

A Brief Oral Presentation on Otjimbingwe Communal Land And Land Reform to
The National Conference on Land Reform, June 25 to July 01, 1991 at Windhoek.

Honourable Prime Minister,
Distinguished Guests and Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

National Archives
of Namibia

At the outset, we welcome and support our government's relentless efforts on the land question; for it is the issue - subject matter that constitutes our bitter struggle for freedom and the hard won independence.

Secondly, Otjimbingwe communal land borders the Namib Desert and is about 200 km northwest of Windhoek. Historically and traditionally, Otjimbingwe has been one of our people's dwelling place, with its vast space and economic viabilities (stretching from beyond Tsaobis in the west to near Wilhelmstal in the northeast, and up to the Khomas Hochland mountains, in the south).

But today, Otjimbingwe is an entrenched, squeezed, economic sterilized and impoverished area. Its beauty, vastness and richness is but a painful history, nowadays.

Thirdly, we wish to state that most Otjimbingwe's area was expropriated without compensation like other areas in Namibia, since the eve of colonialism. Greater and economic land of Otjimbingwe were given to White settlers at random. And today some farms in the area owned by non-citizens.

Fourthly therefore, given now the irreversible independence of our land and the fact that we must live here abundantly as citizens, we suggest the followings:

1. Farms owned by non-citizens should be confiscated with only compensation of movable property but not the land.
2. Communal farming land should be extended, if possible to its original borders.
3. The government should have a fixed quota of hectares for farming purposes. And each person can be allowed to have up to two farms, if such farms were economic feasible and were within the fixed quota.

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4. Those with up to ten farms should give them up to the government and remain with at least two or one. And only movable property should be compensated.
5. Loans to acquire farming land should be made available and realistic to the deprived farmers, who ^{were} excluded for many years.
6. Existing government farms be made accessible for grazing to the communal farmers.

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