

National Archives
of Namibia

Mr J Isaaks

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The Chairperson

The Gibeon Farmers Association consist of farmers, farming on the Communal land of Witboois. This Association has been as the established under the auspices of the Witboois-Council.

There are believed to be 1,300 to 1,400 farm families Nine to Ten (9-10) farmers farm together on a farm which has been allocated for one commercial farmer. Presently the Witbooi-Area has been declared as drought stricken Area which makes farming, production impossible.

Following the Odendaal Commission, Witbooi-Area has been increased by the addition of commercial farms. People are still coming from commercial farms, towns to the Communal Area to settle.

They approach the traditional leaders and ask for a place. The latter should assess the carrying capacity, water availability and other factors before granting permission. Neither do they have the power to turn applicants away.

Namibia, covering an area of 82,314,400 hectares and is the second largest country on the Southern African Continent. Agriculture plays a vital role in the Communal Area and this Association recommends as follows:

Communal Areas will still exist and justifiable in Namibia. The Constitution makes provision for Traditional Leaders. Therefore, the Association strongly recommends the expansion of Communal Areas. Specifically in Witboois-Area considerable expansion in west, north and east of Witbooi-Area will be suggested. The farmers-recommends expansion of Odendaal-model.

Further, the few commercial farmers in Witbooi-Area should be granted means of financial aid to purchase commercial farms in freehold lands.

This approach has been proposed by:

Gibeon Farmers Association

Signed: ... *J. Isaaks*
Mr J Isaaks
Chairperson/Gibeon Farmer's Association