

3. Pupils describe the primary school years as „the crying years“ because of their fear, shame and homesickness. They are beaten, terrorised and abused in the hostels by anybody, being unable to defend or protect themselves.
4. When the question arose of who would be allowed to go the San conference in Windhoek, Namibia, again it was stated „That we the government will pick the delegation, we will use our vehicles to get them, and we will give them food and we will brief them to praise Botswana, because Botswana is better than other countries.“
5. The growth rate factor of tuberculosis among our people is the highest in Africa. The diarrhoea among children is one of the main contributing factors to child mortality.

(1993) 'Never Drink from the same cup':

Proceedings of the Conference on
Indigenous Peoples in Africa
Tune, Denmark, 1993

Copenhagen: IWGIA

eds. H. Ueber, J. Dahl, F. Wilson + E. Waeble

pp 147

The First People
of The Kalahari
May 17, 1992

The Honourable Minister
Ministry of Local Government,
Lands & Housing
Mr. C. Butale

26 years of independence have brought Botswana forwards and us, the first people of the Kalahari, backwards.

The problem is that the Government has not been able to identify representatives with whom they can work in order to adapt the development programmes of the Botswana Government to meet the special needs of the N/oaikwe (the Ju/twasi), who have been consistently marginalized.

We now feel the need for the Government to acknowledge us as One People, recognizing the diversity in terms of language and territorial ownership.

When we had control of our territories there was a network, a constant interaction and contact amongst us. Territorial rights were recognized, whilst sharing resources with neighbouring groups.

In order to meet the development objectives of the Botswana Government we propose that new ways are tried out to create representative structures.

To meet these objectives we therefore propose to set up a national council and ask the Government to recognize this council as a legitimate negotiating partner.

We suggest a vote be set aside to cover consultations amongst us in order to establish this council.

We also strongly ask that on-going or further alienation of land be halted, either through resettlement or fencing, until the council has been established.

We therefore ask you to bring our words to the Government so that these words can be considered. And we would like a meeting so that we can negotiate and settle this before we attend the conference in Namibia on June 16-18, 1992.

Komtsa Komtsu
of the Nharo

Roy Sesan
of the G/annakwe

Saikuta
of the G/wihve

Tsao
of the Ju/twasi

Gomme Kgao
of the Ju/twasi

Aaron Johanns
of the Nharo

(translated by John Hardbattle)

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