



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM**

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**RESPONSE BY HON. CARL H.G. SCHLETTWEIN TO QUESTIONS POSED BY  
HON.DIEDERIK VRIES, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC  
MOVEMENT (PDM)**

**Q No. 182**

**30 November 2023**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members of the House,**

I rise to respond to the questions posed to me by Hon. Diederik Vries of the Popular Democratic Movement (PDM) on matters regarding the resettlement of 37 families at Farm Otjisazu No 53 in the Otjozondjupa Region.

Hon. Members, resettlement entails the voluntary movement of an individual or group of people from an area with marginal agricultural conditions and poor social infrastructure to a place or area designated by the government, where better land and social amenities can be provided. It support the basic objective of the Government which is, to resettle eligible people in ways that are institutionally, sociologically, economically and environmentally sustainable and in such a way that they become self-supporting.

The Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995) is the main legal framework that regulates the alienation of agricultural commercial land. The National Resettlement Policy of 1998 was developed with the aim to make settlers self-reliant in terms of food production or self-employment and income generating skills.

The Resettlement Policy have now been revised to provide for different resettlement models and better support packages.

Let me now attend to the questions posed to me by answering them one by one.

**1) Why did the Ministry resettle 37 families on a farm that is the capacity of 1800 hectares?**

Farm Otjisazu No 53 is a single farming unit, measuring 2835 hectares and not 1800 hectares as stetted by the Hon. Member. The Ministry's policy allows the resettlement of landless Namibians individually or as groups, thus, the 37 Hochfeld evicted families were resettled on the single farming unit as a group.

The carrying capacity of the farm is 212 large stock units which was sufficient for the 59 cattle, 170 goats and 24 sheep of the beneficiaries at the time of resettlement. The resettlement of 37 families on a single farming unit is therefore in line with the resettlement policy and have been done, not only to these families, but to many more families in different regions.

Other groups of people have been establishing legal entities such as Cooperatives to benefit from resettlement as groups, thus, we are

happy that we are able to accommodate as many people as possible through group resettlement.

**2) Why can the Ministry not provide bigger alternative resettlement farms to these previously disadvantaged families?**

Farm Otjisazu No 53, measuring 2835 hectares is sufficient for the 37 families. All the beneficiaries need is to be provided with post settlement support in terms of water supply infrastructure, training and the development or commencement of income generating projects. The farm has potential for crop production as well, thus, there are lots of opportunities on the farm. We must remember that we have so many landless Namibians who need land, thus, the focus should be on providing support to those already resettled and ensuring that more people gets resettled.

Even the recently approved revised National Resettlement Policy of 2023 promotes the demarcation of smaller farming units of about 100 hectares each, under its Low Economic Value Model, to accommodate more beneficiaries who have few livestock and are interested in other agricultural or non-agricultural income generating projects.

The policy introduces new resettlement support packages, thus, we shall be engaging different stakeholders such as the Agricultural Bank of Namibia to play their roles in ensuring productivity on resettlement farms.

**3) There is an existing water debt of N\$300,000.00 on the farm before the farmers were resettled but the Resettlement Office is insisting that the farmers should pay the water debt. Can you please explain why the farmers are expected to pay the water debt of N\$300,000.00?**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform does not transfer debts to newly resettled beneficiaries. All debts with service providers are always cleared before the farms are allocated to beneficiaries. At the time of resettlement in March 2015, this debt did not exist as these beneficiaries opened their new account with NAMWATER for the supply of water to the farm.

It is unfortunate that the Ministry do not provide support services in terms of paying water and electricity to resettled beneficiaries. We shall however carry out an investigation to determine how the families accumulated their water bill to N\$300,000.00 and determine how and which kind of support may be provided.

**4) Access to water on the farm is currently disconnected. Why is this the case and when will the water be re-connected?**

Water on this farm is supplied by NAMWATER, just like many other marginalised communities in other rural areas of the country who gets services from Service providers such as NAMWATER and NAMPOWER at their own costs. I however agree with you Hon member that the community need to be provided with water, thus, the Ministry shall investigate the water situation at the farm for possible assistance.

In a nutshell, the 2835 hectares allocated to the 37 families is sufficient if beneficiaries use it to its maximum potential as the farm has good potential for both livestock and crop production. I call upon different stakeholders identified in the National Resettlement Policy to provide technical and financial support to the beneficiaries, as required.

**I THANK YOU**