

Mr EP SHEMI

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Okankolo yaipa

24 June 1991

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS OF DELEGATION FROM ONDANGWA REGION
INCLUDING THE "KING" AND SENIOR HEAD MAN.

We are facing a crucial and complex issue on land reform and the land question. It is a high priority for us to formulate and construct a clear cut solution to land redistribution which had been denied by the colonial authorities. As far as land reform is concerned, there are no practical experiences from our neighbours from which we could draw our conclusions. It means that we should start from scratch. We should also bear in mind that factors such as ideological differences, cultural beliefs and past heritages could influence or hinder our conclusions on land question.

It is our duty to construct meaningful land reform guidelines which can serve as a yard-stick for the legislators when they formulate policies concerning the redistribution of land. We should also take notice that the malpractices undertaken by the colonial authorities create some elements of foot dragging when it comes to the issue of land reform.

We all know the scarcity of the land as far as the majority of Namibian people are concerned and it does not mean that Namibia does not have enough space to accommodate its people. The fact is that the land is not properly and equally distributed and utilized. We can judge from our experience that commercial farming lay in the hands of the few, some who are not even Namibian citizens. Still, we are all aware, by the mere fact that the north of the country is densely populated, that the shortage of living space had sometimes led to serious confrontation within our communities.

PROPOSALS

The land should be divided at least in four categories;

1. Commercial farming (agricultural farming)
2. Communal land ownership
3. Animal zones and,
4. Urban areas (metropolitan areas)

Guidelines governing communal land ownership

Communal land should be paid only once and the money should be deposited into the state revenue fund. It means that the communal land should be passed to the spouse of the deceased or to the member of the next of kin without any charges, or to the government if the family abandons the land.

Wards should be restructured and grouped together to form a district which is headed by the headman assisted by an elected council. Only the headman should be remunerated by the government.

Guidelines Governing farming

1. No person should be allowed to own more than one farm, except the government.
2. Red-line should be abolished for the extension of both farming zones and communal land ownership.
3. The government should formulate the regulations which stipulate the size of farms.
4. Foreigners should not own land unless they have joint-ventures with Namibian citizens.

