

Promotion – The Sono proposals

The FMF directors believe that implementation of the proposals detailed in Themba Sono's book *From poverty to property: Themba Sono's five steps to real transformation* would do more to bring about reconciliation and economic growth than any ideas that have yet been put forward. To this end they have initiated a project to bring about the transformation and development of the tribal-owned rural areas of South Africa. Project Leader, Professor Themba Sono, is being assisted by Temba Nolutshungu, Leon Louw and Eustace Davie.

The team is working in close co-operation with and is guided by the Council of Traditional Leaders (CONTRALESA), the National House of Traditional Leaders, the Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders, the Royal House of the Bafokeng, and relevant government representatives and bodies.

Professor Sono's proposals include:

- Transferring ownership of the state industries to the people by means of a "democracy dividend" consisting of shares in the state industries - a transfer that could provide the poorest rural people with assets with a value of about R50 billion.
- Granting secure title to land in tribal areas using a low-cost form of registration that will allow owners to use their properties as collateral, adding an estimated R100 billion to the tradable assets of rural people.
- Declaring all tribal areas to be Economic Development Areas in which taxes and specified regulations are suspended for a minimum period of five years to grant a window of opportunity to the people in these formerly oppressed areas – a measure that will lead to more rapid economic advancement of these areas and a decline in the migration to the cities.
- Concentrating available limited government welfare, health-care and education resources on the poor which would mean spending a large proportion of the funds in uplifting the rural poor.

Professor Sono is of the view that the implementation of his proposals will have the greatest benefit if, at the same time, an evolutionary process is allowed to take place in the governance of the tribal areas. He believes that the people should be allowed to utilise their traditional decision-making processes to decide for themselves how they should be governed. A significant part of this project therefore consists of assisting the traditional authorities in negotiations with government to establish clear areas of authority and responsibility. Professor Sono believes that this is an essential element, not only of rural development, but of the protection of the languages, traditions and cultures of the peoples of South Africa.

The project involves the following activities:

Land

- Secure the Deeds Office registration of all tribal land into the names of the tribes.
- Secure the rights of the tribal people to retain their traditional forms of rule on their own land.
- Secure the right of the traditional authorities to grant title to tribal property to their own people, without being compelled to grant similar rights to outsiders.
- Assist the traditional authorities to devise and grant secure forms of title to lawful occupants and "owners" of tribal land.

Management of tribal affairs

- Seek clarity on the constitutional protection of the rights of tribes to manage their land and tribal affairs at the local level and participate in the formulation of changes to the constitution, if this is found to be necessary.
- Participate in discussions and negotiations to clarify the relationship between tribal councils, the Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders, the National House of Traditional Leaders and various Councils of Traditional Leaders.

- Participate in the clarification of the role to be played by tribal law in South Africa's legal system, especially in respect of activities on tribal land.
- Participate in discussions and negotiations to establish clear-cut roles for the various bodies, their finances, manner of appointment, duties, accountability, and lines of authority.
- Participate in the formulation of legislation, based on the discussions and negotiations, setting out the role, rights and duties of tribes with respect to the governing of tribal land, and in the affairs of the country.

Increasing overall development

- Participate in discussions with traditional authorities regarding ways and means of bringing about the most rapid development of their areas.
- Participate in discussions regarding the provision of infrastructure, education, health care services, and other essential services on tribal land, including the initiation, funding and management of these processes.

Benefits for the rural communities

If this project is successful the rural areas are expected to benefit significantly in the following ways:

- There will be rapid economic development, including expansion of agriculture, manufacturing, distribution, tourism and services.
- Rural people will not be compelled to migrate to the cities to find employment.
- There will be a reduction in urban poverty resulting from migration to the city of people who are reduced to living in squatter camps.
- A peaceful evolution of the rural communities will be made possible, which will include the opportunity for the tribal communities to nurture their languages, cultures and traditions, whilst ensuring that their children receive education and training that will allow them to prosper as adults in any environment.

Promotion to date...

- On 15 January 1999 Themba Sono's article *Empower individuals not groups* appeared in *Finance Week*.
- On 6 April 1999 Themba Sono was interviewed by Radio Mafisa on *From African Achievements to African Renaissance*.
- On 12 April 1999 Themba Sono was interviewed by Jenny Crwys-Williams on Radio 702.
- On 13 April 1999 Themba Sono was interviewed by Tim Modisi on SAFM.
- On 21 April 1999 the book was launched at the Sunnyside Park Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Johannesburg.
- On 3 May 1999 the book was launched in Cape Town and Themba Sono held a press conference on *Giving Wealth to the Poor and thus Reconciling the Nation*.
- On 22 May 1999 Themba Sono addressed an IFP youth rally in Dundee on *Youth and Elections*.
- On 24 May 1999 Themba Sono spoke on the Sono proposals at the SAPOA National Convention in Sun City.
- On 4-5 July 1999 Themba Sono attended and participated in the World Economic Forum in Durban.
- On 21 July 1999 Themba Sono addressed a UDM National Planning workshop in Benoni.
- On 7 August 1999 Themba Sono presented *Reconciling the Nation through Wealth Creation* to Hollard Direct Solutions and the Sowetan.
- On 17 August 1999 and 15 September 1999 Themba Sono met with Cyril Ramaphosa to discuss the empowerment of black South Africans.
- On 24 August 1999 Themba Sono addressed graduate students and government officials at the University of Pretoria on the Sono proposals and black empowerment.

- On 27 August 1999 Themba Sono's article, *Giving Poor People Title to land and Home*, was published in *The Star*.
- On 27 August 1999 *Finance Week* carried an article entitled *State property: Let it go* which was based on Themba Sono's book.
- On 27 August 1999 Themba Sono presented *Healing our Divided Nation* to the BMI Quarterly Strategic Forum.
- On 31 August 1999 Themba Sono's article *Land: Apartheid 'title' still rules* appeared in *The Star*.
- On 8-11 September 1999 Themba Sono had a *Questions and Answers* session with the Institute of Directors in Harare. He also met there with Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu.
- On 11 September 1999 an article headed *The painful privatisation of South Africa* appeared in *The Economist* and quoted from Themba Sono.
- On 6 October 1999 Themba Sono was interviewed by Anne Crotty of *Business Report*.
- On 8 October 1999 Themba Sono spoke to the Transnet executive at the University of Pretoria on *Empowerment by Granting Transnet Shares to the Poor*.
- On 12-15 October 1999 Themba Sono attended a National Department of Agriculture workshop where he briefed the 250 AgriSA attendees on land and labour rights in respect of black South Africans. He also participated in workshop committees on Market Services in the Agricultural Sector and Ideal Policies Regarding Land and Agricultural Issues. He networked with the Minister of Agriculture & Land Affairs and other departmental officials.
- On 20 October 1999 Themba Sono addressed approximately 150 people at a NAFCOG Regional Workshop (Mpumalanga and Northern Province) in Burgersfort on privatisation, the creation of market conditions in the rural areas and the establishment of Economic Development Areas (EDAs).
- On 21 October 1999 Themba Sono addressed approximately 100 people at a NAFCOG Regional Workshop (Gauteng and NorthWest Province) in Pretoria on privatisation, the creation of market conditions in the rural areas and the establishment of Economic Development Areas (EDAs).
- On 25 October 1999 Themba Sono did a presentation to the Khayelitsha-Langa-Gugulethu Business Women's Group in Cape Town.
- On 25 October 1999 Themba Sono was interviewed by Stanley Mefanya of ETV in Cape Town on selling state property to pay off government debt and granting parastatals shares to the very poor.
- On 25 October 1999 Themba Sono did a presentation to the Cape Town Ratepayers Association (Executive Committee of Ward C41).
- On 26 October 1999 Themba Sono's article *SA needs win-win economic policy* appeared in *The Star*.
- On 27 October 1999 Themba Sono addressed approximately 50 people at a NAFCOG Regional Workshop (Free State) in Bloemfontein on steps government can take to help black people to enter the market economy.
- On 29 October 1999 Themba Sono addressed approximately 75 people at a NAFCOG Regional Workshop (KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape) in Kokstad on steps government can take to help black people to enter the market economy.
- On 6-7 November 1999 Themba Sono's article on Economic Development Areas (EDAs) was published in NAFCOG's *BBQ Journal*, Fourth Quarter 1999, pp14-15.
- On 8 November 1999 Themba Sono addressed the Executive Committee of the House of Traditional Leaders in Cape Town.
- On 9 November 1999 Themba Sono's article *Poverty first, then AIDS/HIV* appeared in *The Star*.
- On 12-13 November 1999 Themba Sono presented a *Marshall Plan for Poor Regions* to approximately 45 NAFCOG constituents in Umtata.
- On 17 November 1999 Themba Sono presented *Support Proposals for Economic Development Areas (EDAs) and Help your Villages Improve Themselves Economically* to Chief Malatji, the Makhushane Tribal Authority, and approximately 115 villagers in Phalaborwa (Northern Province).

- On 17 November 1999 Themba Sono met with representatives of the United Public Servants of SA (UNIPSA) and the Department of Education Division of Traditional Affairs in Phalaborwa (Northern Province).
- On 22 November 1999 addressed approximately 120 people in Tzaneen (Northern Province) on *Creating Economic Development Areas (EDAs) and Privatisation of State Property*. Attendees included the representatives from the Nkowankowa Women's League, the Greater Tzaneen Women's League, the Muhlaba Tribal Authority, and the unemployed.
- On 23 November 1999 Themba Sono's article *SA royalty must sustain itself* appeared in *The Star*.
- On 24 November 1999 Themba Sono participated in a National Productivity Institute workshop at Gallagher Estate, Midrand. The theme was Swedish – *South Africa Dialogue: Globalisation*; the panel discussion: *Black business participation in the global economy – how to economically empower black entrepreneurs*. There were 300 attendees.
- On 25 November 1999 Themba Sono addressed 90 members of A re Ageng (Let's Build) in Mafikeng.
- On 25 November 1999 Themba Sono was interviewed by SABC TV and Radio on economic empowerment of the poor and state privatisation.
- On 25 November 1999 Themba Sono addressed 110 chiefs and headmen in Mafikeng on empowering traditional leaders, politically and economic empowerment of their subjects.
- On 27 November 1999 Themba Sono addressed 12 members of the NAFCOG Leadership Workforce on *How NAFCOG could Lobby for Reduction of Tax for Small Businesses in the Economic Development Areas (EDAs)*.
- On 30 November 1999 Themba Sono presented *Land Rights and Economic Empowerment for Rural Areas* to 150 representatives from the Thulamahashi Education Department Division, the Rolle Tribal Authority, the Rolle School Governing Body, and the Rolle and Malla Business in Bushbuckridge.
- On 7 December 1999 Themba Sono's article *No such thing as job creation* appeared in *The Star*.
- On 9 December 1999 in Umtata Themba Sono met with Stella Sigcau, Minister of Public Enterprises, together with her delegation which included J Netshitenze, Head of Government Communication and Information Services, and others such as Mr Luyenge, UDM – MPL Eastern Cape. General discussions included the Sono proposals and the role of traditional leaders.
- On 9 December 1999 Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met in Port St. Johns with RM Mhlalelwa, Chairman, Zingisa Community Development Organisation, N Noraqa (Secretary) and L Liwani (Treasurer) to discuss the Role of Communities in Economic Development Areas (EDAs).
- On 9 December 1999 Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met at the Great Place of the Royal House with Paramount Chief Ndabeni, Prince Ndabeni and 8 councillors of the Mvemelwana Tribal Authority and Council. He briefed the Tribal Council on the Sono proposals; requested permission to address the entire community on the proposals; and discussed the need to transform the chieftain system of government in rural areas to have more impact on economic empowerment.
- On 10 December 1999 in Umtata Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with M Mdizinwa, PAC Executive Committee Member, to discuss the need for the PAC to adopt the Sono proposals.
- On 10 December 1999 in Umtata Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with Prince Loyiso Dumalisile, Tshawe Royal Authority to discuss the role of the Tshawe Royal Authority in the Economic Development Areas (EDAs).
- On 10 December 1999 in Umtata Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with the Corana Community Development Organisation, M Faku, Chairman, M Mtombana, Secretary, Z Mphokeni, Exco Member and M Sibot-boto, Treasurer to discuss the Sono proposals.
- On 10 December 1999 in Umtata Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with Chief V Ndamase to make preparations to meet with the Libode Tribal Authority.
- On 11 December 1999 in Port St. John Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met at the Great Place of the Royal House with Ndlovukazi Ndabeni (wife of the Paramount Chief) to discuss the role of women of the Mvumelwana Tribal Authority in the Economic Development Areas (EDAs).

- On *11 December 1999* in Swazini Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with representatives of the Zingisa Community Development Organisation, the Mvumelwano Tribal Authority, the Paramount Chief's representatives and 30 other community leaders to present the Sono proposals.
- On *11 December 1999* Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with Chief Vakele Mdamase, Libode Ngqubeni District, and Chief Herbert Tembikile Nobanda, Ntlaza, Eastern Pondoland, to discuss the Sono proposals.
- On *12 December 1999* in Luyengweni Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with representatives of the Luyengweni Community and Cultural Development Project, Chief Mavimbela Mehlomakhulu (Hlubi Tribal Authority), Mr Mehlomakhulu (Chairman LCCDP), MN Monakeli (Secretary), Alfred Myakambi and 32 other members of the community to discuss poverty elimination through implementation of the Sono proposals and land and property rights for the Luyengweni community.
- On *13 December 1999* in Umtata Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with PAC Executive Committee Member, M Mdzinwa to discuss how the PAC could adopt the Sono proposals.
- On *13 December 1999* in Corana Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with Chief Stanley Ntaphane to discuss Economic Development Areas (EDAs) in Corana and how Contralesa could benefit from adopting the Sono proposals.
- On *13 December 1999* in Umtata Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with Prince Mncedisi Faku and his entourage to discuss traditional rulers and the economic development of the rural areas.
- On *16 December 1999* in KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga, Themba Sono, Temba Nolutshungu and Eustace Davie met with King Mahlangu-Mayitjha III of the Ndebele and 10 Royal members to discuss how the rural areas could benefit from implementing the Sono proposals.
- In *December 1999* the English summary of Themba Sono's book was produced and printed for distribution at presentations.
- On *18 January 2000* Themba Sono met with Tadao Iguchi of JETRO to discuss the Sono proposals.
- On *24 January 2000* in Cape Town Themba Sono and Temba Nolutshungu met with NNP Members of Parliament to discuss how adopting the Sono proposals could speed up the privatisation of parastatals.
- On *7 February 2000* Themba Sono was interviewed for an hour by Radio 702 on *Major changes*.
- On *15 February 2000* Themba Sono met with Mr Tikwatha from the Tanzania High Commission to discuss black economic empowerment.
- On *16 February 2000* Themba Sono and Eustace Davie attended a meeting of the National House of Traditional Leaders, the Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders and the Royal Bafokeng in Bloemfontein to discuss rural governance and rural development.
- On *25 February 2000* Themba Sono presented the Sono proposals to the Economic Counsellors of the Embassy of Japan in SA.
- On *25 February 2000* Themba Sono presented the Sono proposals to the Royal Bafokeng administration in Rustenberg.
- On *28 February 2000* Themba Sono, Temba Nolutshungu and Eustace Davie met with King Mahlangu-Mayitjha III to discuss development of the rural areas and rural governance.
- In *February 2000* the North Sotho summary of Themba Sono's book was produced and printed for distribution at presentations. (Zulu and Xhosa summaries are in the pipeline.)
- On *3 March 2000* Themba Sono and Eustace Davie attended a meeting of the National House of Traditional Leaders, CONTRALESA, the Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders and the Royal House of the Bafokeng at which rural governance was discussed.
- On *6 March 2000* Themba Sono was interviewed for an hour by Tim Modise on *Racism and empowerment*.