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KOKERBOOM COMMUNAL FARMERS UNION

PROPOSALS AND MODELS

TO

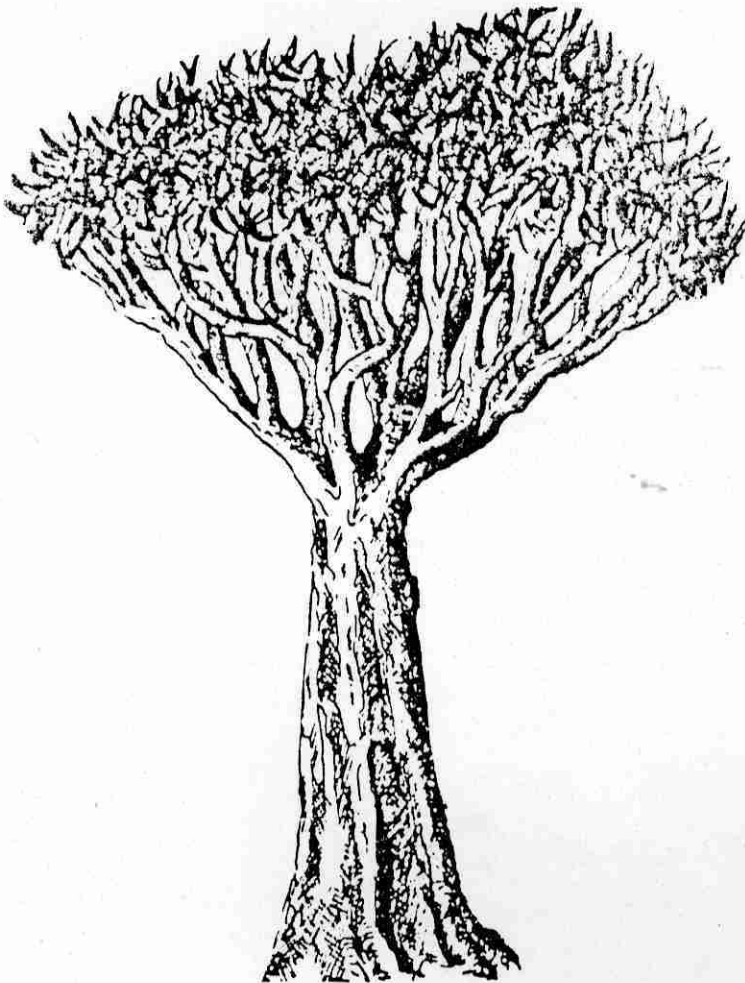
LAND REFORM AND LAND QUESTION

CONFERENCE WINDHOEK

24 June 1991

to

1 July 1991



Mr W M STEPHANUS
~~CHARIMAN~~
CHAIRMAN

CONTENT

KOKERBOOM COMMUNAL FARMERS UNION

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Proposals to National Conference on Land and the Land Reform and the Land Question.

1. **Historical BACKGROUND**
2. **PROPOSALS AND APPROPRIATE MODELS**
3. **CONCLUSION**

KOKERBOOM COMMUNAL FARMERS UNION

INTRODUCTION

For us as Communal Farmers it is an historic moment that at long last we are able to discuss our problems at this level and to form part and parcel of this meeting in which we can bargain for a better disposition for all of us.

BACK GROUND

For more than a century we had to cope with draught, illness and pests. We had draughts that will live on in our memories for ever such as those in 1896, 1933, 1960 - 1964 and ~~one~~ again in 1979 up to last year. We had to cope with a depression that ruined thousands of us as well declining prices for our products.

We as a Farming Community is in dire straights and we desperately need assistance from the Government to be able to survive and to keep on surviving. We do not only need financial aid but we also need expansion and advisers to guide us in our endeavours in such a way that we will no longer be a burden for the Government but a valuable asset.

Greetings

W M STEPHANUS

KOKERBOOM COMMUNAL FARMERS UNION

Proposal to National Conference on Land and the Land Reform and the Land Question.

1. Communal Land

1.1 Upgrading of Communal Land

- The old Communal area (Reserve) Vaalgras, Tses, Blouwes, ea. as it was known in the old days should be upgrade through fencing and devided in suitable grazing units from 5 000 to 6 000 hectares.
- Small Farmers should be resettled on these areas, and should be controlled by government Agriculture officers to monitor over-grazing.
- The idea of communal land must be reorganised and restricted.
- The communal farmers want order and malpractises in these areas should be combatted, buried for ever.
- We urge for the limitation of donkey quotas.

2. Odendal Commission farms (Enlarge Communal Land)

- These farms should be the point of departure to land ownership and should be devided in Sub-economical units from 7 000 hectars in the Tses area which is mostly.
- A suitable, affordable scheme should be created to accomodate farmers with small ~~steek farmers with small~~ stock numbers between 250 - 350.
- the intrest rate of the propose scheme should be between 1% - 2%.
- Probation period of 5 years should be given to the farmers on this scheme to find their feet.
- Appropriate training programmes should be launched to adapt the farmers to conditions and to skill them with the latest breeding techniques and administration.

3. Commercial Farms

- It would be appropriate to check on the past to scope how the white farmers were assisted ever since 1934 - 1990.
- Methods how to upgrade them should be researched to find this succesful method which made the white farmers the leading group on the economic side.

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- Especially in our region we have leading communal farmers who produce on the scale of commercial farmers, these farmers help to carry the governments burden by provision of employment.
- Due to famine, overgrazing and plaques we find it hard to reach the goal and to keep pace with the incremental wages and living cost.
- *We claim almost reasonable prices; because most of the farms were not bought.*
- Thus for we resolve the following
- Resettlement of the abovementioned farmers to appropriate commercial farms.
- to initiate a suitable scheme to fit the communal farmers with a commercial status on communal land.
- The existing Land and Agriculture Bank should find ways to accomodate these farmers.

4. Enlargement of Communal Land

- We reject the enlargement of Communal Land.
- An appropriate way should be found to do away with this kind of appropriation of Land.
- We have inherited poverty by the creating of communal land by the colonialist.
- Please find a suitable solution to recover this valueable land which can be administrated properly and be of inestimable value.
- The existing Communal Land is a burden on the shoulders of the Tribal Chiefs.

Estimated small stock numbers in the Kokerboomwoud Region

1. Goats	± 7498
2. Sheep	± 10 650
3. Cattle	± 620
4. Donkeys	± 1 000
5. Horses	± 300

A. Financial Sources:

Previous Colonialist who are responsible for inequality should be requested for donation bought Land. These are Brittain, S.A and Germany.
W. Stephans

CONCLUSION

As farming is the backbone of Namibia we are very serious about farming and urge this conference and the Government to accelerate and resettle our communal farmers for the good and prosperity of the total Namibia.

We thank you Sir.

W. Stephans
Chairman