



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

BUDGET MOTIVATION STATEMENT
VOTE 37: AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM

HON. ANNA NDAHAMBELELA SHIWEDA, MP
DEPUTY MINISTER

31 MARCH 2023

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

1. Our country, its people and, indeed, our national development plans anchor their aspirations on agriculture and the land resource as indispensable means for economic progression and social transformation. The significance of this aspiration emanates from the fact that agriculture is a direct or indirect source of livelihoods for about 70 percent of Namibians.
2. In fact, the agriculture sector is: -
 - 2.1 A source for national food and nutrition security;
 - 2.2 A source of inclusive growth and income generation;
 - 2.3 the largest employer, accounting for about 23 percent of total employment as at the last count in 2018, with still an untapped high job creation potential, given the sector's high employment absorption capacity, and
 - 2.4 It is a distinct pathway to poverty reduction and the erosion of structurally high income inequalities through per capita income generation and wealth creating empowerment programmes.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

3. Namibia's agro-climatic conditions and geographic position render our country amongst the driest in the Sub-Saharan African Region and, thus, highly susceptible to climate change and variability. Already, and after three consecutive years of good rains, the current weather patterns indicate that multi-faceted shocks emanating from poor average rainfall for the year are becoming increasingly manifest, affecting the crop, livestock and all the industries that are water dependent; a situation which calls for urgent commensurate mitigation responsiveness and resource outlay.
4. Against this backdrop, **Honourable Chairperson and Honourable Members**, I rise to introduce the budget for Vote **37: Agriculture and**



Land Reform for the 2023/2024 Financial Year for your favourable consideration and approval.

5. The proposed total budget for Vote 37 before you, amounts to **N\$ 1,752,069,000.00 (one billion, seven hundred and fifty-two million and sixty-nine thousand Namibia dollars)**. This is 27 percent higher than the revised allocation for the just ending financial year, namely **2022/23**. Furthermore, it is about 2.4 percent of the total non-statutory expenditure and 0.8 percent of GDP.
6. The allocation that I referred to earlier, consists of **N\$ 1,282,069,000.00** for Operational Expenditure, reflects the field-based nature of Agriculture and Land Reform functions. In addition, the proposed development budget under this allocation amounts to **N\$ 470,000,000.00** about 38 percent better than the revised allocation for **FY2022/23** and 7.2 percent of the total Development Budget outlay.
7. At 2.4 percent of total non-statutory expenditure and coming in below 1 percent of GDP, significant alignment to Agriculture as a national priority sector, let alone the added Land Reform function, would be urgently needed in the coming years. This will enable the Government to make notable progress in achieving our ambitions for food security and self-sufficiency in basic staple foods, and if we are to make an accelerated dent in reducing income inequalities of historical proportions associated with the political economy of our country.

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

8. **Vote 37 consists of four (4) programmes namely,**
 - (i) Agriculture Development,
 - (ii) Land Reform and Resettlement,



(iii) Land Management and

(iv) Policy Coordination and Support Services.

9. Allow me, therefore, to provide a synopsis of main achievements that were accomplished, and the specific activities and development projects proposed for funding under these programmes.

Programme 1: Agriculture Development

10. This programme consists of the following line functions:

- i. Veterinary Services,
- ii. Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services
- iii. Agricultural Research and Development

This programme is at the core of the food and nutrition security objectives, but also the provision of field-based services to enhance increased agricultural production and productivity. The same programme is also essential to ensuring the required capacity to meet sanitary and phytosanitary standards for market access and market diversification for our crop and livestock products, at national, regional and international levels. It is important to further highlight that this is a programme that has a high job content when the enabling infrastructure and support services are optimally enabled.

11. The objectives of the programme is to, among others:

11.1 contribute to the achievement of national food and nutrition security through effective and broad-based agricultural extension and veterinary services and the development of value chains in the sector;

11.2 enhancing animal and plant health through annual vaccination, disease surveillance and diagnostic services to combat the outbreak of diseases such as the Foot and Mouth Disease, Lung Sickness, Contagious Bovine Pleuroneumonia (CBPP) as well as the outbreak of locusts and other pests; and



11.3 increased production, productivity and the adoption of productivity enhancing innovations through agricultural research and development.

12. During the current financial year, progress has been made with some interventions implemented under this programme, namely: -

12.1 The **Green Scheme projects** which underpin our food security objectives, are being strategically realigned under the Ministry after several years of institutional challenges at AgriBusDev. Already these assets have been put into production, with an average total production of about 7,000 tons of white maize produced in addition to winter crops, effectively doubling the yields from other operational Schemes, and potentially overflowing the capacity of the National Strategic Food Reserve which currently stands at 11 000 metric tons.

12.2 **Bids for private sector participation** have been run for the three Schemes, namely Ndonga Linena; Uvhungu Vhung and Orange River Irrigation Project (ORIP), while the bid for Uvhungu Vhungu Dairy Project has already been awarded. The Ministry will proceed to bring to market some of the remaining Green Schemes as well as to develop other brownfield projects with high potential for economic growth and job creation, such as the Neckartal Irrigation Project for which a critical mass of land of about 19 137 hectares has already been secured,

12.3 Under Agricultural Extension Program, a total of **31,866 farmers** were capacitated on crop, horticulture and livestock production as well as rangeland management through demonstrations, farm visits and training activities at the Agricultural Development Centres (ADCs);



12.4 On the Dryland Crop Production Programme DCP, a total of while over **14,951 Communal farmers, comprising of** 5,745 males, and 9,206 female benefited from subsidised mechanized services. This programme is set to benefit from the current roll-out of the **Namibia Seed Improvement and Mechanisation Programme (Namsip)** with the financial support of the African Development Bank (AfDB) for which **18 of the expected 350** tractors with matching implements were procured and delivered to Zambezi Region. In addition **380 walking tractors and seed drillers** were delivered and already deployed to the Crop Growing Regions. Whereas the remaining tractors are awarded and awaits delivery;

12.5 The Small Stock Development and Distribution Programme distributed about **580 goats** to no less than **58 beneficiaries** in Kunene, Otjozondjupa and Omaheke Regions in line with Policy directive;

12.6 117 tons of foundation seeds and **1, 057 tons of certified seeds** were produced and redistributed to farmers under the Namsip Programme. These seed were produced at the Ministry's Research Stations as well as Cooperatives and private farms;

12.7 The livestock sector continues to be one of the mainstay of livelihoods for the majority of Namibians. Our rapid response to the outbreak of various livestock diseases have enabled us to vaccinate **1,113,687**

cattle against **CBPP** and over **500,000** cattle against the **Foot and Mouth Disease in the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs)**. It is through effective veterinary services that our market access is assured, making Namibia to be among the few African countries with access to the niche markets, such as the United States of America, China, Norway and European Union (EU);

12.8 Equally, the government has invested in livestock value chain infrastructure in the NCAs to unlock the economic potential for rural communities and the producers in the Northern Communal **Areas in particular.**



12.9 In this regard, the Katima Mulilo Abattoir came into operation again in 2021 and, for the first time in the history of an independent Namibia, beef products from the NCAs have reached regional markets, such as Ghana, Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo under the **Commodity-Based Trade** and with the quality and safety second to none!

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

13. For the Financial Year 2023/24, a total of N\$ **1,061,296,000.00** is budgeted for this Programme. The allocation will enable the programme to, among others: -

13.1 procure various doses of vaccines, and undertake annual vaccination campaigns and farm inspections in line with best international standards as well as procure diagnostic materials and support the maintenance of the Central Veterinary Laboratory;

13.2 Feasibility assessment for the extension of the Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory at the Central Veterinary Laboratory for the establishment of a local **Vaccine Production Capacity** in the future;

13.3 Construction and Renovation of Veterinary Clinics to meet the requirements of the Veterinary Council and for efficient delivery of veterinary services in various regions of the country;

13.4 Feasibility assessment for the establishment of a veterinary barrier on the Namibia-Angola border to effectively prevent the introduction of FMD and CBPP diseases into the NCA;

13.5 Beef Value Chain Development in the NCA to enable the operationalization of the abattoirs and complete the construction of the **Ongwediva Meat Processing Plant**;



13.6 Procure fertilizers and farming inputs for the Green Schemes and Dry Land Crop Production Programme; and

13.7 Supporting the development of the Value Chains comprising, among others, Horticulture, Poultry and Dairy Value Chains.

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

Programme 2: Land Reform

14. This programme is critical for our country's socio-economic transformation, redress of past injustices and empowering our people through the acquisition of the land as well as to provide **Post-Resettlement Support Services.**

This programme consist of two line functions:

- i. Land Reform
- ii. Resettlement and Regional Programme Implementation

Programme two addresses itself to land acquisition for resettlement purposes for the previously disadvantaged Namibians, including the Special Social Groups. In particular, the Ministry is seized with the implementation of the Resolutions of the Second Land Conference, for which 25 resolutions are fully implemented and 134 are ongoing. A High-Level Committee, comprising of various stakeholders and chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister is set up by the Cabinet and is charged with the responsibility to implement the resolutions.

Funding resources constraints and market price considerations limit the scale and speed of land acquisition. For the current financial year, the Ministry, with the resources at its disposal, implemented the following activities:

- i. acquired eight farms for resettlement, with a combined size of **39 731.368** hectares at a cost of N\$**82,9** million;



- ii. Resettled under the current financial year 18 beneficiaries were resettled while 1 Co-operative was given 3 Units;
- iii. The Ministry further acquired 3 farms near the Neckartal Dam, with a combined size of **19 137.594** hectares at the cost of N\$ **18 604 884.42** for the development of the Neckartal Irrigation Project Phase 2;
- iv. over **2,180** Communal Land Right registrations were ratified by Communal Land Boards, thus strengthening the security of land tenure in Communal areas; and
- v. a Revised Resettlement Policy was approved by Cabinet, providing for, among others, the option of resettled farmers to have titles over their allocated farms, thus fully realising the empowerment objectives of the Land Reform agenda.

***Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members;***

For the financial year **2023/24**, a total of **N\$220,693,000.00** is allocated for this programme. This proposed allocation aims to, among others, support:

- i. land acquisition for resettlement purposes;
 - ii. provision of Post-Resettlement Support Services and supporting programme implementation in collaboration with the Regional Authorities; and
 - iii. the development of **Regional Land Use Plans** and the implementation of the **Flexible Land Tenure System** to provide title deeds to residents in **Urban** and **Peri-Urban areas**.
- 15.** One of the transformational reforms envisaged for the coming financial year is the tabling of the **Land Bill** in Parliament, which is now at advanced legal drafting stage. The Bill will, among others, provide for the legal framework to implement the Resolutions of the Second Land Conference. Further, a revised criterion for resettlement will be developed on the back of the Revised Resettlement Policy as approved by the Cabinet this year to give



greater impetus on assessed productivity of the farms and to promote youth, women and vulnerable groups' consideration in the resettlement activities.

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

Programme 3: Land Management

16. This programme is responsible for the following activities:
- i. land valuation;
 - ii. estates management and taxation;
 - iii. land surveying and mapping;
 - iv. activities of the Deeds Offices, and the delimitation;
 - v. And Demarcation of Namibia's international borders.
17. A total of **N\$67,687,000.00** is requested for this programme for, among others: -
- i. Administration of land tax and valuation roll;
 - ii. Improvement of the Deeds Register through system acquisition;
 - iii. Development and improvement of geo-spatial data; and
 - iv. Surveying and mapping in support of urban development and land resettlement functions.

Programme 4: Policy Coordination and Support Services

18. This programme is responsible for:
- i. Policy and regulatory functions and supervision,
 - ii. Promoting agricultural marketing system and support services for the field-based functions.

The key ongoing activities entail the following:

- a. the maintenance of the Ministry's capital infrastructure,
- b. Information systems and vehicle fleet.



Amongst other policy reviews, the Property Valuers Profession Amendment Act was gazetted and the Ministry is now seized with the implementation process.

Other key policy and legislation reviews that are envisaged for the coming financial year include:

- a) the development of the National Agriculture Investment Plan;
- b) the review of the 1997 Drought Policy;
- c) the Disaster Risk Management Strategy for the Agriculture sector,
- d) Valuation Bill, the Meat Industry Amendment Bill; and
- e) Various pieces of legislation governing plant health.

19. A total of **N\$402,393,000.00** is requested for the **2023/24** financial year for this programme as a support function to enable the Vote to support the implementation of the various functions as stated above across the country.

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

20. As I conclude, I wish to firstly, express my profound gratitude to our Minister Hon. Carl Schlettwein for steering the ship through high seas of floods, droughts and many other challenges.

Secondly, I would also like to thank Hon. Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, Director General of the National Planning Commission and their Technical Teams for always having an understanding for the needs of our sectors.



Thirdly, I would like to applaud our Executive Director, Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata with her management team and the entire staff complement for ensuring that the Ministry's mandate is implemented.

21. The total budget request for Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform amounts to **N\$1,752,062,000.00**. While there is a need to scale-up this amount in subsequent years, it will go a long way to improve developmental outcomes in the four Programmes and their linkages to other economic and social sectors through multiplier effects.
22. Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members I thus seek for your support and approval for the proposed allocation of **1, 752, 062,000.00** to Vote 37.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.









