



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

QUESTION 154

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON. VAN DEN HEEVER

OCTOBER 2023

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Honourable Speaker;
Honourable Members;

Before, I respond to the questions, I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Members to question 119 that the Honourable Minister responded on the 13th July 2023 specifically, on the status of AgriBusDev. Most of the issues related to AgriBusDev were responded to in details and provided clarity on most of the issues.

I rise to respond to the questions from Honourable Van Den Heever of the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM). I would like to thank Honourable Van Den Heever for the questions and I will answer them in the order that they were presented.

Question 1-How far is the integration process of former Agribusdev employees?

Hon. Van Den Heever is correct by stating that the Ministry started the process of integrating AGRIBUSDEV employees since 2022. Firstly, the Ministry consulted the affected AGRIBUSDEV employees on possible offers for the various positions that are available in the Ministry. Most of the employees accepted the offers in principle, while some did not. Negotiations are still ongoing with those employees who did not accept the offers. Secondly, the structure in which the employees will be placed is in the process of being developed and is expected to be submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval by the end of October 2023.

The initial plan was to integrate the AGRIBUSDEV staff into the existing structure of the MAWLR. However, the MAWLR identified the need to create a new permanent structure, which will oversee the implementation of the Green Scheme Projects in the country.

Question 2- When does the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform envision completing this integration process?

**Honourable Speaker;
Honourable Members;**

The Thirty-two (32) Employees of AGRIBUSDEV will be integrated in the MAWLR once the structure is approved by the Public Service Commission. Therefore, at this point I am not in a position to provide the exact date for completion of the integration until the new structure is approved.

Question 3- Are the absorbed employees still acting as a support team to the Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES), seeing as this was only meant to be an interim arrangements?

The interim arrangements are still in place for the AGRIBUSDEV's employees to assist the Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES) in their various activities. This status quo will continue until such time that the structure is approved and all employees are fully integrated in the Ministry.

I thank you