



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM**

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON. APIUS AUCHAB OF UDF**

**25 February 2021**  
**PARLIAMENT**

**Honourable Speaker;  
Honourable Members;**

I rise this afternoon to respond to questions posed by Honourable Apius Auchab of UDF.

**Question 1. May the Honourable Minister share with the farmers in the above mentioned regions (Ohangwena, Erongo and Kunene) seeing the good rainfall all over the country, how visible the restocking programme of the Ministry will be. To assist the farmers in the said regions.**

The Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform under, the 2020/21 financial year budgeted for the Restocking Programme. However, this programme could not be rolled out due to lack of funds as reported by the Honourable Minister during his budget presentation last year. Where a declaration of drought as a national state of emergency is proclaimed by the Head of State, the Government (through the office of the Prime Minister) implements drought relief interventions that are aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of drought on affected and vulnerable communities. These measures include livestock marketing incentives, animal feed, lease of grazing and transport subsidies.

However, The Ministry in collaboration with its development partners is implementing the following interventions to support vulnerable households with quality core breeding stock:

**1. Small Stock Distribution and Development Programme in Communal Areas (SSDDCAs)**

This revolving project is aimed at providing quality core breeding flock of suitable local goats to selected vulnerable households to gain a sustainable means of income generation and increased food security. To date a total of 180 beneficiaries have benefited from the project and a total of 3,780 goats were distributed in Kavango west, Kavango East, Zambezi, Otjozondjupa, Erongo, Ohangwena, Khomas, Oshana and Kunene regions. Each farmer received 20 does and 1 buck for a maximum of 20 farmers per region.

Each beneficiary of the programme is expected to sign a **Revolving Agreement** with the Ministry to ensure that goats are used for the intended purposes. The

beneficiaries are expected to revolve the first 10 does during the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the next 5 does during the 4<sup>th</sup> year and the last 5 does during the 5<sup>th</sup> year back to the Ministry. The Ministry has also empowered the beneficiaries with training in small stock management. The beneficiaries are being closely monitored through the extension officials of the Ministry to ensure sustainability of the scheme.

## **2. IREMA Kunene Project Small Stock Revolving Scheme**

Honourable Speaker, the IREMA Project is implemented only in Kunene Region in conjunction with the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia. The Project's Small Stock Revolving Scheme is complementing the Small Stock Development and Distribution to Communal Areas project of the Ministry stated earlier. This scheme is also aimed at providing quality core breeding flock to the citizens. To date, the Ministry has handed over 400 Does and 20 Bucks as well as fodder, medicine and vaccine with an estimated value of Nine Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 900 000.00) to farmers in the Kunene Region.

**Question 2. Honourable Minister, you will agree with me the livestock numbers had been cut to the core, because of the drought and now is the time that Communal Farmers who have lost combine number of 57937 cattle enjoy the much needed attention of the Ministry to rebuild their livestock which is the source of the livelihood.**

I concur with the Hon. Member and that is why the Ministry will continue to implement the aforesaid programmes as stipulated in the response to question 1.

The Ministry is also going to implement the following intervention, to support farmers rebuild their livestock herds.

- **Hydroponics fodder production**

The Ministry, through a resolution of Cabinet, has initiated a non-mechanized Small Scale Farmer Hydroponic Fodder Production Scheme at farm or household level. As part of the hydroponic scheme a total of 138 extension staff have been trained as trainer of trainers and 800 farmers were trained in hydroponics fodder production countrywide.

- **Emergency Livelihood Support to Drought Affected Communities in Namibia**

In addition, the Ministry, in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has also introduced the project known as Emergency Livelihood Support to Drought-affected Communities in Namibia to assist farmers to maintain their core breeding stock. The project supported 3,343 livestock dependent smallholder farming households equating to approximately 14,709 people in 7 targeted regions of Karas, Hardap, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke, Erongo and Omusati Regions.

One hundred and **(forty eight thousand and nine hundred and ten (148,910))** small stock, goats and sheep as well as **(twenty five thousand five hundred and eighty (25,580))** cattle belonging to the beneficiaries received fresh green barley fodder produced hydroponically in 79 greenhouse structures set up at various selected sites in the targeted regions hardest hit by protracted drought conditions. In addition, all the livestock were also vaccinated against various important diseases and treated for internal and external parasites, as well as received multivitamin metabolic injections to boost the immune systems and overall health status of their livestock.

**(Three thousand three hundred and forty three (3,343))** direct beneficiaries received training in hydroponic, fodder production and are in a position to produce fodder from the structures for themselves. They also received basic training on livestock feeding from Extension staff who were in turn trained through the FAO project by local hydroponic experts from Namibia National Farmers Union.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) through its Extension offices will continue to capacitate farmers to produce their own fodder and this will enable farmers to build resilience to climate change.

- **Review of the Drought Policy**

**Honourable Speaker**

**Honourable Members**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) is in the process of reviewing the Drought Policy in order to address the short comings within the Policy as well as to strengthen strategic interventions. Therefore, the industry and stakeholders will be consulted to provide their inputs and as one of the interventions to be proposed is the recovery programme, restocking which is absent from the current Drought Policy. As we are recovering from the devastating drought of 2018/2019 farmers should be encouraged to allow the grazing (veldt) to recover before they restock, in order to avoid the permanent loss of perennial grass species.

I trust the Honourable members find the responses in order.

**I thank you for your attention.**

