

The land issue

I AM a member of Swanu and I was shocked when Comrade Sam Nujoma said in a recent interview published in The Namibian that Swapo would allow whites to keep their farms in Namibia and that they would use only some uninhabited parts of Namibia for cooperative projects. Are we to stick to the Namib Desert and Khomas Hochland with our 'cooperative' projects a la socialism? Not at all.

The grand children of Maharero, Mandume and Witbooi are still waging the war against the racist South African Government to regain their land. There must be no question about it. Our forebears gave their lives in defence of our land and the present generation is also sacrificing their lives to regain the land from the white oppressors. As long as our land remains in the hands of the present white monopoly farmers, there can be and there will be no peace and stability in Namibia.

The question of land is a very serious matter which lies at the heart of our struggle. The whites will continue to control our economy if they retain the land and our freedom will be in name only ... something like the MPC is claiming today. That will be a sham freedom within poverty, white domination and exploitation of our wealth. Such independence is definitely not worth fighting for.

We must fight for the land and all our natural resources. I believe that this is the only solution for the black majority of Namibians. The whites are still controlling the farms and the economy in Zimbabwe and those who fought during the war are not satisfied at present. The Zimbabwean government is trying to solve this problem which I realise is a very difficult task at this stage. This is why in the case of Namibia we must grab our independence in terms of the ownership of land. We must show to have learned the lessons of African history. The land belongs to the people of Africa and not to those who call themselves 'Europeans' in Namibia.

We cannot promise our sacred land to the very same white farmers who support the all-apartheid white National Party of settlers in Namibia. We cannot give our land to those who, in the May 6 elections this year, returned P W Botha to power in order to protect their minority rights in Namibia. We cannot give our land to white farmers who train Koevoet and who are themselves commando members in the South African army.

Since whites do not compromise on any issue so far, why should we compromise our birthright? The masses of our people shall take over the land from the white monopoly capitalists with or without compensation.

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