



Republic of Namibia

---

**Ministry of Urban and Rural Development**  
**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

---

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION NO: 51 RAISED IN PARLIAMENT**

**RESPONSE ON: 08 June 2023**

Hon. Speaker  
Hon Members

I raise to respond to two questions posed by Honourable Hengari of the Popular Democratic Movement.

**QUESTION 1**

**In what way has the Ministry intervened in this mass-land grabbing taking place in Okakarara?**

**Answer**

Following the recent incident of land grabbing in the Constituency of Okakarara, the Ministry through the Okakarara Constituency office conducted an interaction with the members of the public to establish the reason why people they acting as such. Through the consultation, we have establish that people are frustrated due to the fact that they do not have a place to call home and thus needed to get a piece of land for themselves. Therefore, has also become clear and a concern that most of these residence do not worry about the availability of services such as sewerage, water, electricity etc.

As the custodian Ministry, we continuously encourage our local councillors to form positive relations and engage their respective members of the community in order to share local developmental agendas and the land allocations. The continues engagement, I believe, will foster a healthy relationship between the local Authority leadership and the community members. Therefore, if community for example understand how a given locality is demarcated and planned, they will not just grap any open land because they know.

## **QUESTION 2**

**People generally move from rural areas to urban and semi-urban areas due to the lack of electricity and well-functioning water supplies. Has the Ministry engaged other line Ministries and stakeholders in charge of facilitating the provision of water and electricity in the surrounding rural areas of Okakarara? If not, why not and when does the Ministry intend to engage this stakeholder?**

### **Answer:**

The issue regarding the provision of service land to the resident has always been part of our discussions with various stakeholders including the regional and local Authorities. If you have been following, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is currently finalising the housing policy review and we have extended an invite to all stakeholders to form part of it for their in put. These circumstances like Okakarara and other towns also provide perspectives on how long people will be in town; under what conditions they wish to, or should live; and it was somehow clear that most of them do not worry about the availability of services such as sewerage, water, electricity etc. Their frustrations and needs are for them to get a piece of land.

### **QUESTION 3**

**This issue of land grabbing keeps reinventing itself, each year, what amicable strategies and mechanisms are being employed to resettle these residents and when will these be employed?**

**Answer:**

As I alluded, we are noticing frustration amongst members of the community in some local authorities due to slow land allocation processes. The reasons of the slow allocations process is mainly the unavailability of service land and as well as funds to provide the needed services.

As a ministry, we have request local authorities not to allocate unservice land to their communities just to avoid unnessary petitioning of the wanting services where funds are not available. We have also encourage smart partnership with the private sector in land serving to provided the basic services such as water reticulation and sewer reticulation.

As part of our vision, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, aims to ensure the progress of such basic services in every town in Namibia is very much visible. We will continue to lobby for more funds for Local Authorities.

### **QUESTION 4**

**What strategies does the Ministry intend to employ to address the issue of under development of rural areas across the country?**

The Government's obligation towards the improvement of the general welfare of the Namibian society remains its first priority even in the face of the immense pressure on its fiscal capacity to address the ever-increasing demands and needs of the people. This calls for innovativeness on the part and synergy between subnational structure and central government to ensure optimal utilisation of the resources at our disposal.

Honourable Members, as you may be aware, the Constituency Development Fund Bill is currently with the drafters before we will table it to this August house for scrutiny. In that light, we anticipate that this fund will greatly assist in the developmental agenda of our rural areas. The fund therefore, is aimed to financially assist with:

- (i) the development of regions, constituencies and local authorities;
- (ii) the implementation of the decentralisation programmes at the regional, constituency and local authority levels in Namibia through the active participation of the local people and in accordance with the Decentralisation Enabling Act, 2000 (Act No. 33 of 2000); and
- (iii) the funding of affordable and low-income housing initiatives that are being executed by regional councils and local authority councils;

**Hon. Speaker**

**Hon. Members**

**I so submit.**