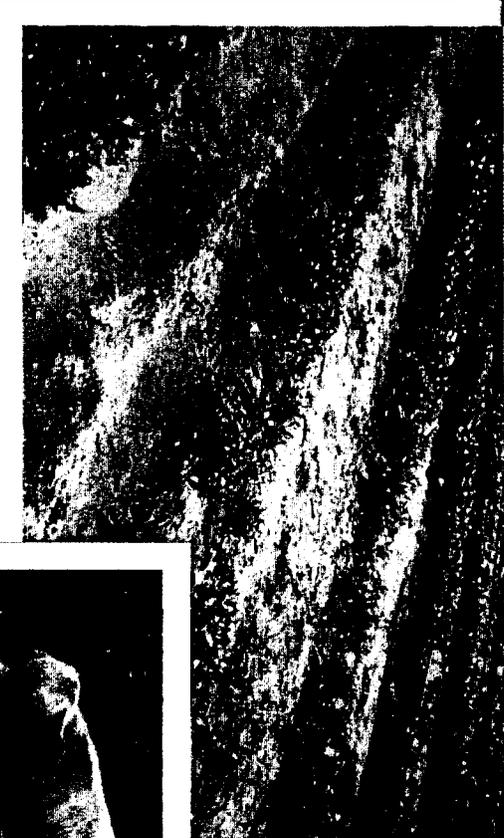




Republic of Namibia



Budget Speech 2016/2017

Motivation Statement

Vote 25

By

Honourable Utoni D. Nujoma, MP

Minister of Land Reform

For

2016/2017 Financial Year

April 2016

**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 Lands Reform for the 2016/2017 Financial Year** and to seek your support and approval. I also reiterate my support for the budget presented by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein earlier in this House and appreciate the efforts of the Minister charged with National Planning Commission, their Permanent Secretaries and the entire team.
2. Before I proceed with my statement, allow me to state that, the Land Reform programme is a key and strategic programme in our national development agenda. It affects and impacts on all Namibians across the social and economic strata. As a Nation and Ministry in particular, it is our mandate to ensure that all Namibians benefit from this important resource (land) and that the land reform process respond to the goal to eradicate poverty by addressing unemployment, extreme inequality across the social strata and low economic growth.

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

3. To this end the Ministry of Land Reform has set specific targets over the next five years, namely:
 - The acquisition of 5 million hectares of land to be acquired by 2020;
 - The acquisition of 5 million hectares of land in communal areas to be developed into Small Scale Commercial Farming Units by 2020;
 - The resettlement of 100 disadvantaged families per annum;
 - The development of 5 Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUPs) for five different Regions by 2016,
 - The development of 64 Small Scale Commercial Farming Units by 2016 in designated areas;
 - The establishment of fundamental spatial data sets with a coverage of 75% by 2015/2016.

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

4. Whilst tabling Vote 25, the Ministry acknowledges the various initiatives embodied in **Vision 2030**, the **Fourth National Development Plan [NDP4]** and lately the **Harambee Prosperity Plan**. These initiatives are all pillars of sustainable development that targets the socio-economic development of our country through improved programme and project implementation and the targeted efforts to mitigate the challenges posed by poverty, income inequalities and uplifting the living standards of all Namibians.
5. Having said the above, I now have the pleasure to present the **2016/2017** budget for the Ministry of Land Reform, together with the highlights of achievements over the last Financial Year. The **2016/2017 Budget** as projected in the Medium Term Plan will focus on the four key programmes namely

Programme 1: Land Reform Programme

The Land Reform Programme encompasses the following activities;

- **Land acquisition**
- **Land allocation**
- **Valuation, Property Taxation and Estate Management, and**
- **Land management and Administration.**

Land Acquisition and Allocation

6. The Redistributive Land Reform Programme continues to be a priority. Though a number of Namibians have been resettled and others have benefitted from other Government schemes to get access to land, it is important to note that the demand for land remains high. In order to respond to the ever increasing requests for land the Ministry since independence has acquired **408 farms measuring 2.9 million hectares** at a total cost of **NS\$1.4 billion Namibian Dollars**. The Ministry is still to acquire another **2.1 million hectares** to realise the said target by 2020.

7. During **2015/2016 Financial Year**, the Ministry acquired **36 farms** measuring **One Hundred and Eight Three Thousand hectares (183,294.1250 ha)** at a total cost of **Two Hundred and Ninety Million, Four Hundred and Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Five Namibian Dollars, Sixty Five Cents (N\$ 290, 402, 255.65)** out of the **Three Hundred and Thirty Six Million Namibian Dollars (N\$336 000 000.00)** allocated under this programme, against the set target of **One Hundred and Eight Seven Thousand hectares (187 000 hectares)** per annum, representing an achievement of **98%**. In this regard **57 families** were resettled during the period April 2015 to February 2016.

8. To empower Resettlement farmers, the Ministry has embarked upon the following interventions:

a) Rehabilitation and Development of Water Infrastructure

This process has been slow due to lack of internal expertise. However, following the recruitment of water Experts the Ministry managed to spend **Twenty Seven Million Namibian Dollars (N\$27,000,000)** on the rehabilitation of existing boreholes on resettlement farms.

b) Development of Fencing Infrastructure

The Ministry spent **Ninety Eight Million Namibian Dollars (N\$98, 000, 000)** to develop the boundary fences and rehabilitation of dilapidated fences between resettlement units.

c) Development of Communal Areas under the Program for Communal Land Development (PCLD)

The Ministry developed fences and installed water and livestock handling facilities at a total cost of **Twenty Six Million Namibian Dollars (N\$26,000,000)** in Kavango East, Kavango West, Omusati and Ohangwena Regions.

d) Post Settlement Support for Resettled Farmers

A total of **Ten Million, Six Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Three, Seventeen Cents (N\$10,665,773.17)** was disbursed to resettlement beneficiaries.

Valuation and Property taxation

9. The preparation of a new Valuation Roll has been put on hold pending the completion of amendments to the Land Valuation and Taxation Regulations of 2007. The aforesaid amendments have been incorporated in the Draft Land Bill possibly to be tabled in Parliament during the 2016/2017 Financial Year. In the interim, the 2007 Valuation Roll has been used to collect land tax for the 2013/14 Financial Year, where **Forty Six Million (N\$46,000,000)** was expected to be collected. However, **Twenty Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand (N\$23,500,000)** was collected in the 2013/14 financial. For efficient management of the Programme in order to accelerate land acquisition, land allocation, valuation and land administration, the Programme requires an amount of **Four Hundred and Forty Seven Million, Five Hundred and Nine Thousand (N\$447,509,000)**.

Programme 2: Security of Tenure

10. The registration of land rights in communal areas is still on-going following the indefinite extension in the Government Notice of 28 February 2014. To date **Hundred and Sixty Seven Thousand and Fifty Five (167,055)** land parcels have been verified and mapped. A total of **Eighty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Two (84,902)** out of **Two Hundred and Forty Four Thousand hectares (244,000 ha)** communal land rights were registered and **Six Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty Seven (6,337)** Certificates were issued countrywide.
11. At the Deeds Registry, progress has been made with regard to the development and successful implementation of the **Computerized Deeds Registration System (CDRS)**. This project is important as it will bring about increased efficiency in property registration in Namibia. In this regard **Twenty One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty Four (21,954)** transactions were registered during the 2015/2016 Financial Year and **Six Million, Three Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Six Namibian Dollars, Eighty Cents (N\$6,325,746.80)** was collected during the said Financial Year. However, to implement this

Programme Fifteen Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$15,500,000) is requested.

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

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

12. Having completed the demarcation of the international boundaries between Namibia and Botswana, the next logical step is to affirm the boundary. This is in consonant with the declaration on the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) endorsed by the Executive Council at its 11th ordinary Session held in Accra, Ghana, from 25 to 29 June 2007,
13. With this in mind, Namibia and Botswana, approached the AUBP for assistance in finalizing the Boundary Treaty. The African Union Border Programme Secretariat is assisting Namibia and Botswana in reviewing the international Boundary draft Treaty between the two countries.
14. For the Namibia-South Africa rectilinear boundary, Namibia and South Africa had a meeting in Pretoria in preparation for the process leading to the reaffirmation of the rectilinear boundaries between Namibia and South Africa. It is hoped that this process will commence in the next few months. However, to implement this Programme an amount of **Sixty Three Million, Three Hundred and Ninety Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$63,393,000)** is required.

Programme 4: Policy, Supervision and Support Services.

This programme encompasses the following activities;

- **Policy Supervision**
- **Coordination and Support Services**
- **Planning, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects and Programmes**
- **Acquisition and Maintenance of IT Equipment and Systems.**

15. This programme provides support to the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme. The main focus is to supervise and coordinate the Ministry's activities and operations. This programme also provides monitoring and evaluation systems for reporting purposes. The Ministry requires **Eighty Six Million, Six Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (NS 86,625,000)** to implement the programme
16. In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the socio-economic framework under which this budget has been formulated and the demand to accomplish more with less resources. The current budgetary allocation to our sector is significantly below the demands to implement one of the most important policies within the country. The Land Redistribution programme is a priority area for national development and if fully supported by adequate resources it has the potential to respond immediately to the goal of poverty eradication. The current allocation of **Three Hundred and Eight Four Million Namibian Dollars (NS384,000,000)** for land acquisition and allocation represents a 45% budget cut and thus not sustainable
17. Finally I am requesting the approval and support of this August House, for an amount of **Six Hundred and Thirteen Million and Twenty Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (NS613,027,000)** to carry out all the four Programmes in the Ministry of Land Reform for the Financial Year 2016/2017.

I thank you.