

Is Resettlement Sustainable?

THE list of resettlement claimants is growing. The criteria used as "previously disadvantaged" is too broad. The question is whether there is enough resettle-able land for all the current and future Namibians. Land never grows but population does and is.

Are we only empowering the current generations and forgetting about what will happen to the future ones?

Will there be land to be bought and settled (free of charge) for our younger generations?

Who will bother buying a farm while there are those given to them free?

Is there not going to be war between the resettled families and future landless families?

Why does resettlement dominate the Government

agenda as if there are no other sustainable options?

Why do people have to be resettled (at all)?

I think people need land to improve their livelihoods. The question remains will most of the beneficiaries be better off? What will happen to the 6% GDP contribution?

The N\$1 billion targeted for purchasing resettlement land is too much for nothing. Namibia has dynamic entrepreneurs who want to diversify this economy by investing in manufacturing activities to replace most of the imports that the country heavily depends on and also to broaden the economy's tax base. It is healthy for the Government to meet its challenges, but could it not secure loans from our financial institutions.

The billion should be split to cover other priority areas, mostly those that are creating employment opportunities for our youth. The Government should not only be putting pressure on commercial farmers but also on private business to finance the SMEs - especially the foreign owned companies who don't reinvest their capital in Namibia but trade in the country.

A good empowerment program should encourage domestic investment. I think employment creation should be a priority here and its solution would accelerate the public's confidence in Government, rather than allocating expensive dry and often unproductive land to the poor Namibians.

The Government is

very quiet on this. You need income to be able to survive on a small-scale farming. Land to me is not and has never been a big question. Our politicians must get serious. I don't believe land expropriation would add some political score to the ruling party but rather aggravate the existing poverty and create conflicts thereby sabotaging our fragile economy as happened to our neighbour.

Resettlement programs should not be a political process but a socio-economic programme with eyes on both spheres. If the ruling party wants to rule forever, it should simply facilitate the creation of employment opportunities.

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