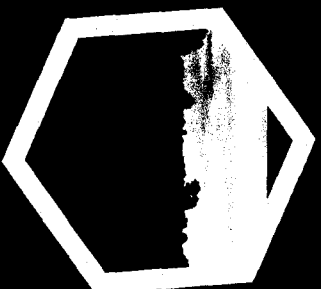
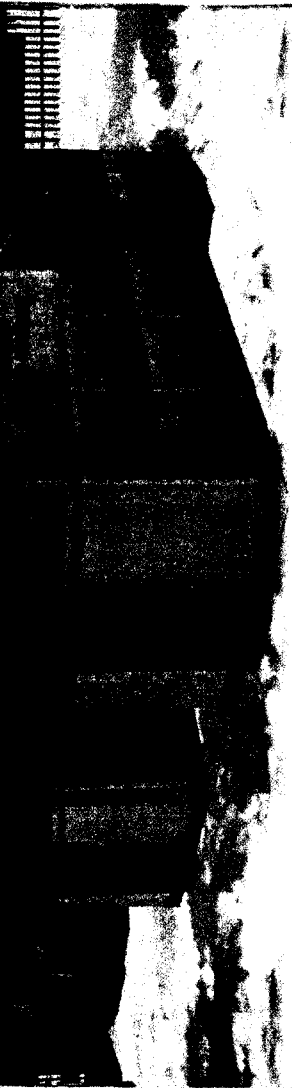




MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM



MOTIVATION STATEMENT VOTE 25

by Hon. Utoni Nujoma, MP

*For 2018/2019 Financial Year
April 2018*

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

1. I rise before this August House with a deep sense of appreciation to introduce **Vote 25 for the Ministry of Land Reform for the 2018/2019 Financial Year** and to seek your support and approval.

2. To start with, I believe it is important to highlight and acknowledge the significant contributions made by the Ministry towards the realisation of the Ministry's mandate in various areas of responsibilities.

The Ministry's operations are premised on Government policy directives that are supported by a robust legal framework guided by several documents, such as Vision 2030, National Development Plans, Five-Year Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan. All these documents have been aligned towards a collective goal whose objective is to keep all levels of Government accountable to the Namibian people to ensure timely service delivery and in extension development of our Nation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

3. The Ministry of Land Reform has set itself Ministerial Targets to achieve the following:

- 5 million hectares of agricultural (commercial) land to be acquired by 2020 under the National Resettlement Programme;

- 5 million hectares of land in communal areas developed into Small Scale Commercial Farming Units by 2020;

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Honourable Members,

4. While tabling this motivation for Vote 25, the Ministry acknowledges the various initiatives embodied within the Fourth National Development Plan [NDP5] that are earmarked to address the socio-economic development of our country through improved project implementation and the targeted efforts to mitigate the challenges of unemployment. The Ministry's four key programmes are premised on the national understanding of the need to create employment opportunities, the reduction of inequality in the distribution of economic benefits and to contribute towards sustained economic growth.

5. Having said the above, I now have the pleasure to present **the 2018/2019 budget for the Ministry of Land Reform, together with the highlights of achievements during the 2017/2018 Financial Year.** The 2018/2019 Budget as expressed in its Medium Term Plan will focus on four key programmes namely:

Programme 1: Land Reform Programme

b. The Land Reform Programme especially the acquisition and access to land is part of the Ministry's core mandate, and therefore during the previous Financial Year despite financial constraints eleven (11) farms measuring **44.952.5177** hectares were acquired. These farms were acquired at a total cost of **N\$112,618,857.75**. Other (2) farms with a combined extent of **9426.7128** are pending purchase at the cost of **N\$18,394,666.17**. Under the Resettlement programme, the Ministry resettled **28 farmers** of which **15 are males** and **13 females**. It should be noted that these numbers fall short of the demand for land which is still significantly high and keeps escalating. I also want to inform this August House that the **N\$120,000,000.00** budgeted for the Land Purchase Sub-Programme will more or less bring in the same results in the current Financial Year unless more consideration is done in the subsequent MTEF periods, we should not expect tremendous numbers of farms to be acquired for resettlement.

a) Water infrastructure development and rehabilitation

Regarding water infrastructure, at least **286,000 hectares** of land has been developed with **857 km** of fencing, 20 multi-purpose kraals constructed, 30 new boreholes drilled, 35 boreholes rehabilitated, and 98 kilometres of water pipelines installed in Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Omusati and Zambezi Regions. This infrastructural development will benefit **7,800** farming households thus bringing

communities in touch with real benefits. Infrastructure development in other regions such as Otjozondjupa and Omaheke is expected to commence in the next Financial Year.

Valuation, Property Taxation and Estate Management

7. The main valuation roll for 2012 was approved, by the Valuation Court in November 2016. As a result of the approval, the Ministry revised the rates of land tax downwards in response to the increase in the land values. Had the current rate been maintained, this would have led to high land tax being paid by the landowners. However, some farmers have appealed to the High Court against the decision of the valuation court to approve the 2012 valuation roll. The matter is still pending in the High Court. In the meantime, the Ministry has issued the 2016/2017 land tax assessments based on the 2012 valuation roll. Following the issuance of the land tax assessments, some farmers applied to the High Court on an urgent basis to stop the issuance of the assessments. The High Court in its decision of 21 February 2018 granted the applicants the interdict. The consequences of the interdict are that no commercial agricultural farmland transactions can take place until the interdict is lifted or the main review case is disposed of. Notwithstanding the interdict, the Ministry is urgently engaged with stakeholders to find a solution to the effects of the interdict. Furthermore, the Ministry is in the process of preparing the 2017/2022 Valuation Roll which will be displayed for viewing during the second quarter of 2018/2019 Financial Year. In the last Financial Year (April 2016 - March 2017) an amount of **N\$20,828,627.00** was collected in the form of Land Tax.

Programme 2: Security of Tenure

Tenure reform to enhance security in communal areas through the registration of land rights is on-going. In this respect, **177,593** communal land rights were mapped and digitised representing 90% out of the **196,000** communal land rights nationally that can be registered. A total of **116,220** Customary Land Rights have been registered, presenting 65% of the communal land rights currently digitised and **101,432** certificates were issued countrywide. Upon completion, this programme will improve the livelihoods of over **500,000** Namibian citizens.

Enhancing tenure security under the National Resettlement programme is on-going. To date the number of Lease Agreements signed between Government and the resettlement beneficiaries has increased to **61**, **Otjozondjupa - 16**, **//Kharas - 19**, **Erongo - 9**, **Erongo - 4**, **Oshikoto - 7**, **Khomas - 1** and **Hardap - 5**.

In line with the quest to improve and contribute to the ease of doing business in Namibia, during the previous Financial Year, a total of **21,894** Deeds and **3,776** Sectional Titles were registered, and through these processes, **N\$2,532,182.20** was collected regarding revenue. Further to this, the project to computerise property registration is on-going, and so far a total of **44,898** Deeds documents have been digitised.

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Programme 3: National Spatial Data Infrastructure and Establishment of Fundamental Datasets

The Ministry of Land Reform has also managed to capture and vectorise all Map Sheets of the project areas, namely the **Kavango East, Kavango West and Otjozondjupa Regions** where Topographic Datasets were required. The scales were based on the 1:10 000; 1:50 000 and 1:250 000 base scales and these are waiting for cartographic production. The Quality control of the 1:50 000 Map Sheets in the revision of the Erongo Region Topographic Datasets have been finalised and are waiting for the capturing of new satellite data and its approval. Two-Hundred and Eighty-Seven (**287**) Survey Diagrams, Sixty-One (**61**) General Plans, Sixty (**60**) Sectional Title Schemes and Twenty (**20**) Lease Areas of Resettlement surveys have been approved.

Programme 4. Policy, Supervision and Support Services

8. The purpose of this programme is to provide support to the entire Land Reform and Resettlement Programme. The main focus is to supervise and coordinate the Ministry's activities and operations which include; the development, application,

interpretation, implementation, execution and formulation of relevant policies by legislative requirements and national objectives. This programme is also provided for the development of the monitoring and evaluation system that enables us to provide regular and timely update to the National Planning Commission on capital projects. The Ministry has been allocated **N\$24,500,000.00** for the construction, renovation, and documentation of Ministerial Regional Offices during the current MTEF period.

Though Government is confronted with multi challenges in addressing the plight of our people, I hope that a sustainable solution will be sought soonest to respond to the ever-growing land demand.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

I would like to inform you that as per the Directives from His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, the National Land Conference, which was postponed last year, will take place this year, under the auspices of the Prime Minister. To ensure inclusivity, a High-Level Committee Chaired by the Prime Minister and comprised of Ministerial and Civil Society, will be established. Extensive consultation, as undertaken last year by the Ministry, will be supplemented with inputs from subject matter experts and other important stakeholders who were not included in the first round of consultations. The Ministry of Land Reform jointly with the key stakeholders are tirelessly working in preparation for this long-awaited 2nd National Land Conference.

11. Furthermore, the Government through the Ministry of Land Reform will undertake a Special Programme which is the repatriation of the Batswana's of the Namibian descent. The repatriation is a voluntary exercise and involve the assistance and support to those descendants of Namibia currently staying in Botswana as a result of the cruel German Colonial genocide perpetrated over our communities who would like to be repatriated to the country. The first phase of the exercise will involve the identifications of would be repatriated, the establishment of reception centres and handling facilities of both humans and their animals plus the identification of suitable land for this purpose.

12. In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge and re-emphasise the crucial importance of the Land Reform programme to the overall development objectives of our sovereignty. Over the years we have experienced an extremely low budgetary provision in the Ministry's allocation in the previous two consecutive years. During the 2018/2019 Financial Year, the Ministry of Land Reform requires an amount of **N\$476,186,000.00** to implement all its four (4) Programmes, though minimal compared to the land demand, I require your support to approve this allocation.

I thank you.