



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CONTRIBUTION BY DIEDERIK VRIES, MP, (PDM) ON THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL RESETTLEMENT POLICY FOR THE YEARS 2023-2033

18 MARCH 2024

**Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members**

The core issue of this National Resettlement Policy is land distribution and therefore resettlement should be aimed at improving the lives of displaced or dispossessed previously disadvantaged Namibians. It is therefore very important that this newly crafted National Resettlement Policy for the years 2023 –2033 is inclusive and does not discriminate based on economic and social status.

Honourable Members

One of the general eligibility criteria of potential beneficiaries of resettlement is the requirement to have resource ownership and access to capital. The aim of Namibia's Land Resettlement Policy is to right past colonial wrongs and achieve social and economic equity for all its citizens. However, this policy is discriminatory to previously disadvantaged Namibians who don't have the needed resource ownership or access to capital. This policy only values the economic benefits but undermines the social aspect of why land redistribution is important for the previously disadvantaged people in Namibia. This policy increases the gap between the people with resource ownership and people who do not have such resources.

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

This policy introduces three broader resettlement models purposefully tailored to the varying land needs of the eligible beneficiaries. One such model is the High Economic Value Model which mainly focuses on the resettlement of commercial farms. This same policy however acknowledges that insufficient commercial agricultural land is available in Namibia to cover the ever-increasing number of Namibians eligible for resettlement. Now I ask, how will this model operate in the absence of sufficient commercial agricultural land?

Honourable Members

The bottlenecks in the 2001 National Resettlement Policy seem not to have been addressed and explained properly. One may ask, what are the major differences between the previous and current policies and what interventions have been implemented and why these interventions will work?

Additionally, some of the bottlenecks identified in the previous policy were; the mismatch of the policy and criteria for the allocation of the acquired land and the lack of effective monitoring and evaluation of the resettlement process. How were these bottlenecks addressed and what monitoring and evaluation methods are to be used and how effective will these methods be?

Furthermore, poor stakeholder involvement and coordination has been one of the major setbacks to the resettlement process. Now I ask, what strategies will be employed to ensure proper stakeholder involvement and coordination?

Honourable Speaker
Honourable Members

In conclusion, Namibians qualify for land redistribution due to the historical circumstances regarding land dispossession. It is therefore important that the government must be committed in addressing the land redistribution challenges that Namibia continues to battle with. This should be done in a more coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner.

I Thank You