

# Back To The Stone Age

MAN appeared on earth approximately 3 million years ago. The society in which the early man lived, i.e. the primitive society or stone-age-society was characterised by equal distribution of land to all members of that society; land was never regarded as the private property of a particular person but was collectively managed by our ancestors. As a result of natural evolution the physical appearance of the early man changed and similarly, the classless 'stone-age' society was replaced by the "slave-ownership society."

The "slave-ownership society" consisted of two class i.e the slave-owners and the slaves. Some members of this society contemplated ways of enriching themselves, particularly means to improve their harvest production. They concluded that cheap labour and high output would achieve that end, i.e. slavery became a popularised and profitable economic ideology and, for the first time in human history, a man lost his land to another man. The slave-ownership society was later replaced by "feudalism" as a result of a revolt of slaves against the slave-owners.

The "feudalism-system" or society was characterised by more advanced economic development. A great thinker emerged from that society who produced metal and steel tools which were used to cultivate land and chop down trees for making houses etc. He started to barter his products and consequently assembled a vast fortune.

Because of his wealth he assumed the role of a Hippocratic philosopher i.e. by propagating to the people that he was chosen by God (which explains his wealth) and that he must be recognised by all people of the Feudal-society as their king. This was a turning point in the history of mankind and is the reason why we have kings and queens today.

History teaches us that nobody was born a king or selected by God to act as such. Aside from the fact that the king enjoyed absolute power he also had no respect for other people's territory or land and, once again, man lost his ancestral land to another person. The common people were required by law to pay tax by submitting a portion of their harvest or products from the land which they cultivated. This land was regarded as the private property of the king. Consequently, with the appearance of classes the government was born.

In view of this the human society was divided into two classes e.g. the aristocracy and the class of the landless people. The class-struggle continued with the landless demanding the return of their land. A good example of classes is the British

parliament which consist of two houses i.e. the 'House of Lords' and the 'House of the Commons'. The Feudal-Regime was eventually overthrown by the class of the landless who revolted against the king. The feudal-system was replaced by a more advanced capitalist system/society.

The capitalist society only replaced Feudal exploitation of the landless with its new method of exploiting this class in its industries. The capitalist society reached its success during the industrial revolution, a period in which the capitalists became the owners of all means of production, resulting in a constantly growing demand for raw materials. With this era came more advanced means of transport, powerful guns and technology. Governors and soldiers were then deployed around the world to conquer various territories and its people, in order to exploit the raw materials and manpower for their industries. The capitalists succeeded in conquering territories around the world and man lost his land for the third time in history. Namibia was not an exception in this regard.

I therefore sincerely to appeal to the land owners in this country to consider their fellow landless Namibians who are living in the river beds and in overcrowded unhygienic conditions; to give them a piece of land as this will create a better understanding amongst the people of our society, irrespective of the colour of their skins.

If I may quote Martin Luther King, *"I have a dream that one day the sons of former slaves and sons of former slaves owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."*

I would like to extend an appeal to the land owners and the absentee landlords of Namibia to voluntarily hand over part of their land to the landless who are living in the corridors of our country's roadside and between the farms of the landowners

I believe that the day will come when my appeal will be put into practice. Our society remains divided because of the uneven distribution of wealth in this country between the haves and have nots. Only when we can redistribute the land equally will Namibians start to recognise each others as equal partners.

This in itself will solve the unnecessary present and future land confrontation, and bury the inequality that is causing people to dislike each other.

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