handed over to the government at no charge.
- ✓ 2. The government should redistribute the land in an equitable way.
- ✓ 3. Land in Namibia should be divided up into three zones, namely:
  - (a) communal land
  - (b) commercial land
  - (c) animal zone

#### (a) Principles guarding communal land

- ✓ 1. Annual rent should be paid, according to the size and value of the land. The rent thus collected should go into a government fund.
- ✓ 2. Fences in communal land should not go beyond the perimeter of the land as allocated by the authorised official (e.g. headman).

- 3. Communal land in the North of the country should be EXTENDED because the amount of land available in the area is too little for the number of inhabitants of the area.
- 4. The fence indicating the so-called red line should be removed. Namibians would like to live in whatever part of Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.
- 5. The distribution of land and the right to any part of land should not be biased by gender, or other factors like colour or ethnicity.

(b) Principles guarding commercial land

- 1. The size of farms should be redefined APPROPRIATELY by the government.
- 2. No person should be allowed to own more than one farm.
- 3. Anyone occupying more than one farm should give all but one to the government, at no charge.
- 4. No land in Namibia should be owned by a foreigner.
- 5. Some farms should be utilised for projects, in order to alleviate the problem of unemployment.
- 6. No person has a right to sell a farm except if he/she owns only one farm.
- 7. The responsibility of re-distributing land should lie with the government.

(c) Principles guarding the animal zone

- 1. The animal zone should resort under the government.
- 2. All wild animals should reside in the animal zone.
- 3. The animal zone should be well-protected by the government.

Principles guarding the use of land

- 1. Everyone occupying land should be registered with the government.
- 2. Products of the land in Namibia should be utilised in a way that benefits Namibians.
- 3. The government should see to it that agriculture in Namibia is guided the needs of the country.
- 4. Any person occupying land which is not serving Namibians should relinquish it to the government.

CONCLUSION

Since the colonial era land is not distributed appropriately. Even after the foregoing principles are adhered to, the distribution of Namibian land will become only truly appropriate once Walvisbay is back in the hands of Namibians.

*Reconciliation without land is not reconciliation  
at all*

*and I thank you.*