

A Case for Prioritising Rural Development in Namibia

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SUMMARY

Spatial planning, in most developing countries, is conducted without recourse to the needs of rural areas. This means that the visions and strategies for rural areas are ignored due to a one-sided focus on urban problems. As this may be good for urban dwellers, rural areas are suffocating as they often face significant land challenges as well. This paper opposes the one-sided discussion on urbanization in Namibia. It argues that rural development should be viewed as a means of empowering and capacitating individuals with rural inhabitants by distributing resources and materials. Access to assets such as (land and water), market services, especially ensuring that the living conditions of rural people are improved. One of the causes of rural poverty has been identified as a lack of social services and education, as rural people are separated from the mainstream of the national economy. Bias, inequality, and unequal distribution of resources are still prevalent in rural communities as opposed to urban areas. This paper presents an overview and analysis of Namibia's rural development, by focusing on how rural neglect hinders development of rural areas in Gibeon, Namibia. It primarily focuses on the developmental difficulties encountered in rural areas in Namibia and presents evidence of how Namibia's rural areas have been neglected, preventing their development. The study offers recommendations for enhancing Namibia's rural development in its final section.

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