



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER

**Parliamentary Statement by Carl HG Schlettwein,  
MP, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land  
Reform on the approval and implementation of  
the revised National Resettlement Policy 2023 –**

***February 2024***

**Honourable Speaker,**  
**Honourable Members of the House,**

I rise to present to this August House the National Resettlement Policy, 2023 – 2033 for approval.

Land Reform and Resettlement remains one of the most important and difficult domestic policy issues that our country is implementing. Over the past 30 years, there have been increasing views from landless Namibians calling on the Government to embark on the review of the Resettlement Programme. There has also been brewing impatience from some citizens about the presumably slow process of land reform and ineffective resettlement process.

While there may be some reasons to justify such sentiments and opinions, it should be noted that resettlement is a process that not only involves the distribution of acquired land, but encompasses other elements such as securing and protecting the tenure rights of the beneficiaries, planning for the proper use of acquired land, infrastructure development and rehabilitation of resettlement farms, provision of pre and post settlement support and continuous capacity building to ensure sustainable agricultural production.

The 2001 National Resettlement Policy was considered a baseline policy in terms of our national journey to ensuring equitable distribution of acquired agricultural land. However, that policy had some shortcomings in terms of effectively addressing the on-going debate on who should benefit from the process of resettlement. Further, as a Ministry, we have not been able to attain the balance in terms of equity in land distribution and bringing the acquired land to full agricultural productivity and potential.

Therefore this revised National Resettlement Policy 2023 – 2033 presents a blueprint with which the Government, aided by all key stakeholders and the citizens at large, can address the issues of efficiency, equity, transparency, tenure security, capacity building and agricultural production as fundamental elements of a progressive and inclusive National Resettlement Policy.

**Honourable Speaker,**  
**Honourable Members,**

As I informed this August House in 2023, the work on the revision of the National Resettlement Policy 2001 commenced in 2016. In 2017, Ministry outsourced the review of the National Resettlement Policy, 2001 to a local Namibian Consultant, where topical issues were identified which formed the basis of the review of the Policy. The review was later broadened by the directives from the Second

National Land Conference which took place in 2018. Thereafter, the Ministry convened Regional and National consultative meetings in order to solicit further inputs into the policy.

The Revised National Resettlement Policy presents the Government's commitment to address land redistribution challenges that our country continue to battle with in a more coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner. The lessons taught the Ministry the importance of continual review of existing policies for relevance in order to ensure they remain responsive to prevailing needs and expectations of the Namibian people. To this effect the revised policy has a 10 year lifespan.

The objective of the revised National Resettlement Policy 2023 – 2033 is also to eliminate poverty by ensuring that the land acquired is equitably allocated and sustainably utilized for improved livelihoods.

The Policy targets to resettle previously disadvantaged Namibians who do not own agricultural land or adequate agricultural land and those Namibians who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by the past discriminatory laws and practices. This is achieved under the reviewed policy by grouping the target beneficiaries into three main groups namely; commercial farmers on leased land in commercial or communal areas; communal farmers and none farming individuals.

**Honourable Speaker,**  
**Honourable Members of the House,**

In order to cover all kinds of landlessness, displacement and destitution of people in the country, this policy establishes three resettlement models, namely: a) the High Economic Value Model (HEVM), b) Moderate Economic Value Model (MEVM) and c) Low Economic Value Model (LEVM),

Furthermore, this policy makes provision for the option for freehold rights to be granted to successful beneficiaries upon meeting the conditions of their respective lease agreements. It introduces a tailored pre and post-settlement support in the form of support services / packages and starting capital to be offered to resettled beneficiaries.

Relevant institutional support should be established in order to ensure full stakeholder participation and coordination. The need to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of implementation progress is underlined as the policy concludes by making provision for an implementation plan aimed at ensuring the attainment of the policy objectives.

**Honourable Speaker,**

Cabinet under Decision No 6<sup>th</sup>/09.05.23/004 approved the revised National Resettlement Policy 2023 – 2033 in May 2023 and mandated I as the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, in collaboration with the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, to publish the policy.

The Ministry is currently reviewing the Resettlement Criteria to be in line with the approved resettlement models in the Revised Policy. We therefore, now intend to request the Minister of Information and Communication Technology to support the uploading of the Revised Resettlement Policy on the Ministerial Website for public consumption.

**Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House**, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform intends to implement the revised National Resettlement Policy as from April 2024.

This journey will not only be our journey but a journey for all Namibians and we need your support. This journey requires determination, unity, vigilance and consistent focus on a bigger picture. We shall include in our Annual Plan for the 2024/25 Financial Year, activities aimed at educating Regional Resettlement Committees, stakeholders and the wider community, on the provisions of the revised National Resettlement Policy to ensure effective implementation by all the stakeholders.

**I THANK YOU**