

22 Nov 2016

Hon. JATHANIKA (NUDO Party)

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

It is a great honour for me to make contribution on this very important Land Bill which is long overdue.

The Land Bill is long overdue because we NUDO have been raising the issue of one integrated land law rather than present system which distinguish between communal and commercial areas in our 2004, 2009 and 2014 Manifestos, we therefore thank the Minister who have come to his senses and copy something from our Manifesto.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

The war between some Namibians (Hereros and Namas) and German in 1904-1908 has been about land.

Land is Economy and Economy is Land.

A Land Bill which does not recognize that in Namibia, Namas and Hereros have been robbed of their land by the German than it is not the right Bill, as the Bill supposed to correct the wrong of the past as far as Land is concerned.

We know very well that the German traveled across the oceans to Namibia and came without significant amount of their properties with them.

Land of course is one of the properties that are immovable. Thus, when the German settlers arrived in Namibia at around 1883, their hands were empty.

Land is a basic asset of life and a principal natural capital where people produce in order to make a living.

German settlers occupied the grazing areas of Hereros and Namas but did not occupy some of the most fertile areas in the former Ovamboland, Kavango and Caprivi.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

Hereros and Namas therefore should enjoy priority when it come to the resettlement programme as they are the only people whose forefathers and mothers land was grabbed by the German settlers from 1884-1908, they did not only grabbed their land but they have also killed our people over their land in other words they have committed genocide against innocent people.

If the Land Bill does not prioritize Namas and Hereros, the Bill must make provision for Namas and Hereros to reclaim their ancestral land because they know where their forefathers and mothers used to live as most farms names south of Oshivelo to the South are either in Otjiherero or in Nama language. In Namibia you cannot talk about land without talking about Hereros and Namas genocide.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

It is not new for certain groups to be prioritize as with introduction of National Resettlement Policy in the late 1990, the following groups of people were put in order: the San Community, Ex Plan fighters, returnees, etc.

If the government does not amend the Bill to prioritize Namas and Hereros in the resettlement programme than they will be left with no other alternative rather than starting with land grabbing as part of the first phase of the struggle for economic freedom in our lifetime.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

We Namibians we cannot continue to buy our ancestral land from the whites at high price like that, therefore the Willing Seller-Willing Buyer should be done away with and be replaced with another system which will accelerate land reform and even if we need to change our supreme Law we must do it as soon as possible and I will support the ruling Party to use their 2/3 majority once in their lifetime for the benefit of all Namibians.

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

The enlargement of Communal areas is a good news from the Land Bill and the following communal areas must be the first ones to be enlarged by buying farms adjacent and be added to the following communal areas.

They are:

- Ovitoto
- Otjimbingue
- Omatjete
- Omongua (Aminuis)

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

I hope that the Land Bill have done away with the allocations of 20 hectares as the 20 hectares was originally meant for Mahangu field but not for grazing purposes, it has created more problems than solutions especially in the following regions Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Kunene which are mainly for livestock farming.

The other problem cause by the government is the issue of gazetted Traditional Authorities vs. ungazetted Traditional Authorities where the government prefer to work with gazetted Traditional Authorities and forcing those subjects who belong to the ungazetted Traditional Authorities to work under Traditional Authorities to which they do not belong by that undermining the choice of the people. The allocation of 20 hectares by some traditional authorities will one day cause calamity in some communal areas.

In Otjinene Constituency it is being alleged that the recognize Traditional Authority's Councillors are selling communal land like KFC to other people from other areas like Rehoboth while the residents themselves are hungry for land, it is being alleged that money collected is not being deposited in the Traditional Authority account but in individual pockets of those who are selling the land.

I request the Ministry to investigate the alleged corrupt practices.

I thank you.