

# The Land Question

THE Zimbabwe experience demonstrated that most people in Namibia failed to understand the essence of the struggle for national liberation. This struggle in Swanu's view was for fundamental change.

What lessons can be drawn from this episode? Firstly, this is a slap in the face of the imperialists who think formerly colonised groups will stick to agreements signed a few days prior to granting independence and that historical processes are forgettable.

Secondly, this is a vindication of the fact that peace and stability in the southern African region are not long lasting as long as the land issue, the central pillar of a struggle for national liberation, is not resolved to the benefit of the previously colonised groups.

It is no secret that the imperialist forces confronted with the ferocity of the struggles for national liberation in Africa during the late 70s engineered a scheme of pre-conditions to pacify and diffuse the then revolutionary consciousness before granting independence to Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The 1982 Constitutional Principles intended to protect the 'properties' of the settler white minorities. This was legalised by entrenching clauses in the Constitution such as no confiscation of land without fair compensation.

The Namibian and Zimbabwean leaders who lack the political will to make the land issue a priority are only interested in flag independence and entering State House. Swanu believes:

- The former colonialists or settlers in Namibia do not have a legitimate claim to ownership of any portion of Namibian soil.

- The Government of Germany must pay reparations to those Namibians who were directly affected and lost their ancestral land rights due to the Germany colonial occupation.

- Heavy taxation on foreign landlords and those who own excessive land must be imposed.

- Land must be allocated on the basis of socialist principles of cooperatives and collective ownership.

Swanu of Namibia  
WINDHOEK

*Note: This letter has been shortened - Ed.*