



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 7TH PARLIAMENT

**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**REPORT OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT ON THE IMPACT OF
GOVERNEMENT PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS ACTIVITIES OF
THE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN NAMIBIA**

REPORT NO. 3 OF 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs conducted the oversight visits to marginalized communities in Omusati, Kunene, Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions respectively. The Namibian Government has recognized the San, Ovaherero, Ovambo, and Ovazemba people as marginalized communities.

The main objectives of the oversight visit were to assess the extent to which the government has succeeded in integrating marginalized communities into the mainstream social and economic of the country. Furthermore, to determine how the program is coordinated at the regional level and how effectively the budget allocated was utilized.

The Committee noted with concern that there were a lot of challenges in the effective implementation of the program such as the inconsistency in the provision of food parcels and student grants, limited opportunities for resettlement and social grants, and lack of coordination between key government institutions.

During the consultation, the Committee was informed that there was a need for the government to consider another program to include all other vulnerable people not falling under the category of marginalized communities.

After extensive consultation with all stakeholders, the Committee sadly noted that the implementation rate of the program for marginalized communities was at 40% rate. There were a lot of shortcomings and total exploitation of the development planners.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs conducted the oversight visits to marginalized communities in Omusati, Kunene, Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West regions respectively. The Namibian Government has recognized the San, Ovaherero, Ovambo, and Ovazemba people as marginalized communities. The government developed targeted interventions and programs to help uplift the living standards of marginalized communities and integrate them into the mainstream economy.

The Committee visited the communities to monitor and evaluate government programs to determine their effectiveness and relevance. The programs include education, health, resettlement, and social safety nets. The Directorate of Marginalised Communities coordinates the programs of the marginalized communities in the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare. The program was formerly managed by the Office of the Prime Minister and later through the Office of the President.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the oversight visit was to assess the extent to which the government has succeeded in integrating marginalized communities into the mainstream social and economic of the country. Specific objectives were, amongst others, to:

- 1) Determine how effectively the programs/activities of Marginalised Communities are coordinated and implemented at regional levels;
- 2) To evaluate how the budget is allocated and utilized in comparison to the needs of the Marginalized Communities;
- 3) To assess if there are other vulnerable groups of people not falling under the category of Marginalized People but unable to make ends meet due to different social or economic issues.

3. METHODOLOGY

The Committee paid courtesy calls on Regional Governors and held consultative meetings with Constituency Councillors, Traditional Authorities, Chief Regional Officers, and stakeholders responsible for implementing programs on marginalized communities, and public meetings with members of the marginalized communities. In most instances, the communities had prior

meetings and submitted their concerns in writing to the Committee. The Committee also provided opportunities for individuals to present their views.

Except for Oshana and Oshikoto Regions, the delegations were also accompanied by the Regional Development Planners of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Child Welfare. At each meeting, the head of the delegation outlined the objectives of the visit to all stakeholders and the expectations from the consultations.

4. COMMITTEE DELEGATION

Group 1: 30 July 2023 to 05 August 2023 – Omusati and Kunene Regions. Hon. Kletus Karondo, Hon. Julieta Kavetuna, Hon. Edson Edmund Isaaks, Ms. Annalisa Meroro and Mr. Risto Nakanyala.

Group 2: 30 July 2023 to 05 August 2023 – Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West Regions. Hon. Paula Kooper, Hon. Koviaio Hengari, Hon. Diederik Vries, Mr. Ivan Skrywer and Ms. Noreen Sitali.

Group 3: 13-19 August 2023 – Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions. Hon. Kletus Karondo, Hon. Edson Edmund Isaaks, Mr. Ivan Skrywer.

Group 4: 13-19 August 2023 –Ohangwena. Oshana and Oshikoto Regions Hon. Paula Kooper, Hon. Apius Auchab, Hon. Vincent Joseph Mareka, Ms. Annalisa Meroro and Mr. Risto Nakanyala.

Group 5: 21-25 September 2023 – (Second Visit) Oshikoto Region. Hon. Kletus Karondo, Hon. Paula Kooper, Hon. Julieta Kavetuna, Hon. Koviaio Vetarera Hengari, Hon. Edson Isaaks, Hon. Vincent Mareka, Hon. Apius Auchab, Ms. Annalisa Meroro, Ms. Noreen Sitali.

5. PROGRAM PROCEEDINGS

5.1 OMUSATI REGION

5.1.1 Courtesy Visit to the Governor: Omusati Region - Hon. Erginus Endjala

According to the Governor, Marginalisation takes place in different forms. Some are legally recognized as marginalized, and those who are not recognized by law find themselves at the margin of the social and economic mainstreams. The contributing factors can be many. Firstly, the lack of fully fledged decentralization of functions to the regions as most decisions and approvals related to marginalized communities are made in Windhoek. Secondly, there are generational stateless people in the region. Generational stateless people are those people who originate from neighbouring Angola, and they do not have national documents and are therefore unable to access social services and partake in mainstream economic activities.

Three groups of marginalized communities in the Omusati Region, i.e. the San, Ovavue, and Ovavjimba people. The government cares for these people but more still needs to be done. Statistically, the government is transporting 269 learners from marginalized communities to and from school during holidays and out-weekends. There are 41 students enrolled at tertiary institutions. There is a partnership with an international organization, Palm for Life, which provides technical and financial assistance. The general challenges highlighted are:

The intermarriages between marginalised and non-marginalised people make it difficult to distinguish and identify them. Some of them have lost their physical attributes and languages. They only speak the local native language, Oshiwambo.

5.1.2 Onamatanga

The area of Onamatanga has an estimated population of over 2,000 people, mainly from the recognized marginalized communities. The community submitted the following challenges and recommendations:

Lack of potable water: The community has no water thus, has no option but to drink salty, dirty, and smelly water from an old well that is not fit for human consumption. This water is also shared with livestock and wildlife. There is an urgent need to provide potable water to the area. They proposed that the government can get them water from Ruacana, which is not too far from Onamatanga.

Lack of conducive road infrastructure: The construction of the road from Omakange to Onamatanga was officially launched. The contractors had begun to work but they never finished the road. Currently, the road is dangerous to pregnant women and patients. Many pregnant women have given birth while traveling on that bumpy road. The government must therefore investigate the construction of this road and complete the project. Additionally, some other projects were started but never completed, such as the construction of the water pipeline.

School Infrastructure: There is a need for school hostels, teachers' accommodations, classes, and school fencing to provide safety. Previously, the school only had Grades 1-4, but currently upgraded to Grade 7. The children walk from Onamatanga to school in Omakange, which is approximately 15km away. The problem is the elephants that are constantly roaming around the area. Which poses a great danger to the children walking to school early in the morning and in the afternoon.

The police station and the clinic need to be relocated and brought closer to where the community can easily access it.

There is also a lack of access to legal representation: People are punished harshly for committing petty crimes like cutting down trees to construct their houses.

High rate of human-wildlife conflict: the elephants are damaging the crop fields of the people. The fences of the crop fields are also being destroyed. The community proposes that there must be fair compensation for damages caused by wildlife. The compensation must be commensurate with the damages caused.

5.1.3 Omakange

The community shared the following challenges and proposals:

Extreme hunger: due to poor rainfall resulting in poor harvest for the year. According to them, they are solely dependent on government assistance. Thus, an urgent need is to distribute Draught Relief Food to prevent them from dying from hunger.

Education: Most people are not educated. The place was a battleground during the liberation struggle. They never received education, health, or water infrastructure. After independence, the people in the area were identified and recognized as marginalized.

Human and Wildlife Conflict: The crop fields are destroyed by elephants, and they requested to be compensated for damage to their fences. Furthermore, they requested that they be allowed to cut trees responsibly for the poles of their fences because they cannot afford to buy poles from the shops

5.1.4 Uutsathima

Through their headman, the Uutsathima community submitted the following challenges that they are facing and proposals to address them:

Lack of potable water: it was proposed for the construction of an earth dam to alleviate the water problem.

5.1.5 Olumelengwa

The teachers' house: was constructed in 2014 but is not yet utilized because it is not yet complete and it has no electricity and water provision.

Insufficient Textbooks: The textbooks and stationery provided to the school are not enough, and the classrooms are not in good condition, especially the floor. Some children do not go to school due to a lack of income to buy stationery.

Preschool: The kindergarten teacher is working voluntarily; the parents do not always pay the teacher due to a lack of income.

5.2 KUNENE REGION -

The Committee visited the marginalized communities of Ehomba, Otjimuhaka, and Otjijandjasemo, Opuwo Constituency, in Kunene Region. The meeting with the marginalized communities of Ehomba, Oluhaka, and Otjimuhaka was held together at one community assembly point at Ehomba. They submitted the following challenges and proposals to the Committee.

5.2.1 Ehomba

The headman of Ehomba expressed dissatisfaction with how the area was treated by the government. This was the first time that any parliamentary committee had visited the area. The area was neglected when it comes to development. They feel that other marginalized people from different places are taken care of by the government while they are overlooked. This was even demonstrated during COVID-19 when they did not receive medications or sanitizers. They had to rely on traditional medicines during COVID-19.

Electricity Supply: There is no electricity while other distant places have electricity. They are only about 59 kilometres from Ruacana where electricity is produced. Their programs are never completed. For example, there was a reported allocation of N\$5 million to bring electricity to the area but only the poles were erected while electricity itself has not arrived. There are also incomplete bridges that pose a danger to vehicles during rainy seasons.

Health: There is no healthcare facility. The establishment of the clinic at Ehomba was approved in 2016, and it never materialized. The land for the construction of the clinic is already available.

5.2.2 Otjimuhaka

Education: The community of Otjimuhaka indicated that there is a school in their area but it is not up to standard. It needs a hostel and other facilities. There is no transport for children that are from far away. Parents cannot afford the stationery requested by the school.

Registration of Marginalized Communities at Otjamahungu village: There are marginalized people but they have never heard of any assistance given to marginalized people. There is a need for recognition of people in those areas so that they can also start benefiting. The Ovazemba, Ovangambwe, and Ovahakahona must also be recognized as marginalized communities.

5.2.3 Otjijandjasemo

Lack of potable water: The Office of the Prime Minister provided a borehole, but it is not operational as it needs a solar system to provide power. The underground water from the borehole is salty and unsuitable for human consumption and irrigation in the community garden. The school does not have water as well. They ask for water for the school and the community garden from the nearby river or fountain, only 4km away.

5.2.4 Kamanjab

The constituency councilor indicated that the constituency consists of many commercial and resettlement farms where marginalized people live. Below are the challenges and proposals from the meeting.

Inadequate Staff Members: The biggest challenge is that there is only one Development Planner, serving the Kunene and Otjozondjupa regions. These two regions are vast and are home to thousands of marginalized people. All activities of marginalized people such as funeral arrangements, distribution of food, and transportation of school children across the region are done by one person. It is difficult for one person to serve these two vast regions; hence some marginalized people are not assisted on time.

Resettlement of Marginalized People: The resettlement farms in the area are fully allocated to people while the marginalized people remain without land of their own.

The study loan applications must be coordinated from a local central office, preferably the constituency councilor's office.

5.2.5 Outjo, Hai-//om San Traditional Authority

The Committee paid a courtesy call to the Chief of the Hai-//om San Traditional Authority, Chief Dawid //Khamuxab, on the 3rd of August 2023. The office of the traditional authority submitted the following concerns for the Committee's consideration.

Land: In the Cabinet Decision of 2005 tabled by Hon. Malima, the then Minister of Environment and Tourism, it was decided that 45,000 hectares of land would be bought and given to the San community as ancestral land to replace the land in Etosha. When they lost Etosha as their ancestral land, it was decided that they could be given land closer to Etosha or on the corridors and vicinity of Etosha National Park so that they could retain their sense of heritage. They were then given land around the park. This land is now insufficient for all the community needs such as agriculture, farming, and housing. The people do not have

documentation or title deeds to prove ownership of this land. These resettlement programs were spearheaded by the Founding President and Dr. Libertine Amadhila.

Electricity: The community requested the Ministry of Mines and Energy for electricity through the rural electrification program, to be extended to all the farms.

Water problem: The boreholes at the farms were only intended for one owner, his livestock, and employees but not enough for the masses at the farms. The ministry responsible must therefore build one or two boreholes a year to address the water shortage problem.

Health: There is only one mobile container clinic received through a donation. They are still waiting for a proper structure for the clinic as promised by the government. They are experiencing serious problems with transport to the clinic. There is no ambulance and people are charged per kilometer by individuals, which is costly.

5.2.6 Farm Seringkop

The Community raised the following challenges for the consideration of the Committee:

Education: The government constructed a school for marginalized communities at the farm. However, most of the parents are unemployed. About 90% of the learners are from Seringkop and surrounding farms. Learners are transported every weekend. The learners' contribution to the hostel development fund from parents is insufficient to maintain the hostel. Parents are not making contributions as they are unemployed.

School hostel: The toilets at the hostel are not flushing, the geysers are not functional, the hostel kitchen is not functional as there is no chimney for the smoke to escape, and children are bathing- outside because the sewage system is blocked, and is costly to repair it. The classroom floors are dilapidated. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has instructed the regional department but nothing has been done.

Textbooks and Stationary: Since the new curriculum was introduced, no new textbooks were received.

School Dropouts: There is a high level of school dropouts due to a lack of admission at other schools and hostels. When a learner finishes all grades at Farm Seringkop, they hardly get admission at other schools like Outjo. When they leave Seringkop, they mainly get admission in Tsumkwe or Outjo but there are insufficient places in the hostels, resulting in school dropouts as they have no means to sustain their children in the locations.

Human-Wildlife Conflict: There is a human-wildlife conflict due to the condition of the fence of Etosha National Park. Most farmers have lost their livestock to free-roaming lions and hyenas.

5.3 OHANGWENA REGION

5.3.1 Courtesy Visit to the Governor Hon. Walde Ndevashiya

Hon. Erickson Ndawanifa (Chairperson) of Omulonga Constituency welcomed the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The following issues were discussed:

There is a large number of marginalized people in the region. They are mainly found in Eenhana, Okongo, Omundaungilo, and Epembe. The number of San people changes every month because of their spontaneous movements. At the moment, there are an estimated 4,000 households of San people excluding the beneficiaries in the region. There are Mashaka people who are not legally recognized as marginalized people. They live along the Namibia-Angola borders.

5.3.2 Okongo and Ekoka

The Committee held a brief meeting with the Constituency Councillor of Okongo, Hon. Lebbeus Efraim Shipindo. The Councillor acknowledged the high number of San people in the constituency who are residing in four camps that were constructed by the government at Oshanashiwa, Ekoka, Onamatadiva, and Eendobe.

5.3.3 Ouholamo, Ombili, and Oshandi

Education: The government constructed a school for the San people but now it is accommodating everyone. Most girls come from this school pregnant as there is no proper care for girls at that hostel. Some parents are unable to attend school meetings due to long distances. The N\$500 allowance that was given to the San people has stopped. This has contributed to learners dropping out of school because they can no longer afford cosmetics and stationery.

Houses: The houses constructed by the government are too small; with only two bedrooms and the families are expanding.

5.4 OSHANA REGION

5.4.1 Onakamwandi

The region has no coordinator for the programs of marginalized communities. The Development Planner of the Omusati Region also caters to the Oshana Region.

Provision of Water: There is no potable water for the marginalized community. They drink from wells.

5.4.2 Courtesy Visit to the Governor: Oshana Region - Hon. Elia Irimari

According to the Governor, most people from the marginalized communities have cattle, goats, and Mahangu fields but more still needs to be done to assist them. The focus should be on the young generation of marginalized people. Children are easier to transform than adults. Create special services for children and help them so that they do not fall back into social evils. Dedicated research is needed to understand the San people, to determine their needs in terms of adaptation and integration, and relations with other communities.

To create employment for young people, there was a need for them to be employed within the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Forestry as Rangers. They are best suited to be rangers because they are already accustomed to wildlife.

5.4.3 Okaukuejo

On 16 August 2023, the marginalized community of Okaukuejo discussed the following challenges with the Committee:

Education: There is an underqualified teacher with many years of experience but unable to find employment at the school. Teachers who get employed at the school do not stay long. They complain about the language barriers between teachers from elsewhere and local learners. The teachers from elsewhere do not understand the local language and they just quit and go teach at other places.

Resettlement: There is no provision to resettle people who were born and reside in national parks and no houses for them when they retire like in other regions. In their case, they are dumped in overcrowded farms. People are forced to move out of their places of birth but are not given suitable alternative places.

Human and Wildlife Conflict: The school-going children are vulnerable to lions, elephants, rhinos, and hyenas as they walk early morning to school.

Housing: People are not allowed to construct zinc houses at the settlement and they cannot afford to build brick houses. The land at the settlement belongs to Namibia Wildlife Resorts and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism hence those who are living there are staying there illegally.

Transport: Senior citizens used to get their money through the post office but now it is closed. They are now forced to travel to Outjo to get their money. There are no ordinary shops at Okaukuejo; only expensive tourist shops. The pension grant is generally spent on transport to Outjo, schools, and clinics.

Service Delivery: The regional office is in Oshakati, which is very far compared to Outjo. The registration of national documents and social grants is done in Oshakati. The coordinator for the programs of marginalized people is based in Outapi and does not reach Okaukuejo. This creates significant problems for people as they are required to travel further north to acquire services.

5.5 OSHIKOTO REGION

5.5.1 Courtesy Visit to the Governor: Oshikoto Region - Hon. Penda ya Ndakolo

According to the Governor, the government donated cattle to Marginalized people at Farm Ondera but sadly only a few remain. While the gesture by the government is commendable it created confusion within the community since no one was willing to take responsibility to take care of the cattle, which created more problems within the community. Another issue was that different marginalized groups did not want to accept each other's traditional leaders and this created conflict between the people. The marginalized people at Tsintsabis were allocated farmland but part of it was sold illegally to other people, and now some people are landless.

5.5.2 Oshivelo

The committee met with young people from Namutoni Gate and community members, who submitted the following challenges and requests:

Landlessness: People retiring from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism are chased out of the park and have nowhere to go. The government buys farms for the Hai//om people but end up being occupied by other people. Therefore, there was a need for the government to review its resettlement program and farms that were earmarked for marginalized communities. The young ladies indicated that they do not want to move away from their ancestral land even if the METF buys them land elsewhere. They want to remain at their place of birth.

They want the government to share the park with the community. They want to benefit from the tourism and economic activities of the park. They want part of the land in the park because it is their ancestral land. They know how to coexist with wildlife. They have no qualifications but have inborn qualities to be rangers as they are accustomed to wildlife. They want to be part of the beneficiaries from the park.

According to them, Farm Naguseb was the first farmland that was bought by the government for the people but the people who are living there now are not from Namutoni area. It is alleged that another person is renting the farm. People from the area want to live on that farm because they were born there, and not to move to Farm Ondera, which is overcrowded with no employment opportunities.

5.5.3 Farm Ondera

Health: The clinic at the Farm has no permanent nurse, thus unable to attend to emergencies during the night. Sometimes there is no transport for patients to Omuthiya or Tsumeb. They hire private cars until the B1 road between Tsumeb and Oshivelo since the ambulance cannot reach the farm due to bad roads.

Food distribution: There is no provision for transport to bring food to the community. The private contractors who were assigned to transport food parcels to the community have allegedly stolen the food. Since then, it was no longer allowed to transport government food parcels in private vehicles. This created a problem because the government does not always have vehicles to transport food.

Donation of cattle: A fishing company, Namsov, bought cattle for the community valued at N\$ 200,000. The Cattle were later auctioned and generated N\$318 000. However, the money from the auction of the cattle never reached the community. The government donated 188 cattle to the community but they were not registered under the community of Farm Ondera. They technically did not own the cattle. It is also alleged that the government bought an additional 180 cattle for the community but the cattle never reached the community. Namsov also donated a vehicle to the community. However, the vehicle disappeared a few days later without any explanation. These issues are complex and need an in-depth investigation to uncover what happens with these cattle and the vehicle.

There are also allegations of the management at the farm selling cattle for personal use rather than to assist the community. The leadership at the farm is also accused of mismanagement of food provided by the government, as the food goes missing and people are told that food is not enough. The leadership is also accused of mismanagement of the cattle donated by the government and maize from the community garden as they allegedly sell them for their benefit. The government tractor is also used to work at other farms and the community is not benefiting from the payments received for the use of the tractor.

Landlessness: There is no ownership of land. Farm Ondera belongs to the government. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform informed the community to apply for goats but the people do not have stock numbers to register their livestock, as they are required to provide proof of land ownership that does not apply to them resettled in groups.

5.5.4 Farm Six

According to the community, the farm belongs to the Namibian Industrial Development Agency (NIDA). People are landless and unable to do anything for themselves as they were never resettled there. They need a portion of land where they can produce their food. Farm 6 is just a small corridor that does not have enough space for crop farming. They do not even have any livestock.

5.5.5 Tsintsabis

The Chief of the //G-Ai Khoen Traditional Authority, Chief Geelbooi Thameb addressed the following challenges:

The resettlement program: The community was not informed about programs with resettlement projects. According to what they learned regarding the implementation of the resettlement program, the government is buying farms from commercial farmers and allocating them to previously disadvantaged people. However, for the community of Tsintsabis, they observe that outsiders are getting farms and plots and it is taken away from the San people. A system they regard as an unfair distribution of land as the children of the marginalized people are instead becoming workers of the outsiders rather than becoming farmers themselves. This matter needs urgent attention as the San people are becoming slaves to their fellow Namibians.

Development of the land: It has been 33 years after independence but the area they are resettled is underdeveloped and left behind in the development of the country at large. The government must provide at least 2 street poles at central positions to give light to the town. The same request was made two years ago but no response was given. Employment in town is very slow as there are no big markets, tarred roads, proper structures in the streets etc. All they have is the mushrooming shebeens, bars and clubs- that destroy the community.

Education: At Tsintsabis Primary School, there is a shortage of classrooms. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture approved Grade 10 to open in the 2024 academic year and Grade 11 in 2025. However, the school does not have enough classrooms to accommodate learners for the proposed additional grades. The administrative building is too small to accommodate additional teachers and other workers; the teachers' accommodation needs to be expanded to

accommodate additional teachers because currently there are seven male teachers and one female teacher sharing one toilet and shower. Additionally, the school needs an ablution facility for learners, an extra water tank for the hostel, and additional space in the hostel.

Provision of Water: There are boreholes to provide water to the community. However, some boreholes are not functional and need repair.

Coffin Project: There was a young man who was trained as a joiner by the Office of the President, to start a coffin manufacturing project within the community. After the training, he was to be provided with all the materials and tools to start his project. However, it was never handed over to him. It was alleged that the materials were transported to Oshivelo and are still kept there in a store room for over five years. All attempts to access his material were unsuccessful. He therefore needs assistance to receive his materials.

The Committee undertook a second visit to Oshikoto Region, to cover places they were unable to cover during the first visit. The places visited were Oshikoto Lake, Kuvukiland, Namutoni Gate, Ombili Farm, and Huigub Farm. Apart from the Farm Oshimore in the Oshikoto Lake District, the issues raised were similar to the ones raised during the first visit.

At Farm Oshimore, the Committee was met with different dynamics. According to the Tsumeb Constituency Councillor and the community members who were present at the meeting, the communities lived at the Farm for many years and when the owner sold the farm to the government the expectation was that they would be resettled there since they had no land. However, to their surprise, the government resettled another person from another region while overlooking them. Despite that, the new owner allowed them to continue living at the farm and to continue with their farming and small gardening activities. With his passing 16 years ago, the farm was taken over by his daughter who chased them from the farm. Since then, the disgruntled community members have been in the corridor where they are subjected to harsh weather conditions and safety concerns. Several letters have been sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform but they have not received any response.

5.6 ZAMBEZI REGION

5.6.1 Courtesy Visit to the Governor: Zambezi Region – Hon. Colonel (Rtd) Lawrence Alufea Sampofu

The Governor informed the Committee that the marginalized communities are of the view that the government is discriminating against them. At Ndoro he says the community doesn't have a clinic and the nearest clinic is 60km away at Kongola. On a positive note, a new secondary

school would open in 2024 with an anticipated 600 learners and the government requested qualified San people to apply for teaching positions, through the Ministry of Education.

Due to intermigration the Governor said that the project at Chetto did not yield the desired result as houses were constructed for the marginalized but no one lives there today. The marginalized people who were living at Makarawa West were moved to Wayawaya where they are living.

5.6.2 MEETING WITH ZAMBEZI REGIONAL COUNCIL.

The delegation was met by Hon. Micky Lukaezi a member of the National Council and the Sibinda Constituency councillor. He thought that the government resettlement programs benefited the Kavango East more than the Zambezi Region. The councillor informed the committee that there were specific programs for the marginalized communities like the ploughing services, and construction of houses, which are no longer visible.

Transport: The Committee was informed that the food was delivered at the warehouse however there was no transport available to distribute it to the community.

Education Grant: During the COVID-19 pandemic, students returned home from Windhoek as they could not up keep with living standards in Windhoek. They all returned home to Zambezi as they had no families to support them in Windhoek. Their plea was to be assisted by government to resume their studies again in Windhoek or in Katima Mulilo.

Early Childhood Development Centre: There was no provision for a feeding program to support the learners. Therefore, it is a challenge to keep learners there without food.

5.6.3 Wayawaya Village, Zambezi Region

Education: There was a high number of school dropouts due to the lack of a feeding program and school uniforms by learners. In addition, the late payment of allowances by the Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication, and Child Welfare to sustain learners while at school.

Social Grants: The members from marginalized communities complained about the extensive delay in the processing of social grants by the Ministry of Gender and Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

5.6.4 COMMUNITY MEETING AT LIKARERA VILLAGE

Payment to the Mafwe Traditional Authority: The community has been living at Likarera Village since 1960, under the Mafwe Traditional Authority. As residents, they are expected to pay N\$3000.00 to the Mafwe Traditional Authority for the portion of land they were occupying.

Shortage of water and electricity: The Community was not provided with water and have to depend on other communities, who in turn charge them for the usage of water.

Early Childhood Development Centre: There is no provision for a preschool in the village and the kids go to a nearby village which is 2-3 kilometres away. There was also no exemption for learners from marginalized communities for stationaries and uniforms as a result they were sent back home if they did not have stationery or uniforms.

Health: The Kasheshe Clinic was within 2-3 km however the San community is expected to pay before they could be assisted.

5.6.5 COMMUNITY MEETING AT OMEGA 3

The community felt neglected by the regional governor and the councilor as they never visited them but did visit other communities. The Kwe thinks that the term marginalized by the government is derogatory to them and they are not happy with that classification.

Education: The school does not have electricity and students affect the performance of learners. Teachers are also facing challenges due to a lack of office equipment such as a printing machine, and have to travel over 50 km to Kongola to print question papers. The school is from Grades 1 -11.

School Hostel: Despite the danger of wild animals in the park most learners are sleeping in damaged tents as the hostel has a limited capacity to accommodate all learners.

5.6.6 COMMUNITY MEETING AT CHETTO VILLAGE

The community of Chetto applauds the efforts by the government for having initiated a social-economic program that is intended to integrate the marginalized community into the mainstream economy. They requested for the program to be incorporated into law and to address the issue of poverty and unemployment among the marginalized communities. The community believes that, despite government efforts to assist them. There were an estimated 68 percent of people from marginalized communities were in absolute poverty and a further 77

percent were unemployed. They believed that the program largely assists persons from non-marginalized communities at the expense of the intended beneficiaries.

Shortage of Water: The Committee was informed that their water was not suitable for human consumption.

Health: There were no health facilities the closest one is 50km away, they question in case if there are health emergencies i.e. snake bites what happens to them.

Education: During the examination, teachers drive to Kongola to make copies of question papers as there are no photocopy machine at the school. Furthermore, the community also complains about the distance from Chetto to Ngoro Senior Secondary School which is 40 km away. The existing school has a community hostel, but due to a shortage of food, there was a high rate of school dropout hence the request for a feeding program for the school.

Sports: Ministry of Sports nor the Ministry of Education don't support previously selected sport people for regional trials. No transport or any support is given to them to attend trials in Katima Mulilo.

5.7 KAVANGO EAST REGION

5.7.1 COMMUNITY MEETING AT OMEGA 1.

Omega 1, is a big settlement which consists of 221 households. The Committee was informed that the community was facing challenges and most projects that were promised never materialized such as a garden project, a borehole, and a poultry project.

The only successful ongoing project was the bee-keeping project supported by the Regional Council.

Shortage of Water: The community also complained of suffering from a shortage of water as they don't have enough boreholes and carry water on their heads while they accuse the government of drilling boreholes for illegal settlers near Omega 1.

Health: There are 2 nurses employed at Chetto Clinic and medications such as ARV and TB are administered with other general medicines. They are both young males from the Zambezi and Kavango East regions and one of them is from the San Community. The community complained that they always had to search for the nurses when they needed services but they

were always at the bar or drunk and sometimes on leave. As such most of the time, the clinic only opens in the afternoon.

This was confirmed during the Committee Visit, as there was no nurse at the clinic to attend to a sick child around 12h00pm. After further investigation, they were directed to a nearby bar where the nurse was found drinking. When approached by the Deputy Chairperson he was very rude and that prompted the Deputy Chairperson to inform the Minister of Health which led to his supervisors being informed about the situation which they attended to swiftly.

The Committee was informed that the ambulance that was allocated to them was taken back to Katima Mulilo, which was far from Chetto village in cases of emergencies.

The clinic only provides paracetamol tablets something the community says they are given for all sorts of ailments to all patients. Sometimes there is no water and patients are turned away. The clinic also does not provide prenatal care for expectant mothers.

Language Barrier: The community complained about the announcement over the radio and the dialect used for broadcasting as they don't understand they only speak and understand the Khoi-Dam language in the Chetto area. At schools, their languages are also not offered to their children.

5.7.2 COMMUNITY MEETING AT OMEGA 2

Since 2017 among the school leavers at Omega Combined School only 1 graduate become a teacher and another a nurse, the community needs more help and resources to enable their children to complete school and study at universities.

Ambulance Services: The community has been without an ambulance since 2009 and they are always assisted by the police in emergencies.

5.7.3 COMMUNITY MEETING AT MUTJIKU VILLAGE

Shortage of Water: Mushashani, Bravo, and Charlie don't have water points and residents fetch water as far as 5km away, despite having old and disabled people who can't walk that far.

Education: The only secondary school is Martin Dima which is 5km away and children walk to and back 10 kilometres to school. Therefore, the community members requested for Kipi George Primary School to be upgraded gradually to ease the burden of walking long distances to Martin Dimba Secondary School.

Hostel: The Martin Dimba school is the only school with a hostel, however, it only accommodates learners who can pay hostel fees. A process that automatically excludes children from marginalized communities.

Health: The community complained of lack of service provision, absenteeism by nurses, and patients being referred to come back after many days at the clinic. They said that police assist them with transport to Andara in case an ambulance is not available from **Andara**.

Language Barrier: The San community also complained about the language barrier when accessing services from government institutions and being denied help. The same concern was raised at schools where learners are taught in other languages something they found very disturbing to the children from the San communities.

Early Childhood Development Centre is operating from under a tree a situation which is very inconvenient as there is no structure to protect them against harsh weather conditions which make learning and development very challenging.

Teenage Pregnancy: Teenage pregnancy is very high affecting girls from the age of 12. According to the community, the highest grade reached by girls was grade 8. The situation was out of hand as most girls are lured by truck drivers with money and alcohol.

Shebeens operating in Bwabwata National Park: A concern was raised about the mushrooming of alcohol outlets in the Bwabwata National Park, alcohol abuse and rape of minor girls as well as hit-and-run incidents on the main road has become prevalent.

Early Childhood Development Centre: The community raised a concern about the non-payment of the teacher for an extended period.

5.7.4 Meeting with the Chief Regional Officer at Rundu

The Committee was informed about the management of the bee-keeping project and the other assistance rendered to the marginalized communities such as the provision of portable water to marginalized and the transportation of school learners.

5.7.5 COMMUNITY MEETING AT LIKWATERERA VILLAGE

The Committee was informed that the village consists of 106 households. The community raised the following concerns:

Health: There is no clinic in the village and when emergencies occur ambulance takes too long to come from Rundu.

Early Childhood Development Centre: A concern was raised that the classes were overcrowded and there was a need for more classes to accommodate all learners. The salary of the support staff is always delayed.

Radio Services: The community requested the activation of the !KHA language radio signal language from Tsumkwe in their area.

Shortage of Water: The water point was far from where they lived they needed a water pipeline to be connected to the homesteads.

5.7.6 COMMUNITY MEETING AT MURURANI (KAP AND BOU VILLAGE)

There are approximately 100 households most of the inhabitants are people that were laid off or retrench or just dumb from surrounding commercial farms during COVID-19. Most women with children are fatherless as most fathers are from other tribes and don't take responsibility for their children. The land belongs to the Vakwangali Traditional Authority. Only 2 people are employed in the village.

Education: The school is 2 km from the village and the ECD Centre is less than a kilometre from the village. The secondary school is until grade 11 and there is only 1 student from the village at the University of Namibia and 1 at COSDEC. The marginalized people are exempted from paying school fees, the dynamics are completely different from the San living in the parks. Palms for Life constructed a hostel for the combined school for the marginalized.

Water & Sanitation: The community informed the Committee that they do not have water where they are staying and buy water from other communities.

5.8 KAVANGO WEST REGION

5.8.1 Courtesy Visit to the Governor: KAVANGO WEST – Hon. Sirkka Ausiku

According to the Governor, there are 8 constituencies in her region and marginalized people are living in all of them. The Governor singled out the Bravo settlement for the marginalized where all basic services are provided by the government i.e. schools, water, and sanitation as well as small farming units for self-sustainability.

The verification process of government scholarships for students at the tertiary level takes too long. A situation that affects their chances for enrolment for further studies.

5.8.2 COMMUNITY MEETING AT BRAVO SETTLEMENT

At the time of the committee visit most of the residents went to harvest devils claw, hence there were only a few people in the village, devils claw is a medicinal plant which is a seasonal plant and the San people predominantly harvest the plant for its diverse medicinal value for own use and selling. It can take up to 2 months to harvest the plant and parents and children would remain in the forest for that period which in turn mean that children could drop out of school and follow their parents.

Challenges faced by the community

Health: Lack of access to health services, the clinic was constructed and completed in March 2023, however, it is not yet operational since there were no personnel appointed.

Education: The highest school grade that the learners from the village reach is grade 11 no one has reached university level so far. Lack of financial support and transport are also some of the main reasons children drop out of school.

Shortage of Water: The settlement only has one water point which is a distance from where the communities are staying.

5.9 OMAHEKE REGION

5.9.1 Courtesy Call to the Governor: Omaheke Region -Hon. Pijoo Nganate

The Governor informed the Committee about the difficulties the marginalized communities were facing in the region. According to him, there are other vulnerable communities in the region, such as the Bakgalagadi and other urban poor, who he said also need assistance. The governor emphasized that even though there are projects earmarked for marginalized communities, there was a need for more sustainable development projects to be directed toward marginalized communities.

The Governor further informed the Committee that the region also has the highest cases of malnutrition reported among the marginalized communities. The urban poor are also marginalized as most of them are from the San communities having been dumped in town by former employers the commercial farmers. He stressed that marginalization is cross-cutting and across all tribal lines he said as well as the stateless people.

There was a huge problem in terms of the issuance of national documents to stateless people in the region especially in the areas of Otjinene, Drimiopsis as well as those living in Eiseb

Block the returnees from Botswana. The Governor said that the demographics in Botswana is different from that of Eiseb Block which leads those who return from Botswana to find themselves in the urban area of Gobabis where most services such as education, health, and sanitation are readily available. Most of them are living in the informal areas of Gobabis. The Governor also said that there was a need for civic education for those getting social grants to make them aware of why they receive the grants, as these grants are being misused.

5.9.2 Meeting at Vergenoeg Settlement.

Vergenoeg is a big settlement with a school and a sizeable number of people who mostly depend on subsistence farming or working as farm workers.

Water Shortage: The community complained about the scarcity of water as they fetch water 3-6km from where they live for both livestock and consumption. The community used to buy water from schools for N\$4.00 per 20 liter, but now even the school's borehole is non-functional, children go to school without bathing with dirty school uniforms.

Health: The community requested outreach clinics to visit the settlement, the settlement is in dire need of a clinic as most people are economically unable to reach such services in Gobabis. The community requested electricity at the settlement

National Radio Services: There is no NBC radio signal in the area and the community requested Damara radio services as the majority speak that dialect, even though most of the community members are from the San.

5.9.3 Community Meeting at Donkerbos.

Donkerbos is a settlement that consists mostly of marginalized San Communities with approximately 64 households and a primary school with a hostel. The community is faced with the following challenges;

Housing: is the main challenge for the community as they have no houses, which is more challenging during the rainy season, as they sleep in flooded huts and sometimes are bitten by snakes and insects.

Water Shortage: The community needs more boreholes there was only one functional borehole. The new one they were informed that it was obtained for usage by the school. However, they noted that the school provides water to neighboring farms singled out their marginalized community.

Health: There is no clinic at the settlement, and the community lack access to health which is one of the most critical challenges. As a result, many suffer from preventable and treatable diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria which can lead to death.

Lack of transportation to access health facilities in Gobabis and schools. The community also requested a dedicated vehicle to transport them to health facilities, and schools and to access other services in Gobabis.

Education: At Donkerbos School Primary there is a high rate of school dropouts due to teenage pregnancies.

Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD): In the absence of an Early Development Centre, the school accommodates 5-year-old learners.

5.9.4 Community Meeting at Du Plessis Settlement

The settlement consists of 70 households and some households consist of up to 8 family members. The Ministry of Land and Resettlement settled the community in 1997. However, only 45 households benefit from the food distribution program. Housing and sanitation are a big challenge to the community. There is a limit to grazing land for the community. The San community was dumped at the settlement as former farm workers. No one is allowed to build permanent structures at the settlement. According to the councillor, there was a feasibility study done in 2015 for the construction of a clinic, Police station, and school for the regional council, but it never materialized.

Water shortage: There are 3 boreholes on the farm but there is one camp without water where mostly old people reside who don't have the capacity or the strength to carry water over long distances. They implore the government to drill more boreholes to ease the water shortage.

Education: School dropouts are very high due to non-payment of school fees as most parents if not both parents don't have a job to pay for school fees. Some children drop out of school due to bullying due to a lack of toiletries or school uniforms as they feel out of place at school.

5.9.5 Community Meeting at Epukiro Post 3

The San Committee is living on a piece of land which is owned by the Roman Catholic Church. They established a committee to deal with projects and other issues as they seek to be independent and want to speak about their needs and aspirations for themselves.

Feeding Programme

The rations are not enough to last for 3 months as there are many people in a household, they turn to stealing other people's livestock to feed their families. They request the government to receive monthly food parcels.

Social Grants/Allowances: The community also requested the government to include toiletries, inclusive of sanitary pads and washing powder in the food parcels for hygiene purposes as they are unemployed and don't have any income to buy those items. This will also prevent school girls from staying away from school if they are on their monthly period.

Land: They don't have any houses as they are living on the land of the Roman Catholic Church, most of them are living in temporary structures such as zinc houses and structures made with plastic, while some are staying in other people's houses.

Transport: There is no provision for transport for learners in the area who attend schools in other areas within the region and that discourages learners from attending schools as parents are unable to afford transport fees.

Water Shortage: The community raised a concern about the lack of water as they have to rely on other communities for water.

5.10 OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

5.10.1 Courtesy Visit to the Regional Councillor of Tsumkwe

The Committee paid a courtesy call to the Councillor of Tsumkwe Constituency Hon. Hausiku, he informed the delegation that there are around 9907 inhabitants in Tsumkwe.

According to the Councillor, there was a high rate of youth unemployed in Tsumkwe and they are unable to secure employment in government due to low marks obtained in grade 12.

The other concern raised was that there were only two secondary schools in Tsumkwe and when learners are accepted there they are taught different subjects they are not familiar with and that affects their performance badly.

There is a high death rate in Tsumkwe due to malnutrition.

Language Barrier: The Councillor informed the Inspector-General that a lack of translation causes no cases to be opened. He implored the inspector-general to include traditional authority

and the councilors to identify possible recruits from the marginalized community. He further said that since there are intermarriages other surnames which the children bear make that they don't get shortlisted.

5.10.2 Courtesy Visit to the Chief in Tsumkwe

In his address to the delegation, the chief bemoaned the lack of enlistment of his community members to the Namibian Defence Force despite the announcement that places were reserved for the marginalized per region.

Even though the government is doing a lot for his people the chief said that they are far behind in terms of education opportunities and other areas of development. The application for social grants are only done at Gam and not in Tsumkwe which is another challenge for them to access such services.

5.10.3 Community Meeting at Ben Se Kamp

There are 41 households and an Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD), the community received a donation of cattle which stood at 44 in 2022, they also have goats, and the animals are herded by 4 herders 2 for cattle and 2 for goats and they receive N\$600.00 from the Ministry of Gender equality as compensation. They also have a community garden and chickens.

Challenges faced by the community

Damaged Border Fence: The community at the border raised concern about the damaged border fence by the elephants. The problem is that once their cattle cross into Botswana they are not allowed to get them back.

High-Level Consumption of Alcohol: The Chief expressed concern about the increased number of alcohol outlets and uncontrolled operating hours which affects the performance of learners in schools due to the noise.

Provision of Houses: The community also requested to be provided with proper housing assistance. Their houses are dilapidated and during the rainy seasons, it is more challenging.

5.10.4 Community Meeting at Mangetti Dune.

Community members come from different villages before they settle here for school or other opportunities. The biggest challenge faced by the community is the issue of national documents as most elders don't have identity documents. Hence they don't receive any social grants. The

situation is exacerbated by the fact that the elder doesn't know the exact time of birth, therefore their registration was done based on estimates by the previous colonial government.

Health: Mangetti is surrounded by a lot of villages but due to a lack of transport patients are unable to reach the health centre in time. Hence the community request government to provide them with suitable transport to the health centre from their villages. The mortuary in Mangetti is said to be very small and doesn't cater to the needs of communities of Mangetti, Omatako, Noma and Rooi Dak it needs urgent revamp and extension.

Education: The Community requested for the school to be upgraded to accommodate learners up to grade 12, since it is the only school in the area. The other challenge is the limited capacity in the hostel to accommodate learners from adjacent farms

5.10.5 Courtesy Visit to the Governor: Otjozondjupa Region, - Hon. James Uerikua

The Governor informed the committee that although the Government has made significant progress regarding marginalized communities, some shortcomings in the system need to be addressed delays in the distribution of food, and other concerns within the marginalized communities. The governor describes the situation at the Uitkoms farm in his region as chaotic and needs urgent intervention to address the undesirable situation of alcohol and drug abuse at Farm Uitkoms.

5.10.6 Community Meeting at Farm Uitkoms

The residents of Uitkoms are faced with the following challenges.

Education: To avoid school dropouts, the community request for the extension of the hostel to accommodate more learners. Most learners are accommodated in community hostels that never guarantee proper supervision and more particular when parents get work in other areas where they are unable to supervise their children daily.

Parents are still forced to pay school fees even though they are part of the marginalized community and are exempted from paying, children are threatened to be sent home. This does not create a conducive environment for teaching and learning as children are always scared.

The parents lamented that they are expected to buy books for their children despite being unemployed and marginalized. They questioned why the Ministry of Education does not cater to their needs. Previously marginalized learners at secondary schools were given a N\$500 allowance to buy stationary which was very helpful but this also has stopped.

Health: The community needs a bigger clinic for a growing community, while mobile clinics visit the community monthly they don't always have doctors as part of the team. Since the mobile network is not stable and doesn't work at all during the rainy season it is impossible to call for an ambulance from Okakarara State Hospital during emergencies, hence the request for a clinic in the village.

Water: Although there are 4 boreholes at the farm only 3 are working but the water is not enough to cater for human and animal consumption.

6. GENERAL FINDINGS

6.1 National Documents:

It was found that most people from marginalized communities were not having identity documents. The challenge is that due to their nomadic way of living those who were issued with national documents always lost them. Others emigrated from neighboring countries like Angola or Botswana and settled in Namibia for many years without documentation. Due to that, it is difficult to enrol their children in schools or register for old age pensions or social grants. Some raised a concern that some old people cannot be issued with identity documents since their fingerprints are unreadable.

The Ministry of Home Affairs requires a payment of N\$100 to get a duplicate ID which the majority of people can't afford. Whenever community members require confirmation letters from traditional authority they are required to pay N\$50.00 which they can't afford due to unemployment and poverty.

In general, there is a lack of adequate civil registration that affects their ability to access social safety nets provided by the government and to participate in social, political, and economic mainstreams of their country.

6.2 Food Support Programme:

There is an over-dependence on drought relief food programs and social grants for the elderly. Due to poor harvests, the drought relief food is not enough to sustain them.

Furthermore, there was an excessive delay in the distribution of food parcels and drought relief food and the Committee observed that in some places people were without food for over two weeks or more.

The Committee detected a serious inconsistency in the distribution of food in all regions. In some regions, the food parcels are given per person per household. In other regions, only one

person is registered per household, and after the separation of the couple, the other person not registered suffers.

The other inconsistency noted was the provision of the feeding programs at schools, in some regions, there were provisions made for feeding programs at schools but in some regions it was non-existent. That affects the attendance and performance of learners as some are expected to walk long distances to school without food.

The Committee also noted an excessive delay in the distribution of food due to a lack of transport in most areas visited and the distribution of expired food items to communities. Food are kept in warehouses for extended periods because of transportation challenges.

6.3 Education, Unemployment, and the High Employment Criteria

The majority of the people are unskilled youth without qualifications. They do not meet the minimum requirement of most jobs in government and elsewhere. Some young people have passed Grade 12 but still can't get employment.

The San students have no means of income to pay for subjects that they fail at the tertiary level and are forced to drop out. Therefore, the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund should review its requirements in terms of marginalized students.

6.4 Recognition of Traditional Authorities within the Marginalized Communities

In most places visited the communities raised concern about the non-recognition of their traditional leaders. They believe that lack of representation leads to loss of land as they are rendered powerless when it comes to land because there is no one to raise their issues with the traditional authority or to represent them when they need confirmation letters to apply for national documents.

6.5 Death, Burial, and Transportation of Bodies to the Mortuaries

The marginalized communities visited expressed serious concern about the bureaucratic process for the approval of funeral services, trip authorities, and procurement of car parts from Windhoek which takes too long. The Committee noted that in most cases the development

officers within the Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare are expected to transport the bodies in their official vehicles to mortuaries.

The car parts and tyres are only available from one government garage in all regions. To travel for a distance of over 100km, you must obtain Trip Authorities from Windhoek. This affects the ability of the Development Planner to provide services daily and those that require emergency responses.

6.6 Lack of Decentralization of the Program on Marginalized Communities

Lack of decentralization.

The challenge is that the function of coordinating the programs of marginalized people is not decentralized or delegated to the Regional Councils. This makes it difficult for Regional Councils to coordinate the programs.

6.7 Vulnerable people within communities

Some people had money and cattle but due to persistent drought, and human and wildlife conflict where they lost most of their domestic animals Others were marginalized in different ways such as poverty caused by unemployment and lack of registration for social funding due to lack of the required documents. As a result, they have become vulnerable and in need of government support. A request was made for the government to review the current program on marginalized communities with the view to include all other vulnerable people not falling under the category of marginalized people who are unable to sustain themselves, including the unemployed youth.

6.8 National Parks Human and Wildlife Conflicts

Marginalized people are mostly living within or in the vicinity of national parks. This makes them vulnerable to human-wildlife conflict. Their crops, fences, and homesteads are destroyed by elephants but there is no fair compensation from the government for the damages caused by wildlife. The Committee noted that at most parks visited they found some marginalized communities who claimed that they had nowhere else to go since the parks were the only place they knew and regarded it as their ancestral land.

6.9 Education Grants

It takes up to 8 months for the Ministry of Gender to process student allowances. That is a challenge for learners who are away from home either in Windhoek or Katima Mulilo this causes them to drop out as they don't have any other means of survival or support since they are from a marginalized background.

In other instances, the Committee was informed that the awarding of scholarships does not benefit all students from marginalized communities.

6.9 Government Resettlement of Marginalized Communities and Sustainable Projects

It was noted that the marginalized people are generally landless. They have not benefited efficiently from the land resettlement program of the government. As a result, they have no land to grow crops and breed their livestock for survival. The farms they were resettled in still belong to the government. The case of the community members at Oshimore Farm in Tsumeb District, Oshikoto Region was one exceptional case the Committee picked up where people were stranded in corridors without land. They cannot claim individual ownership. The livestock given to them by the government to sustain themselves in those resettlement farms has not increased due to theft, drought, and illegal sales. There was no adequate care for the livestock because there was no individual ownership. As a result, no one is accountable for these livestock.

The Committee suggested that the approach the government was using to assist the majority of San Community members could be wrong. The San people are expected to change their way of living and conform to the modernized world. This approach, they believed could be a problem for the San people. They must be allowed to choose the type of projects they are comfortable with.

6.10 Treatment by the Police and Protection of Human Rights

The Committee noted that in all 10 regions visited, the police officers were accused of mistreating people from marginalized communities. Their cases are not taken seriously when reported, they are being mocked and chased away from police stations.

The other alarming concern was the degrading of the marginalized communities in all regions. While the government was putting measures in place to restore the dignity of the marginalized communities. It was reported that in most areas, marginalized communities are treated badly by other communities. They are being called disgraceful names and derogatory terms are being used against them. The Committee felt that that was a violation of their human rights and a

derailment of the government's effort to improve the lives of the marginalized communities. Through marginalization, they lost their dignity and sense of belonging. Therefore, there was a need from the side of the government to ensure that such offenses were reported and penalized.

6.11 Working Conditions of the Development Planners in the Region

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the working conditions of the development planners in all regions visited. The salary grading was very low compared to the workload, and the deployment of one staff per region or one for two regions is unacceptable. The official cars assigned are worn out and dangerous to drive such vehicles on bad roads.

7. CONCLUSION

The Committee took note of the efforts by the government to bring the marginalized communities into the social-economic mainstream. However, the lack of coordination by all key stakeholders was another setback. In addition, the increase in the number of vulnerable people not falling under the category of marginalized communities is another aspect the government can no longer ignore. Prompting the need to review the social safety nets the government offers and effective mechanisms to coordinate such programs to cover all vulnerable communities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following recommendations:

8.1 Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare

1. In collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation must find ways to consider lowering the job requirements for marginalized people and make provisions for a quota for people from marginalized communities for employment;
2. To review the food distribution criteria and the school feeding program to serve all affected communities equally;

3. In collaboration with the regional council offices in all regions, consider the decentralization of the management of the program for marginalized communities including the processing of requests for funeral services for marginalized communities.
4. Reconsider the classification of all vulnerable people into one category for all to benefit equally from available social programs.
5. Review the systems in place to allocate student grants to all affected students equally and timely. More particularly those at tertiary levels to sustain themselves unhindered throughout the year.
5. Demonstrate intended plans to improve the working conditions of regional development planners as a matter of urgency. One development planner per region or for two regions is practical.

8.2 Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security

1. To identify strategies to address issues of the issuance and loss of national documents for marginalized communities such as biometrics.
2. To address concerns raised about the police on the mistreatment of marginalized communities and when they lodge complaints at police stations.

8.3 Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

1. In collaboration with the Ministries of Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation. Office of the Prime Minister and Education to consider ways to lower the requirements for the job categories such as wardens, and trackers to include marginalized communities due to their inherent knowledge of the wildlife

8.4 Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

1. To facilitate the process for the recognition of traditional leaders in all areas of marginalized communities.

8.5 Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform

1. To review the ownership of resettlement farms allocated to marginalized communities countrywide, based on allegations of illegal selling of such farms.
2. To investigate the crisis at Farm Oshimore, Tsumeb Constituency in Oshikoto Region.
3. Fast-track the allocation of resettlement farms to marginalized communities.

4. Provision of water points, boreholes, and fixing of non-functional boreholes, in particular, the marginalized communities in Onamatanga, Omusati Region.

9. MEMBERS SIGNATURES

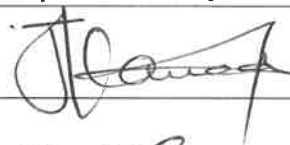
1. Hon. Kletus Karondo



2. Hon. Paula Kooper



3. Hon. Joseph Kauandenge



4. Hon. Tjekero Tweya



5. Hon. Vincent Mareka



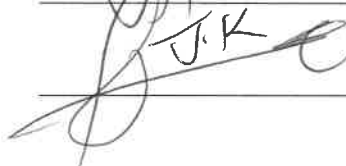
6. Hon. Bernadus Swartbooi



7. Hon. Elifas Dingara



8. Hon. Julieta Kavetuna



9. Hon. Diederik Vries



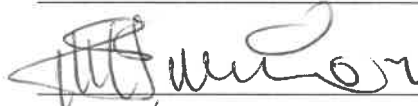
10. Hon. Herlinde L. Tjiveze



11. Hon. Phillipus Katamelo



12. Hon. Longinus Iipumbu



13. Hon. Apius !Auchab



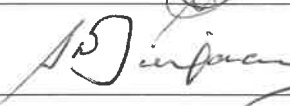
14. Hon. Inna Koviao Hengari



15. Hon. Patience Masua



16. Reginald Diergaardt



17. Emilia Nuyoma-Amupewa

18. Hon. Rebekka Kambayi

19. Theofelus Kamati

DATE: 17.02.2025

