

Land Distribution Options  
Nicholas Matabese

Land and Agriculture Emlggg\_pentve ap.:tgbev1993

Snee52i\_ Niuholaa M&tebemm

i;L.: Land D1.. ibutimn Dptiung

Ladies and gentlemen, hmoura able guests, cmmrades and compatviats I greet yam all.

I am nut am acadamic av 3.0mamne frnm the legal prufeggion. I am just an mrdinar; pwrrcn frnm the rural areas of Muuj.plaa\$. Let me tall you that I am Eurprised abnut hnw the organisers uf this conference decidad ta chmume me tu Speak Were tудay. Thank yam very mu-rh fur giving me this mppmrtunitv tn %hare with ynu what the ma ginalised rural pemplm think ahuut the futuae land dl\$tributiun.

I heme Lhia amdinnc will hPar with me hPmanap anmw nf thp things I am gnnng to a.a, may be prnu:ticolly impuu siblm lb imwlumuul I Fuul it 15 V&ry impurtanu 1U draw ylzur attentiuu to them. This hupefully Mill mnablm thm ta-zhnical pamplo tu reach a middla if not a Homlmn ngund.

My paper will fmcua on twm areag:

The firat one is how vural people envisage future land distributian.

Thw qprnnn nun 19 what 1% rnrrpmtly hPing dmmn hy thw qtate.

Land digtributionn

% Victim\$ cf fovced removalg:

The lives mf them a pemple were impuveri shed. In this category there bra fami.l 193 who used tn mun farms but were for-:ed ta 195a them. Some 155d 10 uwn land in their Cummmunities as membera Of the communitiea. Tunantg: and farm mvicl:mcux av'w ..nlu: part c-f thi- gvoup. nl.) Lhuww pemlp want 12heir land tn be featured back t0 thwm. These people are ready tl accept a comprumisa for an alternative 15.nd if the une they ware remnved frum 15 productively used. The questimn is huw to measure that produ-:tlvltv against what they used. the land for. Same Of this land 1% growing thhrny bushes.

% Eatabliahmd rural villagag.

In Mmoiplaaa fer inatance, the betterment system was introduced in 1959. This is the Sustem through whi-zh the arable and the grazing land were \$aln rat ed fram the residential land. The majnrity uf people had access tn them axing and the arable land. The families increaSed ln numbar as mnre and mmve came to the village and the sans and the daughtarg uf the villagers wanted their own rasidential aitea The

- ... \_- .. . h . . . - \_ - -' --4\_ g'-1.\_:

grazing land had to be used for the allocation of residential sites. The early settlers had to accept this although they realised that this allocation was reducing the grazing land. The residents have reached a stage where they could no longer accept mere promises to camouflage the village. This has caused tension between the residents and between them and the neighbouring farmers. Fence cuttings are taking place on the bordering farms, there is a tension and this is high a racial tension but between the haves and the have-nots.

% Farmers.

As I have mentioned that the rural villages are no longer prepared to accommodate farm evictees, these villages are organising and advocating the farmers' fight for their own rights where they are. The farmer, black and white are using rural villages as a dumping ground for the dismissed farmworkers. Some of these people were born on the farm and their parents were buried there. The government should do something about these evictions because it seems as if the majority of farmers want to get rid of the farmworkers before a democratic government passes laws about farmworkers. Not there are farmworker organisations which are negotiating with the authorities about the identification of land for the settlement of farm evictees. The question of entitlement of farmworkers should be explored because many of the farmworkers feel attached to the land that they grew up on.

Landlords and their land

It is a known fact that 80% of the farmers in this country are producing 20% and 20% of the farmers are producing about 80% of the gross market product. This raises a question as to whether we should target the land owned by farmers who are not doing well. One would argue that the farmer is not producing as expected is caused by the quality of soil, land is a national resource and should be used for the benefit of all the citizens of this country. I think you are hardly going to be surprised to hear that there are moneyed people who are not interested in farming but hold title deeds for large tracts of land for speculative reasons. When this land is sold usually the farmworkers are evicted with their skills to places where they could not use them.

We also have absentee land lords who sometimes do well and badly depending on the skill, interest and determination of these investors on the farm. These are the people who create wealth for the land and benefit the least of what they are doing. My suggestion would be that if possible, the government should build the managerial capacity of these workers and buy this type of land for them. The view of some of the communities I shared a workshop with is that the land owned by indebted farmers who are unable to pay is automatically a state land and should be targeted for redistribution.

Future land distribution

In most workshops we held the communities have seen the importance of always ensuring that there is food security. This does not mean

that acme pechle should be producing for them from the rest of the  
live. They would prefer a situation where the state would encourage  
them to produce for themselves and their communities. In the blackspot  
area one will find that the government is paying very little  
attention to soil reclamation. There are no extension services and  
local capacity has not been built to manage the locally available  
resources.

The following should be lawed at:

"Attention to the development of human beings.

Land development plan to be decided by all concerned.

-Land to be registered in the name of both husband and wife.

Married and unmarried to enjoy the same status in land allocation

Private irregularly owned land to have the same status.

" a decision to be made on the allocation criteria before land is  
allocated.

Members to be part of the allocation committees.

Reskilling of people to be a priority.

" Land distribution is nothing without the required services and the  
infrastructure.

The tenure systems is to be flexible.

Current allocations that might hinder land distribution.

The South African government is pushing other organisations and the  
private sector to accept the entrenchment

of the property clause in the constitution. This has angered the

rural communities as they see this as yet another attempt by the

government to reduce the ability of the future government to

distribute land. I am aware of the march of rural people  
to the World Trade Centre.

Advise the Commission on Land Allocation.

m...-

In response to the demands of the land claiming communities, the  
government formed ALRC. This happened two years ago. This was set up  
to deal with land claims by advising the state president on how to  
respond to the land claims applications. There is very little that the  
commission did to return land to the removed communities. Attempts  
by the communities to democratise this commission fell on deaf ears.  
The commission did not land allocation.

ALRC has been changed to CLA whose mandate is to distribute land.

There is a belief within some communities that the state is using  
these commissions to give land to its friends.

Emphasise the state land;

Land in the hands of the state being unilaterally vested.

The future democratic government will have no land for distribution

purposes, if this goes unchallenged. When is Kemptville going to

challenge this? Are we going to recognise the given state land as  
legitimate owners of that land even if this happens after the multi

a

Q

. . . . .7 \_ . . . . \_ - . . . . , \_ - . . . . \_ . \_ - \_ \_ -- -. - . . . . - .4 my.oq- A...a....., . . . \_ - , - .  
..-.\_-\_. A\_

Barty ?alkg?

Land legislation

The 89 government hag pasged a legislatiwn by which it changaa the  
Qxigting tenure systems intm Fr&ehmld. The communities are as far 3%  
I knmw dm nmt know this development. Thia change in tenure is net  
guppmrtd by some communities Thig came up very clearly in wurk5.apa  
we halt! an tenure 3yatem5. There shmuld be flexibility when a  
deciaimn 1% made an the typa of twnure.

Commqg\$t ggnd Emnferenceu

Rural communitiaa from the length and the breath Of this country are  
gming to maet in an higtmric cwnference. The rural pemple knew very  
well that mu%t mf the times rural areas are not given enougr  
attentimn, Moat Of the timmg nakimnal debates are biased ta the urban  
areas. A clear case i\$ the question mf rural local government.  
Thaae communities will be digcuaming and consmlidating their demand?  
ag rural pemple. Thay will alga he digcussing the pmagible salutinns  
t their prblemg. Rural aqmmunitieg want to take lead in the  
a cU%simn wf their plight,

In cwnclumion Ladieg and gentlamen, Once more.I thank you. I knaw I  
might have said irrelevant thingg, accept my apolagy far that.

Once more, thank ymu.. .. n. .e.....u...u...w.....