



Republic of Namibia



Kunene Regional Council

**REGIONAL
CONSULTATIONS
IN PREPARATION
FOR THE SECOND
NATIONAL LAND
CONFERENCE,
19 - 20 July 2018**



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Executive Summary

On the 19-20th July 2018, the second Workshop in preparation for the Second Land Conference scheduled for October 2018 took place at Opuwo, Kunene Region. The workshop was attended by more than 200 participants representing different stakeholders such as the Regional Council, Traditional Authorities, Line Ministries, Farmers Unions and many other stakeholders. The purpose of the Kunene Regional Consultative Workshop were as follows:

- To provide information to the participants on the 2nd Land Conference to be held on 01-05 October 2018
- To solicit views and inputs needed for the 2nd Land Conference
- To review the process of the 24 resolutions taken on the 1st Land Conference of 1991 and analytically look at the challenges and opportunity for the period between now and the 1st Land Conference

The concept paper on the Second National Land Conference was introduced to participants. It serves as a guiding tool and outlines the objectives of the Second National Land Conference, the approach, modalities and the expected outcomes. The 2nd National Land Conference specific objectives are as follows:

- To review progress on the implementation of the resolutions of the 1991 Land Conference
- To identify challenges and propose strategies to address these challenges,
- To share with the conference participants, the implementation of 86 resolutions assigned to the SCCLRM
- Identify and deliberate upon new emerging land related matters.
- Discuss and address the structures of land ownership in the country
- Deliberate and propose best options to address the number of land issues.

Workshop participants were divided into two (2) groups to identify and discuss regional land related key issues. More than 40 issues were identified but harmonized and arranged into five (5) categories and 26 key issues as follows:

Private Commercial Land Issues

- Ancestral land claims and restitution
- Absentee landlords (Foreign owned farms)
- Land Purchase and prices

Resettlement Commercial Land Issues

- Implementation of Resettlement Programme
- Farm demarcations
- Resettlement Criteria
- Under-utilized resettlement farms

- Pre and Post resettlement support
- Inheritance of resettlement farms

Communal Land Issues

- Land allocation and registration
- Illegal occupation of communal land
- Illegal fencing
- Communal land development
- Land degradation

Urban Land Issues

- Informal settlements
- Affordability of urban land (prices)
- Land allocation and administration
- Trading land

Other Issues

- Regional Boundaries and Division of Kunene Region
- Un-recognized Traditional Leaders
- Veterinary Cordon Fence (Red line)
- Game Parks and Concessions
- Outdated laws and Policies
- Natural resources in communal areas
- Harvesting of natural resources
- Natural Disasters
- Human wildlife conflicts

The workshop was officially closed by the Chairperson of the Regional Council who thanked the President, Organizers and all stakeholders who participated for the fruitful workshop. He said, the Region was thankful that it was part of the consultations in 2016 and now in 2017. Kunene Region will therefore not cry that it was not consulted after we are now being consulted for the 3rd time. We gave our inputs which will be taken to the National Land Conference for discussions, together with inputs from other regions, he concluded.

Facilitator: Doufi Namalambo

Report Writer: Alfred Sikopo

1. Introduction

The second Workshop in preparation for the Second Land Conference scheduled for October 2018 took place on the 19-20th July 2018 at Opuwo, Kunene Region.

The Land Conference on Land Reform and the Land Question held in 1991 described the land question in Namibia as one of the most burning issues facing the country. Many years of colonialism resulted in a situation where the vast majority of the population has access to a fraction of all arable land in Namibia. This highly unequal distribution of land in turn laid the foundation for the structures of apartheid and labour exploitation, and thus urban and rural poverty. One of the principle challenges which is still facing the Government is redressing the imbalance and widening access to land.

As a result of the Land Conference on Land Reform and the Land Question of 1991, the Government of the Republic of Namibia developed a number of Policies and Legislations on Land Reform. Some of these key Policies and Legislations are as follows:

- The National Land Policy (1998)
- The National Resettlement Policy
- The Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act (Act No. 6 of 1995)
- The Communal Land Reform Act (Act No. 5 of 2002)
- The Communal Land Reform Amendment Act (Act No. 13 of 2013)
- The Flexible Land Tenure Act

Despite all these Policies and Legislations being developed, the land reform sector continues to face a number of challenges such as claim of ancestral land, slow pace of land acquisition for resettlement purposes, high land prices, land disputes, illegal fencing, and many more.

In an effort to resolve the above-mentioned challenges and achieving the goal and the strategic plan as enshrined by the Harambee Prosperity Plan, the Ministry of Land Reform was tasked to hold the 2nd National Land Conference in order to review the progress of the implementation of 24 Resolutions of the 1991 National land Conference in Namibia. In 2017, all fourteen regions were consulted over the themes, topics and items set out in the national land Conference.

This report highlights the deliberations and the main recommendations of the Kunene Regional Consultation which was held from 19-20 July 2018 in Opuwo. Key issues and recommendations of a similar workshop held in July 2017 forms part of the report. This Regional Report will therefore serve as

resource materials and guide for the regional representatives who will attend the 2nd National Land Conference in October 2018.

Representatives to Kunene Regional Workshop were drawn from various Institutions, NGOs, Ministries and other Organization as follows: Traditional Authorities, Regional Council, Churches, Local Authorities, Farmers' Organizations, Line – Ministries, NGOs, Communal Conservancies, Community leaders, Women Organizations, Youth Organizations, Political Parties, Business people and Civil Society Organizations. More than 200 people attended the Workshop.

2. Welcoming / Opening Remarks and Purpose of Workshop

In his opening remarks, the Chairperson of the Kunene Regional Council said the presence of all the participants who attended the workshop was a testimony that the question of land in Namibia is the most crucial burning issue facing the Namibian people. He reminded participants that the majority (90%) of the Namibian population lives in communal areas, beyond the so called redline established by the colonial masters in 1900.

Despite the fact that the majority of the Namibians derives their livelihoods from the land, access and ownership of land are highly unevenly distributed in the country. Therefore, the Government and its citizens saw a need to consult extensively with all stakeholders in order to review on the existing policies and programmes to redress the imbalance and find an amicable solution to the current challenges.

In a nutshell, the purpose of the Kunene Regional Consultative Conference were as follows:

- To provide information to the participants on the 2nd Land Conference to be held on 01-05 October 2018
- To solicit views and inputs needed for the 2nd Land Conference
- To review the process of the 24 resolutions taken on the 1st Land Conference of 1991 and analytically look at the challenges and opportunity for the period between now and the 1st Land Conference

The Hon. Governor for Kunene Region commended the efforts by the Office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister in collaboration with the Ministry of Land Reform as well as our Kunene Regional Council to convene this important consultation aimed at discussing the land issues in preparation of the Second National Land Conference that is scheduled to take place in October this year.

The Governor said, in the past two years, we all witnessed regional consultations towards the envisaged Second National Land Conference. One may ask why we are still having regional consultations now if we held similar workshops last year in preparation for the Second National Land Conference. The Government decided to hold these regional consultations again due to the following three reasons;

- a) For the 2017 regional consultations, emphasis was more on reviewing the 24 resolutions of the 1991 Land Conference. We now need regional stakeholders to identify key land issues affecting land administration in the region for these workshops to focus more on such issues and come up with regional positions for presentation at the Second National land conference.
- b) Some sections of our society felt there were left out in the first consultations, hence the second round of consultations for inclusivity.

The land question is a social and economic issue. It is about addressing dispossession, equity and promoting productive and sustainable livelihoods through implementing programmes targeted at poverty eradication. Therefore, after 27 years of implementing the 24 Consensus Resolutions on Land that were reached during the 1991 National Conference on Land Reform and the Land Question, the Ministry, as articulated and directed in the Harambee Prosperity Plan, 2016/17- 2019/20 and as directed by His Excellency, the President, Dr. Hage Geingob during the State of Nation's address, found it important to once again re-group, consult and accord the Namibian Nation the platform to contribute on the direction that the current Land Reform process should take. This call is made to all Stakeholders to review the progress made, challenges encountered and propose ways to expedite the Land Reform Programme informed by the contemporary issues.

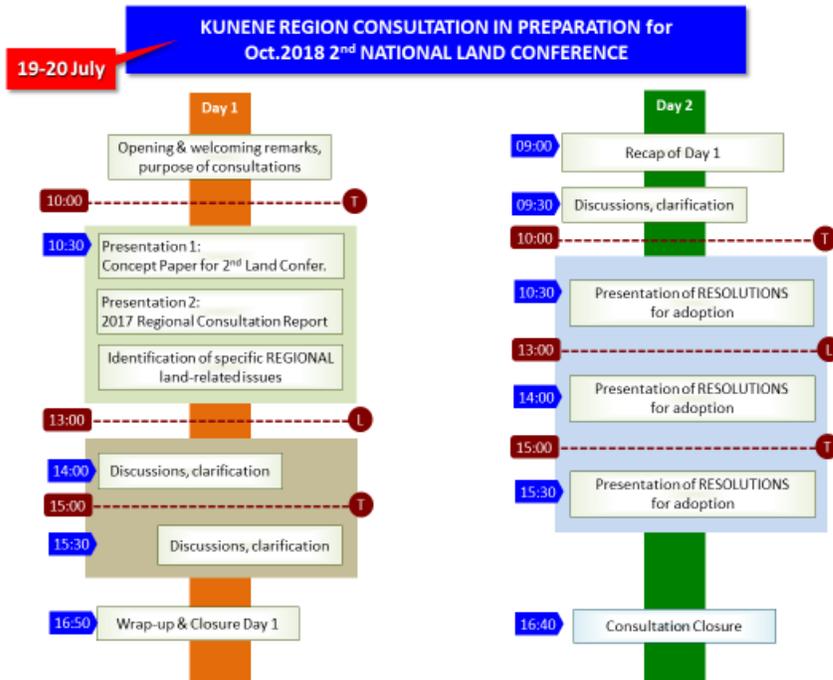
As a Government, we are asking the nation to be ready to re-assess, discuss and map the way forward in terms of our mandate. This time we are also guided and make reference to our different experiences as Namibians on what has worked, what did not work, what is currently not working, what needs to be adjusted, fine-tuned or totally discarded in terms of our land policy and legal framework.

Participants were encouraged not only to focus on Farming/ Agriculture land but equally do justice by discussing urban land reform.

The Hon. Governor said, as alluded by our leader His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, we support and believe it is time the Redline or Veterinary Condor Fence is done away with in a appropriate manner to have inclusive economic opportunities, the regions affected by these line have the most number of livestock in Namibia yet are excluded from the lucrative export markets. The

Governor concluded by urging all participants to be open and listen to each other and most importantly come out of the discussions with concrete resolutions that will inform our current land reform.

The Facilitator, Ms. Doufi Namalambo explained the Workshop Programme by using the graph below:



3. Concept for the Second National Land Conference

The Ministry of Land Reform's representative at the workshop, presented the Concept Paper for the Second National Land Conference to the audience.

The presentation revealed that the concept paper aims to set a tone for all the aspirations towards the convening of the Second National Land Conference in October 2018. It serves as a guiding tool and outlines the objectives of the Second National Land Conference, the approach, modalities and the expected outcomes.

In order to achieve the set goals and the Strategic objectives articulated in the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2016/17-2019/20, the Ministry of Land Reform is tasked to host the Second National Land Conference in order to take stock and review the progress made towards the achievements of the goals of land reform programmes in the country since independence. The Second National Land Conference aims to create a platform where Namibians are accorded an opportunity to deliberate on the current land reform programme and other emerging land related issues. It is therefore, the aim of the people and the Government of Namibia that the Second National Land Conference, guided by the country's Constitution and experience, would adopt policies, programmes and measures that could accelerate land reform programme in a democratic and sustainable manner for the benefit of all Namibians.

The 2nd National Land Conference specific objectives are as follows:

- a) To review progress on the implementation of the resolutions of the 1991 Land Conference
- b) To identify challenges and propose strategies to address these challenges,
- c) To share with the conference participants, the implementation of 86 resolutions assigned to the SCCLRM
- d) Identify and deliberate upon new emerging land related matters.
- e) Discuss and address the structures of land ownership in the country
- f) Deliberate and propose best options to address the number of land issues.

Some of the land issues identified to be deliberated upon at the National Land Conference are the following:

- a) Ancestral land claims and restitution
- b) Willing seller willing buyer principle for agricultural land acquisition
- c) National Resettlement Programme and Criteria

- d) Expropriation of agricultural land with fair compensation
- e) Urban land reform programme
- f) The removal of the veterinary cordon fence (Red Line)
- g) Land valuation and pricing
- h) Pre and post resettlement support to resettled farmers
- i) Affirmative Action Schemes and Resettlement Programme
- j) Accessibility to land by women and the youth
- k) Bankability of communal land
- l) Other land issues

The Second National Land Conference shall be held in Windhoek over a period of five (5) days from 1 to 5 October 2018. The Conference will be attended by selected representatives from all 14 regions of the country. In addition, there will be invited guests representing regional and international organizations. The Conference will be guided by the agenda programme and facilitated by qualified and competent Namibian nationals with requisite knowledge on administration and management of Namibia's land reform and other land related matters. The identification of participants to the Conference will be facilitated by the Ministry of Land Reform in consultation with the relevant committees and the Office of the Prime Minister. It is envisaged there will be a strong representation of relevant stakeholders at the conference to ensure inclusivity of all sectors of the Namibian population.

Three (3) preparatory committees will spearheading the preparations of the Second National Land Conference, namely:

High Level Committee: The High Level Committee (HLC) is the clearing house for activities for the preparations of the Second National Land Conference. The Committee consist of Government Ministers, Heads of institutions and organizations relevant to the preparations of the Conference. Other members include key stakeholders and experts. The committee is chaired by the Prime Minister, deputized by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Land Reform. The creation of the HLC will build the confidence of the general public on the process leading to the holding of the Conference.

Inter-Ministerial Committee: The Inter- Ministerial (IMC) is the Technical Committee that play an advisory role in the preparations of the Conference. The Committee consists of Permanent Secretaries of Government

Offices/Ministries and Agencies relevant to land matters. This Committee is chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet who reports to the High Level Committee

Ministerial Preparatory Committee: The Ministerial Preparatory Committee (MPC) comprises Ministry of Land Reform, Head of Departments and Directorates. The Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Land Reform. It is responsible for the drafting of relevant documents as well as compilation and production of conference materials. The committee is further responsible for the facilitation of conference logistics. It comprise of sub-committees tasked with financial matters, transport and accommodation, documentation and communication as well as security and protocol.

The expected outcome of the Second National Land Conference for 2018 is to seek clarifications and adopt desirable positions on the identified emerging issues. The overall expected outcome is to contribute towards an effective and efficient land reform programme in the country. This will in turn contribute to social and economic advancement in Namibia through land reform programmes and projects.

4. Regional Workshop of July 2017: Issues and Key Resolutions

The Deputy Director for Land Reform at Kunene Regional Council, presented the report from the Kunene Regional Consultative Workshop of July 2017. The workshop was held over two days, from the 14th to the 15 July 2017 at the Ministry of Gender Hall in Opuwo and attended by different stakeholders in the Region.

The workshop discussions were guided by the 24 resolutions of 1991 and a summary of workshop resolutions were as follows:

No	1991 National Land Conference Resolutions	Proposed amendments to existing resolutions to 1991	Comments
1	Resolution 1: Injustice - Something practicable be done to rectify injustice concerning the acquisition and ownership of land	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend constitution and relevant laws on Willing-Seller Willing-Buyer to compulsory seller.
2	Resolution 2: Ancestral land rights – No entertainment of ancestral land rights claims	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial claims through Resolution 1. Ancestral land claims must be kept for discussion

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restitution through expropriation.
3	Resolution 3: Foreign-owned farmland - Foreigners should not be allowed to own farmland but should be given the right to use and develop it on a leasehold basis	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be limitations on number of years with terms and conditions.
4	Resolution 4: Underutilized land - Abandoned and underutilized commercial land should be identified and brought into productive use	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land to be allocated under resettlement programme. • Allocate funds for land acquisition.
5	Resolution 5: Absentee landlords - Land owned by absentee landlords should be expropriated. However, there should be a distinction, in respect of owners who do not live on their farms and between foreign and Namibian owners	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges on expropriation were before 2016. • Time frame for expropriating underutilized Namibian farms should be specified.
6	Resolution 6: Farm size and numbers - Very large farms and ownership of several farms by one owner should not be permitted and such land should be expropriated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ownership of more than one farm should not be allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm size should be an agricultural economic unit but should not be more than 5000 ha. • Existing farms of more than 5000 ha should be subdivided and additional parts be expropriated.
7	Resolution 7: Land tax - There should be land tax on commercial farm lands	Implementation of commercial land tax should continue.	
8	Resolution 8: Technical committee on commercial farmland - Technical committee should be established to evaluate the facts regarding underutilised land, absentee ownership, viable farm sizes in different regions and multiple ownership of farms and make recommendations for acquisition and reallocation of such land and assess taxation on	Technical committees should proceed to evaluate the facts regarding; underutilised land, absentee ownership, viable farm sizes in different regions and multiple ownership of farms, and make recommendations for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply expropriation • Committees to publish reports quarterly and present it to regional councils and traditional authorities.

	commercial farmland.	the acquisition. Reallocation of such land to those who lost land and vulnerable people. Assess taxation on commercial farmland.	
9	Resolution 9: Land tenure - Technical committee should be established to evaluate the legal options concerning possible forms of land tenure consistent with the Constitution	Committees already established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee should proceed doing the work as stipulated in relevant legislations. • Create a Monitoring system.
10	Resolution 10: Farm Workers- Should be afforded rights and protection under a labour code.legislation providing for a charter of rights for farm workers be enacted; the charter should include provision for maximum working hours, sick leave, annual leave, schooling for children, medical care for workers and their families, adequate housing on the farm, pensions, the right to reside on the farm after retirement and grazing rights for farm workers' livestock	The right to reside on the farm after retirement be provided for.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict enforcement of labour act through monitoring.
11	Resolution 11: Assistance to commercial farmers – Established commercial farmers should not only receive financial assistance from the government in exceptional circumstances, which include natural disasters such as drought. The government should consider providing assistance to commercial farmers for programmes of affirmative action, such as improving the conditions of farm workers	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AgriBank to publish reports quarterly and present it to regional councils and traditional authorities. • Create a Monitoring system.

12	Resolution 12: Future of communal areas - Communal areas should be retained, developed and expanded where necessary.	Communal areas should be retained, developed and expanded where necessary as per the Communal Land Reform Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial assistance from government to be provided to communal farmers in exceptional circumstances.
13	Resolution 13: Access to communal land - All Namibian citizens have the right to live wherever they choose within national territory. Seek access to communal land applicants should take account of the rights and customs of the local community living there. Priority should be given to the landless and those without adequate land for subsistence	Seek access to communal land applicants should take account of the rights and customs of the local community and traditional authority living there.	
14	Resolution 14: Disadvantaged communities - The San and disabled should receive special protection of their land rights	All marginalised communities and person living with disability should receive special protection of their land rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional councils and Traditional authority to be mandated to identify marginalized communities. Continuous Monitoring and evaluation must be delegated to regional council. Decrease the number of people in the group resettlement through other programmes.
15	Resolution 15: Game conservation and farmers rights - Farmers in the communal areas should be allowed to give their crops and livestock effective protection from wild animals	Farmers in the communal areas should continue to give their crops and livestock effective protection from wild animals.	
16	Resolution 16: Payment for land - All payment for land (business purposes) should be to the GRN	All lease payments for land (business purposes) should be	

	rather than Traditional Leaders	made to the GRN rather than Traditional Leaders.	
17	Resolution 17: Rights of women - Women should have the right to own the land and to inherit	Still necessary	Privileges to be brought in par with man.
18	Resolution 18: Land allocation and administration - The role of Traditional Leaders in allocating communal land be recognized, but properly defined under law. Land Boards to be introduced	Done	
19	Resolution 19: Stock control barrier - The stock control fence – the so – called ‘Red Line’ – must be removed as soon as possible, but has to be kept in place for a period in order to preserve Namibia’s access to cattle export markets. During this period, the government	The government to ensure suitable market for farmers beyond the ‘Red Line’ to substitute MeatCo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast tracking by 2020. • Fence international boundary. • Buffer lines between regions. • Divide region in two, mainly Kunene North and Kunene South, to promote economic development
20	Resolution 20: Illegal fences - Illegal fencing of land must be stopped and all illegal fences must be removed	Still necessary	
21	Resolution 21: Dual grazing rights - Commercial (and resettlement) farmers should not be allowed to have access to communal grazing land	Dual grazing rights - Communal farmers should also not be allowed to do dual grazing within the communal area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control measures be put in place, e.g. use of ear tags to identify animals. • Fines for dual grazing should be regulated.
22	Resolution 22: Transfer of large communal farmers to commercial land - Large communal farmers should be encouraged to move to commercial areas	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional ways of farming must be discouraged on resettlement farms. • Subsidies to be provided by Government when farmers are moving to resettlement farms.

23	Resolution 23: Access of small farmers to commercial land - Small farmers in the communal areas should be assisted to obtain access to land in the present commercial zone. Small farmers moving into commercial land should be given training, technical advice and assistance to buy and improve their livestock	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers around Etosha National Park to be considered for resettlement.
24	Resolution 24: NGOs and Cooperatives - The work of NGOs and cooperatives in agricultural development should be recognised, encouraged and promoted; The government should assist all NGOs and cooperatives which are active in the field of rural development	Still necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast track full registration of cooperatives. • Capacity building for NGOs and cooperatives. • Government to provide technical and financial support to NGOs and cooperatives. • Evaluating the relationship between the government and NGOs.

Apart from the 24 Resolutions above, the workshop of July 2017 also identified 27 new issues as follows:

No	New recommendations / resolutions
1	Review resettlement committee members regarding composition and functions of statutory bodies.
2	All communities should have recognized traditional authorities to deal with land matters in their area of jurisdiction.
3	Use of land rights should be recognized as collateral when obtaining loans with financial institutions.
4	Prioritize the descendants of farm workers for resettlement.
5	Government to prioritize resettlement of farm workers when farms are acquired.
6	Rights and responsibilities of farm workers to be provided for.
7	To speed up the process from land acquisition to resettlement to avoid the deterioration and vandalism of these farm properties.

8	Make provision for the acquisition of resettlement farms by beneficiaries.
9	Regional Councils to take care of resettlement farms before they are resettled.
10	Overlapping of regional boundaries and traditional authorities' boundaries to be discussed. (Rectification of boundaries)
11	When development is given to traditional authorities, the development should be given according to the need of the communities.
12	Communal Land Reform Act should clearly state that Traditional Authorities should allocate land whether they are recognised or not recognised.
13	Marginalized communities' tenure rights who have been resettled must be formalized.
14	The Human-Wildlife Conflict compensation policy to be implemented with immediate effect.
15	Government should ensure protection of wild animals against damaging crops and killing of livestock of communal farmers.
16	Government should not confiscate the guns of farmers used for protection against wildlife, those confiscated must be returned.
17	Installation of reception towers should be put in place to allow timely response to human-wildlife emergency.
18	Provision for wildlife water points to avoid human-wildlife competition.
19	Partial lease payments for land (business purposes) should be made to the Regional Councils.
20	Benefits of mining and other resources to be directed in community projects that will benefit the communities.
21	The primary allocators (Traditional Authorities) must consult existing right holders before consenting new applicants to prevent conflicts.
22	The land conference should discuss the ways in which the youth can benefit and participate in the resettlement programme.
23	Ten years for Preliminary resettlement before the lease can be extended
24	Resettled people must have a workable and a bankable business plan before they are resettled
25	No land should be registered as a Trust, Close Corporation, companies or any format of juristic person
26	Farm workers children's education must be subsidised by the farm owners
27	Resettlement must be distributed along the regional balance of a ratio 7:3 to regional inhabitants

5. Identification of Regional Land Related Key Issues

Workshop participants were divided into two (2) groups to identify and discuss regional land related key issues. More than 40 issues were identified but harmonized and arranged into five (5) categories and 26 key issues, i.e. Private Commercial Land Issues, Resettlement Commercial Land Issues, Communal Land Issues, Urban Land Issues, and other Issues. The table below reflects all the key issues identified:

Classifications	Issues identified
Private Commercial Land Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ancestral land claims and restitution 2) Absentee landlords (Foreign owned farms 3) Land Purchase and prices
Resettlement Commercial Land Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of Resettlement Programme 2) Farm demarcations 3) Resettlement Criteria 4) Under-utilized resettlement farms 5) Pre and Post resettlement support 6) Inheritance of resettlement farms
Communal Land Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Land allocation and registration 2) Illegal occupation of communal land 3) Illegal fencing 4) Communal land development 5) Land degradation
Urban Land Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Informal settlements 2) Affordability of urban land (prices 3) Land allocation and administration 4) Trading land
Other land and related issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Regional Boundaries and Division of Kunene Region 2) Un-recognized Traditional Leaders 3) Veterinary Cordon Fence (Red line) 4) Game Parks and Concessions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Outdated laws and Policies 6) Natural resources in communal areas 7) Harvesting of natural resources 8) Natural Disasters 9) Human wildlife conflicts
Classified in 5 classifications	Harmonized into 26 Key Issues

6. Discussions on Regional Land Related Key Issues

6.1 Private Commercial Land Issues

6.1.1 Ancestral land claims and restitution

Ancestral land claims was one of the issues extensively discussed by workshop participants. During the colonial era, many people lost their grazing areas as well as homesteads. As such land were turned into commercial farms and some of those farms are still named after grandfathers of people who today have no place to call home. A concern over the Etosha National Park was also raised as the land taken from communal farmers of Kunene, Omusati and Ohangwena Regions.

Recommendations:

- A study on ancestral land should be conducted. One of the outcomes of such a study should be the identification of ancestral land and communities or people who have legitimate claims over the land so identified.
- Ancestral land turned into commercial farms be expropriated and resettled to the rightful owners, which are the people who used to reside in such areas.
- Etosha National Park should be degazetted as a National Park so as the land use is legally changed from a wildlife park to communal residential and farming land for communal farmers in Kunene, Omusati and Ohangwena Regions where the land was taken from.
- Traditional Authorities areas of jurisdictions should be formally demarcated and surveyed. This will assist in the administration of land by Traditional Authorities such as the reallocation of ancestral land to communities under each Traditional Authority.

6.1.2 Absentee landlords (Foreign owned farms)

The workshop described absentee landlords as farmers who owns land in Namibia and live outside the country. Such farmers are either leasing out their farms or comes once in a while just to assess progress on farming activities by their farm managers or workers. Iven though no statistics were provided on the number of absentee landlords in Kunene Region and the country at large, workshop participants raised their concerns on the issue.

Recommendation:

It was recommended that farms of absentee landlords be expropriated and resettled to previously disadvantaged Namibians. People who have legitimate claim on such land, if any, should be given priority.

6.1.3 Land Purchase and prices

The fact that many commercial farms are still in the hands of previously advantaged Namibians and non-Namibians was described as a serious concern as the majority of previously disadvantaged Namibians are still landless.

The willing-seller willing-buyer principle being used by government was described as a failure in the sense that farms in some parts of the country are not forthcoming.

Recommendation: The expropriation method of farm acquisition be fully implemented but with fair compensation, especially for the infrastructure developed by farmers themselves. The provision of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act on the willing seller willing buyer method of land acquisition should be amended in a way that will enable Government to acquire commercial farms within a reasonable time.

6.2 Resettlement Commercial Land Issues

6.2.1 Implementation of Resettlement Programme

The workshop described the implementation of the resettlement programme as more centralization as most of decisions and activities are done by the Ministry of Land Reform at Head Office. The allocation of resettlement farms is vested in the Minister of responsible for land matters with the Land Reform Advisory Commission established to assist the Minister with the selection of beneficiaries.

The Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act provides for the establishment of Committees to assist the Commission in the selection of beneficiaries, hence, the establishment of the Regional Resettlement Committees.

The problem identified here is that in most cases, Resettlement Committee and communities or resettlement applicants are not informed on the outcomes of the advertised farms. Traditional Authorities who always provide support letters to their community members for resettlement also complained of lack of feedback. Resettlement applicants need to be informed of the reasons why their applications are always unsuccessful. The adverts placed in newspapers always announce successful people for resettlement but the workshop was of the opinion that that is insufficient.

Recommendation: The Ministry of Land Reform should develop a mechanism on which all stakeholders (Regional Councils, Traditional Authorities, Resettlement Committees, resettlement applicants, etc.) are well informed with all the decisions or actions taken on all resettlement issues. This is more on the allocation of resettlement farms.

6.2.2 Farm demarcations

Whenever farms are purchased, such farms are demarcated into farming units to enable the Ministry of Land Reform allocate the farms to a number of beneficiaries. However, a concern was still raised that only few people are being resettled on such farms.

Recommendation: The demarcation of farms / land should always follow the Odendaal structure if more people are to be resettled. All relevant stakeholders in the regions should also always be consulted when farms are demarcated.

6.2.3 Resettlement Criteria

The Ministry of Land Reform developed resettlement criteria, which have been used by Regional Resettlement Committees for the past five years or more. The criteria are point scoring criteria which evaluates each applicant in terms of literacy, farming activities engaged on, number of livestock, areas where current farming is taking place, qualification in agriculture and many more criterions.

The challenges identified with the criteria were as follows:

- Just for livestock farms and not crop farms
- Discriminatory as it requires literate farmers with more livestock
- Does not include all categories of farmers
- Discriminate against disabled people as no special farms are advertised for them
- Does not consider allocating certain percentage to the youth

The community also had feelings that there is favoritism in land allocation and should be alleviated. Land should be allocated fairly in a transparent manner.

Recommendation: Resettlement Criteria be revised to consider all categories of farmers and all land uses. Favoritism should be avoided in the Resettlement Programme.

6.2.4 Under-utilized resettlement farms

The workshop noted that in Kunene Region, some resettlement farms are underutilized. There is therefore a need that areas such as Orupembe, Marine Flus, Puros and many more areas be used to benefit the residents.

Recommendation: All underutilized land / farms be identified and reallocated to farmers who need them.

6.2.5 Pre and Post resettlement support

Pre and Post resettlement support for resettlement farmers were described as support services needed for all resettlement farmers. Farmers always have little knowledge on different areas of farming business, thus, training is a prerequisite. Most farmers are also in need of financial support to purchase livestock, farming equipment's and materials.

Recommendation: Improve the existing GRN programmes aimed at supporting farmers financially and technically. Other NGOs should as well come fourth and meet GRN in supporting farmers.

6.2.6 Inheritance of resettlement farms

The workshop was concerned that eventhough the inheritance of resettlement farms is provided for under the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, there are still a number of loopholes which affects families of resettled farmers. The provision of the law which gives Executors powers to assign resettlement farms when the lessee dies is one of the challenges as family members are in most cases not in agreement on who should inherit such a farm.

Recommendation: Amend the provision of the law on inheritance to ensure that the rights of the surviving spouses and all the deceased's children are always protected.

6.3 Communal Land Issues

6.3.1 Land allocation and registration

The sizes of land allocated by Traditional Authorities was the main discussion on land allocation and administration. The Communal Land Reform Act provides for the allocation of customary land rights by Traditional Authorities while rights of leaseholds are allocated by Communal Land Boards.

The concern was mainly on the limitation of land allocated by Traditional Authorities. Participants argued that the 20 ha is not sufficient and should be rejected.

Recommendation: Traditional Authorities be allowed to allocate land without limitation on sizes. Hectares must be given or allocated according to needs, e.g. homestead, garden, etc.

Facilitator's observation: There is no understanding on the provision of the law on sizes which may be allocated as there is no limit on sizes allocated. If a community member needs more than 50 ha for a customary land right, the Traditional Authority and Communal Land Board may make recommendation for the consideration of the Minister. There is therefore a need to educate communities on the Communal Land Reform Act.

6.3.2 Illegal occupation of communal land

A concern was raised and discussed on the illegal occupation of communal land in Kunene Region. Traditional Authorities and Local Authorities are the custodian of land within their areas of jurisdictions. However, it is with dismay that some individuals allocate land illegally to people from other areas to an expense of the locals.

Furthermore, in areas where there are Conservancies, people allocated land illegally moved their animals to such conservation area and as a result this causes overgrazing.

Recommendation: Law enforcement on the administration of communal land should be improved or introduced.

6.3.3 Illegal fencing

A concern was raised on illegal fencing as minimizes residential grazing land for neighboring community members. The available land in Kunene Region has become very insufficient for grazing due to illegal fencing taking place. Illegal fencing also causes disputes among individuals or groups and leads to poverty.

Recommendation: Illegal fencing of communal land must come to an end community member in the region graze communally. All existing illegal fences must be removed. It was further recommended that Traditional Authorities who are allowing illegal fences must be prosecuted.

6.3.4 Communal land development

The Communal Land Reform Act provides for the designation of areas for agricultural purposes. In other regions, such areas have been developed for the farmers to commercialize their farming activities. The concerns raised was that there are communal areas in Kunene region without water and other infrastructure needed for agricultural production.

Recommendation: All undeveloped areas be identified and developed with all required infrastructure for agriculture.

6.3.5 Land degradation

A concern was raised that lack of communication between the farmers leads to draught as some farmers prefer moving their livestock to prominent grazing areas and after that area is overgrazed they decide to move to another area. On the other hand, uncontrolled veld fires also minimize grazing land and causes huge damage to farmlands.

Recommendation: Assistance should be provided by relevant authorities for farmers to control their grazing management. This may be done by developing effective and efficient grazing management plans. On the other hand, draught is caused by lack of rain, therefore the community requested to Government to drill boreholes in severely affected by draught. GRN should as well assist communities develop cutlines in veld fire prone areas.

6.4 Urban Land Issues

6.4.1 Informal settlement

Informal settlement in urban areas are under the management of Town Councils or Municipalities. In Kunene Region, informal settlements also exist and way of living of people in such settlements were a concern at the workshop. Even farm workers sometimes migrate to informal settlements. The Flexible Land Tenure Act and Regulations, administered by the Ministry of Land Reform, was recently passed by Parliament for the registration of land rights in informal settlements.

People are not developing their land due to lack of tenure security as they fear losing their money should the land not be registered in their favor in future.

Recommendation: Fast track the formalization of informal settlements to secure rights of people living in such areas and increase state revenue.

6.4.2 Affordability of urban land (prices)

The community had concerns that Urban Land has become very expensive as a result, only those who afford benefit from Urban Land. Further some people owns multiple of properties (Land) in urban land whilst the majority suffers in informal settlements. Furthermore, the community raised a concern that the bureaucratic process in towns hinders development especially for township establishments

Recommendations:

- People who occupied land before town's proclamation be given the first priority to purchase that land.
- Land should be divided in portions for those who can afford or even to groups such as shark dwellers federation. Further measures should be put in place for those who can't afford.
- Developers must include prepaid meters in their buildings for both water and electricity.
- People must be allowed to buy land on affordable installments to Municipalities without necessarily getting money to the Banks

6.4.3 Land allocation and administration

A number of issues were raised on urban land allocation and administration. Land being allocated to foreigners is a very huge concern while most Namibians do not have land. The community also had feelings that there is favoritism in land allocation and should be alleviated. Land should be allocated fairly in a transparent manner. Allowing people to own more than one plot in one town also reduces chances of other people to buy land. This may be because of poor administration by Town Councils as people always sell land from one to another and later register their land through Town Councils.

Recommendations:

- Local Authorities should come up with laws restricting land allocations to foreigners in urban areas
- People should not be allowed to have more than one plot in a town, thus, the should be amended in this regard. Allow people to have many plots in different towns and not in one town.
- Establish Committee to identify those selling land to one another who already have to stop the practice.

6.4.4 Trading in town

Due to increase in number of people flocking into the town in search of better living condition it has resulted in mushrooming of people trading around in Opuwo town which is a bad image to the tourist as well as our visitors. Epupa informal markets is facing lots of challenges and risks such as shack fires, water & sanitation and shack proliferation.

Recommendation: Open Market should be constructed in urban areas. It is vital to construct an Open Market which will be more hygienic compared to the current situation.

6.5 Other Land and Related Issues

6.5.1 Regional Boundaries and Division of Kunene Region

In Kunene Region, political regional boundaries especially at the border with Omusati Region was described problematic. This refers to Traditional Authorities with land in two regions. For example, people who used to be in Kunene Region now they fall under Omusati Region. There is and overlap of political boundaries and Traditional Authorities areas of jurisdictions. Kunene Region was also described as too huge which makes it very difficult for administration purposes. The Region is divided into Kunene North and Kunene South and two Special Advisors for the Governor due to the vastness of the Region.

Recommendation:

- Political regional boundaries must be as per Communal Land Reform Act
- Traditional Authorities boundaries must be in line with Regional boundaries.
- The region be divided into two by simply recognizing the existing division of the region into Kunene North and Kunene South

6.5.2 Un-recognized Traditional Leaders

The un-recognized Traditional Authorities is one of the biggest challenges facing communal land administration in Kunene Region. Within the region, there are still some areas being administered by un-recognized Traditional Authorities who do not have full authorities on land administration. Land ownership in areas without recognized Traditional Authorities has become a challenge as there is uncontrolled allocation of land in such areas. Some Traditional Authorities have been allocating land to people in areas where other Traditional authorities are recognized as they do not respect other Traditional Authorities.

Recommendation:

- Government should investigate areas where there are no recognized Chiefs and make decisions if un-recognized Traditional Authorities in such areas should be recognized or not. Each piece of land in the country should fall under a recognized Chief or Traditional Authority good governance of communal land.
- Un-recognized Traditional Authorities with land be recognized to allocate and administer land in their areas of jurisdictions. Any Chief recognized by his people and have land should be recognized by Government.

6.5.3 Veterinary Cordon Fence (Red line)

The community urged that negotiations to move the Cordon Fence to the Angolan border post be necessitated. They stressed that the current surveillance zone has blocked many farmers to trade their animals to the other parts of the country. Further it impedes development as there is no beef market and other economical means. Further a request has been made that if the Veterinary Cordon Fence is moved to the Angolan boarder post, the **Omutambo Uomaue** should still remain under strict veterinary controls and allow animals to be quarantined for 21 days before they are taken outside the VCF

Recommendation:

- GRN must come up with budget and time line on the removal of the red line
- A fence between Namibia and Angola must be erected to have strict veterinary controls between the two countries and this should be done before removing the current red line as it controls animal disease expansion.
- In fact, the Red line fence must remain, but GRN should just do aware with current requirements

6.5.4 Game Parks and Concessions

The workshop was concerned that much of the land where communities are supposed to be farming are declared Game Parks. Land where people used to stay have become concession areas and communities don't have any say on the land. Original occupants who are marginalized loose out on their land and don't get privileges out of it as even government gets such privileges out of it. Tourism is important which comes from the concessions but people on the ground don't benefit but continue to loose their land. There are no benefits for communities.

Recommendation: Land currently used for concessions be returned to communities for farming purposes.

6.5.5 Outdated laws and Policies

A request was made that to avoid bureaucratic process in the Offices such as Township Board, Surveyor General & NAMPAP, formulation of a White Paper for these Boards be made as this bureaucratic process delays development for township establishments.

All other outdated laws be identified and new Bills / Acts in line with the needs of the Namibian people be developed.

6.5.6 Natural resources in communal areas

The main discussion here was mainly on mining rights which were described to have no benefits to local communities. Consultation is never made to Traditional Authorities in their areas of jurisdictions; mining activities does not benefit the locals. Further EPL's are given to foreigners. A request was made for those with mining rights to be given to people from those Regions. In addition those given rights should consult Authorities governing those specific areas.

EPL's are given from Central Government sometimes and when allocated they affect residential areas of local communities. Further, Mines damage the environment and the forest. EIA carried should always address issues pertaining to the environment and forest damage. Community involvement in laws and policies at an early stage of such laws is a prerequisite.

Illegal Harvesting of forest products was also raised a a challenge as harvesting of forest products also damages the environment. In addition, it contributes to draught.

Recommendation:

- The Ministry of Mines and Energy should establish an Office in Kunene Region and share information to stakeholders as much as possible. Data taken from the ground must be known to the regions and the processing of stones must be done locally to boost economy
- There must be strong coordination and cooperation between the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Ministry of Land Reform when it comes to mining activities on resettlement farms and communal areas.

6.5.7 Human wildlife conflicts

The workshop was of the opinion that available laws on Human Wildlife Conflict are very biased as they are only there to protect the indigenous wildlife animals and not humans. Therefore, these predators should be minimized in

communal areas. In addition, support should be given towards gardens damaged by the predators.

It was also said that areas where wildlife lives and are being used for farming creates conflicts between cattle and wildlife because of lack of proper management of land. Farmers block natural river flow for individual benefit and downflow is not taking place resulting in drop of water level underground and disadvantages underlying farmers.

Recommendation:

- The policy on human wildlife conflict should be amended to protect humans and the method of reimbursements be revised.
- Find ways, if any, on how humans and predators shall be able to leave on the same land.
- Compensation for conflict with livestock be increased if not yet increased to N\$100,000.00

6.5.8 Land Use Options for improved livelihoods

More land (about 78%) of Kunene Region is communal land and 9% is for the upcoming farmers. Adult population of Kunene is 54% from the 86000 people in the region. This means 120 ha per adult, if everybody wants land. Valuable land is not given to people who can use it fully and upcoming farmers experience problems on how to use the land to be productive.

Recommendation: Traditional Authorities and Communal Land Boards be guided in the allocation of land for land uses which may improve livelihoods of communities.

7. Summary of Recommendations and/or Resolutions

The 43 Workshop resolutions are herewith summarized below:

1. A study on ancestral land should be conducted. One of the outcomes of such a study should be the identification of ancestral land and communities or people who have legitimate claims over the land so identified.
2. Ancestral land turned into commercial farms be expropriated and resettled to the rightful owners, which are the people who used to reside in such areas.
3. Etosha National Park should be degazetted as a National Park so as the land use is legally changed from a wildlife park to communal residential and farming land for communal farmers in Kunene, Omusati and Oshanaungwenya Regions where the land was taken from.

4. Traditional Authorities areas of jurisdictions should be formally demarcated and surveyed. This will assist in the administration of land by Traditional Authorities such as the reallocation of ancestral land to communities under each Traditional Authority.
5. It was recommended that farms of absentee landlords be expropriated and resettled to previously disadvantaged Namibians. People who have legitimate claim on such land, if any, should be given priority.
6. The expropriation method of farm acquisition be fully implemented but with fair compensation, especially for the infrastructure developed by farmers themselves. The provision of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act on the willing seller willing buyer method of land acquisition should be amended in a way that will enable Government to acquire commercial farms within a reasonable time.
7. The Ministry of Land Reform should develop a mechanism on which all stakeholders (Regional Councils, Traditional Authorities, Resettlement Committees, resettlement applicants, etc.) are well informed with all the decisions or actions taken on all resettlement issues. This is more on the allocation of resettlement farms.
8. The demarcation of farms / land should always follow the Odendaal structure if more people are to be resettled. All relevant stakeholders in the regions should also always be consulted when farms are demarcated.
9. Resettlement Criteria be revised to consider all categories of farmers and all land uses. Favoritism should be avoided in the Resettlement Programme.
10. The workshop noted that in Kunene Region, some resettlement farms are underutilized. There is therefore a need that areas such as Orupembe, Marine Flus, Puros and many more areas be used to benefit the residents.
11. All underutilized land / farms be identified and reallocated to farmers who need them.
12. Improve the existing GRN programmes aimed at supporting farmers financially and technically. Other NGOs should as well come fourth and meet GRN in supporting farmers.
13. Amend the provision of the law on inheritance to ensure that the rights of the surviving spouses and all the deceased's children are always protected.

14. Traditional Authorities be allowed to allocate land without limitation on sizes. Hectares must be given or allocated according to needs, e.g. homestead, garden, etc.
15. Law enforcement on the administration of communal land should be improved or introduced.
16. Illegal fencing of communal land must come to an end community member in the region graze communally. All existing illegal fences must be removed. It was further recommended that Traditional Authorities who are allowing illegal fences must be prosecuted.
17. All undeveloped areas be identified and developed with all required infrastructure for agriculture.
18. Assistance should be provided by relevant authorities for farmers to control their grazing management. This may be done by developing effective and efficient grazing management plans. On the other hand, draught is caused by lack of rain, therefore the community requested to Government to drill boreholes in severely affected by draught. GRN should as well assist communities develop cutlines in veld fire prone areas
19. Fast track the formalization of informal settlements to secure rights of people living in such areas and increase state revenue.
20. People who occupied land before town's proclamation be given the first priority to purchase that land.
21. Land should be divided in portions for those who can afford or even to groups such as shark dwellers federation. Further measures should be put in place for those who can't afford.
22. Developers must include prepaid meters in their buildings for both water and electricity.
23. People must be allowed to buy land on affordable installments to Municipalities without necessarily getting money to the Banks
24. Local Authorities should come up with laws restricting land allocations to foreigners in urban areas
25. People should not be allowed to have more than one plot in a town, thus, the should be amended in this regard. Allow people to have many plots in different towns and not in one town.
26. Establish Committee to identify those selling land to one another who already have to stop the practice.
27. Open Market should be constructed in urban areas. It is vital to construct an Open Market which will be more hygienic compared to

- the current situation.
28. Political regional boundaries must be as per Communal Land Reform Act
 29. Traditional Authorities boundaries must be in line with Regional boundaries.
 30. The region be divided into two by simply recognizing the existing division of the region into Kunene North and Kunene South
 31. Government should investigate areas where there are no recognized Chiefs and make decisions if un-recognized Traditional Authorities in such areas should be recognized or not. Each piece of land in the country should fall under a recognized Chief or Traditional Authority good governance of communal land.
 32. Un-recognized Traditional Authorities with land be recognized to allocate and administer land in their areas of jurisdictions. Any Chief recognized by his people and have land should be recognized by Government.
 33. GRN must come up with budget and time line on the removal of the red line
 34. A fence between Namibia and Angola must be erected to have strict veterinary controls between the two countries and this should be done before removing the current red line as it controls animal disease expansion.
 35. In fact, the Red line fence must remain, but GRN should just do aware with current requirements
 36. Land currently used for concessions be returned to communities for farming purposes.
 37. All outdated laws be identified and new Bills / Acts in line with the needs of the Namibian people be developed.
 38. The Ministry of Mines and Energy should establish an Office in Kunene Region and share information to stakeholders as much as possible. Data taken from the ground must be known to the regions and the processing of stones must be done locally to boost economy
 39. There must be strong coordination and cooperation between the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Ministry of Land Reform when it comes to mining activities on resettlement farms and communal areas.
 40. The policy on human wildlife conflict should be amended to protect

- humans and the method of reimbursements be revised.
41. Find ways, if any, on how humans and predators shall be able to leave on the same land.
 42. Compensation for conflict with livestock be increased if not yet increased to N\$100,000.00
 43. Traditional Authorities and Communal Land Boards be guided in the allocation of land for land uses which may improve livelihoods of communities.

8. Closing Remarks and Conclusion

The Chairperson of the Regional Council closed the workshop by thanking the President, Organizers and all stakeholders who participated for the fruitful workshop.

The Region was thankful that it was part the consultation. Consultation were done in 2016, in 2017 now we are being consulted again. Kunene Region will not cry that we were not consulted after we are now being consulted for the 3rd time. We gave our inputs which will be taken to the National Land Conference for discussions, together with inputs from other regions.

The Chairperson said he was impressed by wisdom and courage of Traditional Authorities for having attended all days the two days of the workshop. He finally informed participants that this was a consultation, thus, it does not mean all recommendations of the workshop will form part of the Land Conference Resolutions by the regions' representatives must try to motivate so as many of Kunene's recommendations become part of the Land Conference Resolutions.

ANNEXURES

Annex 1: Workshop Programme

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN THE PREPARATION FOR
THE SECOND NATIONAL LAND CONFERENCE, OCT. 2018

KUNENE REGION

Kunene Regional Council

19 - 20 JULY 2018

Day 1: Thursday, 19 July 2018

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
08H00 – 09H00	Arrival of invited Guests and Registration	
09H00 – 09H10	National and AU Anthems	All
09H10 – 09H20	Welcoming Remarks and the purpose of the Consultations by the Director of Ceremonies	DC
09H20 – 09H40	Remarks by Regional Governor	
10H00 – 10H30	<i>HEALTH BREAK</i>	
10H30 – 11H30	Presentation of the Concept Paper for the Second National Land Conference.	Ministry of Land Reform
	Discussions and Clarifications	
11H30 – 11H30	Presentation of the Regional consultation Report for 2017.	Regional Council
	Discussions and Clarifications	Facilitators
13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14H00 – 15H00	Identification of topical regional land related issues.	Facilitators:
	Discussions and Clarifications	
15H00 – 15H30	Health Break	
15H30 – 17H00	Discussions and Clarifications	Facilitators:
17H00	End of Day One	

Day 2: Friday, 20 July 2018

TIME	ACTIVITY	REPORTER
09H00 – 10H00	Recap of Day One	Facilitators:
	Discussions	
10H00 – 10H30	<i>TEA BREAK</i>	
10H30 – 13H00	Presentation of Regional Resolutions for adoption	Facilitators:
13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14H00 – 15H00	Presentation of Regional Resolutions for adoption	Facilitators:
15H00 -15H30	<i>TEA BREAK</i>	
15H30 – 16H40	Presentation of Regional Resolutions for adoption	
15H40 – 16H50	Closure	
16H50 – 17H00	AU and National Anthem	
17H00	End of Day One	

Annex 2: Attendance Register

Annex 3: Speech: Welcoming Remarks

Annex 4: Speech: Opening Remarks

**STATEMENT BY MARIUS S. T. SHEYA
REGIONAL GOVERNOR OF KUNENE REGION
OFFICIAL OPENING REMARKS**

FOR

**THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN THE PREPARATION FOR THE
SECOND NATIONAL LAND CONFERENCE, OCT.2018**

19-20 JULY 2018

OPUWO

- **Director of Ceremonies**
 - **Your Worship the Mayor of Opuwo,**
 - **Members of the High Level Committee,**
 - **Members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee,**
 - **All Regional Councilors Present,**
 - **All Local Authorities Councilors Present,**
 - **Senior Government Officials,**
 - **Representative of Political Parties,**
 - **Representatives of Churches,**
 - **Representative of Civil Society,**
 - **Honorable Chiefs and Esteemed Traditional Authorities present,**
 - **Academia;**
 - **Namibia Agricultural Union,**
 - **Namibia National Farmers Union,**
 - **Namibia Farm Workers,**
 - **Trade Unions,**
 - **Business Fraternity,**
 - **Development Partners present,**
 - **Invited Guests,**
 - **Media Representatives,**
-

1. It is my distinct honour and privilege to address and welcome you all to this remarkable event, being the occasion for our region to engage all our stakeholders in the build up to the activities that will culminate to the hosting of the 2nd National Land Conference by our country in October, this year.
2. I am pleased to have this opportunity to address such an esteemed audience that includes the diverse representation of our Namibian population and all those who were free to join this gathering today. I would like to commend the efforts by the Office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister in collaboration with the Ministry of Land Reform as well as our Kunene Regional Council to convene this important consultations aimed at discussing the land issues in preparation of the Second National Land Conference that is scheduled to take place in October this year. I cannot over emphasise the importance of this second round of consultations and the ones that have preceded this one in July 2017.
3. In the past two years, we all have witnessed regional consultations towards our envisaged Second National Land Conference, such events took place in August 2016 and July 2017 and all were geared towards sensitising, engaging and listening to the views of the Namibian communities in all the 14 Regions in preparation for the deliberations on land issues in October, this year.
4. One may ask why we are still having regional consultations now if we held similar workshops last year in preparation for the Second National Land Conference. The Government decided to hold these regional consultations again due to the following three reasons;
 - c) For the 2017 regional consultations, emphasis was more on reviewing the 24 resolutions of the 1991 Land Conference. We now need regional stakeholders to identify key land issues affecting land administration in the region for these workshops to focus more on such issues and come up with regional positions for presentation at the Second National land conference.
 - d) Some sections of our society felt there were left out in the first consultations, hence the second round of consultations for inclusivity.
5. The land question is a social and economic issue. It is about addressing dispossession, equity and promoting productive and sustainable livelihoods through implementing programmes targeted at poverty eradication. Therefore, after **27 years of implementing the 24 Consensus Resolutions on Land that were reached during the 1991 National Conference on Land Reform and the Land Question**, the

Ministry, as articulated and directed in the **Harambee Prosperity Plan, 2016/17- 2019/20** and as directed by His Excellency, the President, Dr. Hage Geingob during the State of Nation's address, found it important to once again re-group, consult and accord the Namibian Nation the platform to contribute on the direction that the current Land Reform process should take. This call is made to all Stakeholders to review the progress made, challenges encountered and propose ways to expedite the Land Reform Programme informed by the contemporary issues.

6. As a Government, we are asking the nation to be ready to re-assess, discuss and map the way forward in terms of our mandate. This time we are also guided and make reference to our different experiences as Namibians on what has worked, what did not work, what is currently not working, what needs to be adjusted, fine-tuned or totally discarded in terms of our land policy and legal framework.
7. At these consultations we should not only focus on Farming/ Agriculture land but we should equally do justice by discussing urban land reform.
8. Today, as we start the discussions to the build up to our 2nd National Land Conference that is to be held on the **1st – 5th October 2018**, let us be mindful of the responsibility to provide and maintain a platform for open discourse on land matters. These consultations are inclusive and will be conducted in the language of choice that people understand so that no Namibian is left out of the discussion. All inputs are important and none are too small. We want everyone to participate and contribute to the agenda that has been set for today.
9. As alluded by our leader His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, We support and believe it is time the Redline or Veterinary Condor Fence is done away with in a appropriate manner to have inclusive economic opportunities, the regions affected by these line have the most number of livestock in Namibia yet are excluded from the lucrative export markets.

Director of Ceremonies, on our Programme, we have a session where we shall identify and discuss specific topical regional land related issues that are pertinent to our region. Let thereafter ensure that collectively we identify, discuss and reach consensus on such issues that, as a region will have an impact on land reform programme.

In conclusion, Director of Ceremonies, I urge all participants to be open and listen to each other and most importantly come out of these discussions with concrete resolutions that will inform our current land reform. With these remarks, it is now my singular honor to declare to the

Region that the Kunene Regional Consultations on the 2nd National Land Conference is officially opened.

I THANK YOU

MARIUS SIKUNAWA TUYOLENI SHEYA
GOVERNOR

Annex 5: Statement by the Namib-Daman Traditional Authority

Annex 6: Statement by the !Ao//Aen Traditional Authority

Annex 7: Statement by the /Gaio-Daman Traditional Authority

Annex 8: Resolutions of the Land Conference contribution from Kamanjab
Youth Forum July 2018