

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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## NOTICE OF QUESTION

BY

**Hon. Diederik Vries**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_)

I hereby give notice that on **Thursday, 24 February 2022**, I shall ask the **Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform**, Hon. Calle Schletwein, the following:

**Honourable Minister,**

It is common cause that government avails at least one tractor per constituency to subsidise communal, resettlement and affirmative action loan scheme farmers for horticulture farming. Even with this intervention, the significant majority of farmers are still not able to afford the high cost of renting government and private tractors for ploughing.

Farmers are paying on average N\$350 for government tractors, and N\$950 per hour to hire private tractors. Therefore, the majority of horticultural farmers have since resorted to going to conventional methods of ploughing using cattle and other traditional tools.

This status quo is regressive to the developmental targets that we have set for ourselves in terms of agricultural mechanization and modernization, and the

objectives we have earmarked for ourselves to being a food secure nation in terms of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2.

**I thus ask the Honourable Minister**

1. Are there any interventions within the short to medium term to ensure that the ministry does increase the rate of tractors available to communal, resettlement and affirmative action loan scheme farmers for Horticulture farming in all 121 constituencies in the country?
2. Apart from making provisions for tractors, what other interventions has the ministry undertaken to ensure agricultural mechanization and modernization for our communal, resettlement and affirmative loan scheme farmers in the short, medium to long term to ensure increased production and food security?
3. Lastly, does the Hon. Minister agree that the current assistance being rendered to farmers is regressive, and does not complement our targets of being a food secure nation?

**I so submit...**