



Republic Of Namibia

Ministry of Lands and Resettlement

Motivation Statement

VOTE 25

BY

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Minister of Lands and Resettlement



2013/2014 Financial Year
10 April 2013

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

1. I rise before this August House with a deep sense of appreciation and privilege to introduce **Vote 25 for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the 2013/2014 Financial Year** for support and approval.
2. I also want to reiterate my candid support for the Budget that was presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance earlier in this House. I would further like to extend my gratitude to Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Director General of the National Planning Commission, their Permanent Secretaries and the entire team of dedicated staff for a job well executed.

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

3. Whilst tabling this Vote, the Ministry acknowledges the various initiatives embodied within the Fourth National Development Plan [NDP4] 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 a sustained economic growth. The Ministry has made significant strides in these areas by fast-tracking the development of communal areas; acquiring land and allocating it to farmers and communities under the Land Reform Programme, acquiring land for the extension of communal areas,

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construction of Regional Offices in Opuwo, Rundu and Katima Mulilo. The Ministry also provides Geographic Information System data from orthophotos that was used as basic data in the National Census.

4. Having said the above, I now have the pleasure to present the 2013/2014 budget for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, together with the highlights of achievements through expenditure in 2012/2013. The 2013/2014 Budget as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, will focus on 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

5. The redistributive Land Reform Programme continues to be a priority as the demand for land by various communities is becoming more vocal and visible. The Ministry is required to fulfill the acquisition targets under the National Resettlement Programme under which, I now report that we have to date acquired **2.3 million hectares** of land. This therefore leaves us with **2.7 million hectares** still to be acquired thus, translating into an annual acquisition target of **280,000 hectares**.
6. During the 2012/2013 Financial Year, the Ministry acquired **16 farms** with a total area of **92,997 hectares** at a cost of **N\$96, 4 million**. A total number of **22 families** were resettled during the same period. It

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should be noted that the size of the land that the Ministry can afford to acquire is diminishing due to the sky rocketing farm prices and the ever constant annual budgetary allocation. This situation Honourable Members requires an intervention from this August House. In order to respond to the demand for land the Ministry requires an annual appropriation of N\$371 million to be able to acquire 280,000 hectares of land per year.

Post Settlement Support

7. The provision of post settlement support to resettled farmers remains a challenge due to inadequate budgetary allocations. The Ministry entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Agribank and established a Post Settlement Support Fund of which each part contributes **N\$ 10,000,000.00 (Ten Million Namibian Dollars)** towards the fund annually since its inception in 2009. A total of **N\$60,000,000.00 (Sixty Million Namibian Dollars)** has been contributed towards the fund which is administered by Agribank.
8. Despite the financial challenges, the Ministry also embarked upon the development of water infrastructure on resettlement farms. During 2012/2013 Financial Year, water infrastructure was rehabilitated on Twenty Eight (28) resettlement farms at a cost of **N\$22,000,000.00 (Twenty Two Million Namibian Dollars)**. Furthermore the Ministry manages 15 Group Resettlement Projects at a cost of **N\$ 4,010,000.00 (Four Million and Ten Thousand Namibian Dollars)** through the purchase of agricultural inputs and implements.
9. Revenue from the collection of Land Tax continues to supplement the budgetary appropriation for Land Acquisition and Resettlement. During the 2011/12 Financial Year, revenue amounting to **N\$29,000,000 (Twenty Nine Million Dollars)** was collected from the

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taxation of commercial agricultural land. The land tax payment reconciliation system that was developed at a cost of N\$1.0 million will be commissioned in due course once it is put into production. The implementation of this system will support and enhance the collection of property tax revenue.

Development of Integrated Regional Land Use Plans

10. One of the goals of our Land Reform programme is to enhance and inform on sustainable utilization of land as a natural resource and ensure economic growth from all land usage. Namibia is faced with a variety of competing demands for land uses. I am glad to inform you that we have established the necessary mechanism for coordinating land use planning and that we shall be spearheading the process of integrated land use planning. We have finalized and are implementing the Karas Land Use Plans and we are now at the conclusion of the Hardap Land Use Plan and at the inception stage of developing the Land Use Plan for Kavango region, which will be followed by the Caprivi Region.
11. Allow me to mention here that the completion of the land use plans shall go hand in hand with the development of the National Land Use Plan Policy as a legal framework to ensure that the plans are adhered to. The Ministry also plans to initiate the formulation of the management and monitoring system of land use plans.

Development of communal areas

12. In the preceding financial year of 2012/2013, this sub-programme was allocated **N\$11 million** and was included under the **Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG)** for the registration of customary and leasehold land rights. From this amount it is therefore important to inform this August house that, **N\$10,973,839** was spent. In total **10,505** existing customary land

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rights; **2,288** new customary land rights; and **80** leaseholds were registered during this Financial Year. A total of **79 jobs** were created.

13. The Small Scale Commercial Farming Project is aimed at developing the under-utilized land into Small Scale Commercial Farming Units and the development of these units. A total of 4.9 million hectares of communal land have so far been identified in seven (7) regions.

14. Through this project the Ministry has managed to create **544 temporal jobs**. Furthermore, the project is concomitantly supported by the Land Reform (Basket Fund) Project with funding from KfW to realize the intended objectives. To implement the above stated programme the Ministry requires an amount of **One Hundred and Eighty Three Million, Six Hundred and Sixty Six thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 183,666,000)**

Programme 2: Security of Tenure

15. Security of Tenure includes registration of Real Rights. The maintenance of a credible Land Registry that affords the registration of real rights and thus provides secure tenure is important for the development of our country.

16. This programme also encompasses the Flexible Land Tenure, Act No. 4 of 2012. This Act aims to accelerate access to land and security of tenure in informal urban areas. The Ministry is in the inception stage of developing the Flexible Land Tenure Regulations. To accelerate this programme an amount of **Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty Five thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 7,955,000)** is needed to implement this programme.

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

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,

17. The use of geospatial information is increasing rapidly. In order to provide this geospatial framework, the Ministry embarked on a number of activities such as the acquisition of digital aerial photographs at sub-metre resolution for the central part of Namibia, which covers Erongo, Omaheke, Khomas and parts of Kunene and Otjozondjupa regions. This and other aerial images of other parts of Namibia will be used for the land cover mapping being undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Environments in addition to other applications like Agricultural Ecological Zone mapping, flood and disaster predictions, mitigation and the revision of topographic maps of Namibia.
18. During the 2013/2014 fiscal year, the Ministry intends to commence with the revision of topographic maps of central part of Namibia covering an area between 20° degrees South, (Latitude) and 24° degrees 10' Minutes South, (Latitude), covering Erongo, Omaheke, Khomas and parts of Kunene and Otjozondjupa, the role out of the digital cadastral system and the process of modernizing the Namibian geodetic infrastructure.
19. The Ministry requires an amount of **Thirty Five Million, Four Hundred and Ninety Four thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 35,494,000)** to implement the above programme.

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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 Equipments and Systems.

20. The purpose of this programme is to provide administrative 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 in accordance with legislative requirements and national objectives. The Ministry requires an amount of **Seventy Two Million, Five Hundred and Eighty Three thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 72,583,000)** to implement the above programme.

21. In conclusion, I would like to state that the process of Land Reform remains an enormous challenge but NOT insurmountable if all stakeholders pull together. I wish to request the approval and support of this August House, for an amount of **Two Hundred and Ninety Nine Million Six Hundred and Ninety Eight thousand Namibian Dollars (299,698 000.00)** to carry out all the 4 Programmes of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the Financial Year 2013/2014.

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Thank You

