



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

BY

HON UTONI NUJOMA, MINISTER OF LAND REFORM

**ON THE OCCASION OF TRAINING AND HANDING OVER OF ALLOTMENT LETTERS
TO RESETTLEMENT BENEFICIARIES
FARM GROOTROOIBULT NO. 1027**

OMAHEKE REGION

18 MAY 2016

Director of Proceedings

Hon. Festus Ueitele, Governor for Omaheke Region

The Regional Commander of the Namibian Police, Omaheke Region

Representatives from Agribank

Resettlement Beneficiaries of farm Grootrooibult Farming Unit C

Representative of Farmers Support Programme

Dear Mentors and Trainers

Esteem Resettlement Beneficiaries,

Representative from the Media Community

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honour and privilege to be here today at a resettlement farm Grootrooibult No. 1027 at the occasion of the training session to the resettlement beneficiaries. This training is specifically tailor-made to beneficiaries of 15 farming units that were advertised between 1st December 2015 to 4th January 2016 and 15th January to 15 February 2016 respectively.

These farming units are as follows:

1. Farm Sicily No. 69, **Kunene Region**, Single Unit
2. Dorsland No. 295, **Kunene Region**, 2 Farming Units
3. Portion 2 of the farm Intabeni No. 295, **Hardap Region**, Single Unit
4. Farm Rodenhof, No. 113, **Otjozondupa Region**, 4 Farming Units
5. Portion 1 of farm Namseb, No. 24, **Hardap Region**, Single Unit
6. Farm Kolke, No. 84 , //Kharas **Region**, 1 Farming Unit

7. Remaining Extent of the farm Nudaus, No. 17, **Hardap Region**, 1 Farming Unit
8. Farm Kleinfontein Nord, No. 82, **Hardap Region**, 1 Farming Unit.
9. Farm Harmonie, No. 184, **Hardap Region**, 1 Farming Unit
10. Remainder of Portion 1 of farm Lora, No. 499, **Omaheke Region**, Single Unit.
11. Portion 13 of Farm Kranz, No. 169, **Omaheke Region**, Single Unit.

With regard to the afore-mentioned commercial land, some 15 farming units will be made available to families or individuals for animal husbandry, whereas Farm Kranz, No. 169, in Omaheke Region will be allocated to an individual for crop production.

It is worth-mentioning that thousands of Namibians have applied for these farming units from all over the country. Many Namibians were qualified for resettlement like you. However, the number of farming unit's available remains limited compared to the applications received. Furthermore, competition becomes high in the process, therefore only few could make it to the allotment. To date the Ministry of Land Reform has resettled **5214** Resettlement Beneficiaries.

Director of ceremonies

According to the National Resettlement Policy, July 2001, "It is expected of the beneficiaries to be self-reliant and self-sufficient except in the case of existing natural phenomena e.g. drought or other disasters." In order to realise such an objective the policy talks about a "concerted effort of people empowerment". The policy is missing no words in the meaning of the support to be offered. In other words the policy states that "training programmes should be able to facilitate the resettled beneficiaries to realize their full potential in pursuing a higher level of livelihood."

It is in this regard that the Ministry of Land Reform in collaboration with Agricultural Bank of Namibia, the Federal Republic of Germany represented by GIZ, have developed and established the Farmers Support Project. The collaboration of these three stakeholders embarked upon the training of resettled beneficiaries and formerly disadvantaged Namibian farmers through the afore-mentioned programme. From experience, beneficiaries who were trained, and

mentored, and seriously taken up the advices are among the farmers successful today.

Between 2010 and 2012, a total of **877** individuals participated in different sessions including Farmer information days, Short Courses, Excursions and Post Settlement supports. Whereas a total number of **729** farmers received the same during the period 2013 to date.

All these efforts were meant to fulfil the policy statement, and ensuring that the Resettled Farmers and other farmers from disadvantaged background are contributing successfully to the economy of the country. This is in line with the spirit of Harambee Prosperity Plan, where no one should feel left out.

Dear Farmers,

Dear mentors,

Ladies and gentlemen

This is the third time, in the history of Resettlement that the Ministry is equipping farmers with knowledge before they even enter their farming units. For this exercise the mentors and trainers have acquainted themselves with the situation on the ground, with the farms to be allocated and came up with this tailor made practical training of how each unit can be utilised economically. Since the inception of this initiative, which started in November 2015 we have trained **130** farmers including their spouses and children.

This event will also serve as a forum for mentors/trainers and resettled farmers to know one another and share expertise. Equally, beneficiaries will be able to know the trainers who will be conducting mentorship in their regions. In the meantime, my Ministry and Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry are working on the training programme that will in future enhance the agricultural skills of resettlement farmers as per Cabinet directive.

Director of Ceremony,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, you witness the handover of allotment letters to the resettlement beneficiaries. The handover will immediately be followed by the intensive training

of four days which should serve as a gateway to successful and sustainable farming to sustain themselves, their families and contribute to the effort of poverty eradication in Namibia.

It is at this juncture that I would like to call upon farmers to take up the challenge very serious. Make use of your Agribank loan to ensure your water resources are running, since most of you have indicated that you have animals during your applications. The Ministry will be monitoring and evaluating the progress and seriousness of your farming endeavour, which will inform us that we have resettled the right people as per the received applications.

I therefore wish our resettlement beneficiaries good luck in their farming endeavours, and urge you to take up your training very serious.

I THANK YOU