



Republic of Namibia



# Omaheke Regional Council

REGIONAL  
CONSULTATIONS  
IN PREPARATION  
FOR THE SECOND  
NATIONAL LAND  
CONFERENCE,  
26 - 27 July 2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION ..... 7

2. WELCOMING REMARKS AND PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP ..... 7

    2.1. Remarks by the Director of Ceremony ..... 7

    2.2. Welcoming Remarks by the Mayor ..... 8

    2.3. Official Opening by the Regional Governor ..... 8

3. GROUP DISCUSSIONS ..... 9

    3.1. RESOLUTION 2: ANCESTRAL LAND ..... 10

    3.2. RESOLUTION 3: FOREIGN OWNED LAND ..... 10

        Description of issues..... 10

        Workshop recommendations ..... 11

    3.3. RESOLUTION 4: UNDERUTILIZED LAND ..... 11

        Description of issues..... 11

        Workshop Recommendations..... 11

    3.4. RESOLUTION 5: ABSENTEE LANDLORDS ..... 11

        Description of issues..... 11

        Workshop recommendations/Resolutions ..... 12

    3.5. RESOLUTION 6: FARM SIZE AND NUMBERS ..... 12

        Description of issues..... 12

        Workshop Recommendations..... 12

    3.6. RESOLUTION 7: LAND TAX ..... 12

        Workshop Recommendations..... 13

    3.7. RESOLUTION 8: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ..... 13

        Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions ..... 13

3.8.	RESOLUTION 9: LAND TENURE.....	13
	Description of issues.....	13
	Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions .....	14
3.9.	RESOLUTION 10: FARM WORKERS .....	14
	Description of issues.....	14
	Workshop Recommendations.....	14
3.10.	RESOLUTION 11: ASSISTANCE TO COMMERCIAL FARMERS .....	14
	Description of issues.....	14
	Workshop Recommendations.....	14
3.11.	RESOLUTION 12: THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE COMMUNAL AREAS .....	15
	Description of issues.....	15
	Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions .....	15
3.12.	RESOLUTION 13: ACCESS TO COMMUNAL LAND.....	15
	Description of issues.....	15
	Workshop Recommendations.....	15
3.13.	RESOLUTION 14: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.....	16
	Description of issues.....	16
	Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions .....	16
3.14.	RESOLUTION 15: GAME CONSERVATION .....	16
	Description of issues.....	16
	Workshop Recommendations.....	17
3.15.	RESOLUTION 16: PAYMENT FOR LAND .....	17
	Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions .....	17
3.16.	RESOLUTION 17: RIGHTS FOR WOMEN .....	17

Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions: .....	17
3.17. RESOLUTION 18: LAND ALLOCATION AND ADMINISTRATION .....	18
Description of issues.....	18
Workshop Recommendations:.....	18
3.18. RESOLUTION 19: STOCK CONTROL.....	18
Description of issues.....	18
Workshop recommendations .....	19
3.19. RESOLUTION 20: ILLEGAL FENCING .....	19
Description of issues.....	19
Workshop recommendations .....	19
3.20. RESOLUTION 21: DUAL GRAZING.....	20
Description of issues.....	20
Workshop recommendations .....	20
3.21. RESOLUTION 22: TRANSFER OF LARGE COMMUNAL FARMERS TO COMMERCIAL LAND .....	20
Description of issues.....	20
Workshop recommendations .....	20
3.22. RESOLUTION 23: ACCESS FOR SMALL FARMERS TO COMMERCIAL LAND 21	
Description of issues.....	21
Workshop recommendations .....	21
3.23. RESOLUTION 24: NGOs AND COOPERATIVES.....	21
Description of issues.....	21
Workshop recommendations .....	21
4. ADDITIONAL ISSUES1: URBAN LAND .....	21

Description of issues:.....	21
Workshop recommendations .....	22
4.1. ADDITIONAL ISSUES 2: LAND AUDIT .....	22
Description of issues.....	22
Workshop recommendations .....	23
4.2. ADDITIONAL ISSUES 3: RESETTLEMENT .....	23
Description of issues.....	23
Workshop recommendations .....	23
5. CONCLUSION.....	24

## **ANNEXURES**

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**Annex 1:** Workshop Programme

**Annex 2:** Attendance Register

**Annex 3:** Speech: Welcoming Remarks

**Annex 4:** Speech: Opening Remarks

**Annex 5:** Written Inputs submitted by the Marginalized group

**Annex 6:** Written input submitted by the Tswana Traditional Authority

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to the preparations of the second National Land Conference, the Ministry of Land Reform (MLR) was tasked to ensure consultations with a wider spectrum of citizens in order to gather wider views on how the country could move forward with regards to land reform and land redistribution in Namibia. Given this expectation, the Ministry in collaboration with the Omaheke Regional Council (ORC) conducted a consultative meeting with stakeholders within the region. This meeting which took place from the 26 - 27 July 2018 at Epako Women Centre Hall of the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare, in Gobabis recorded an impressive attendance of about 320 participants on the 1<sup>st</sup> day (Thursday, 26 July 2018) and 290 participants on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day (Friday, 27 July 2018).

Among the attendants were the high level delegation which comprised of the Minister for Presidential Affairs (Hon. Martin Andjaba), the Khomas Regional Governor (Hon. Laura McLeod-Katjirua), the Attorney General (Hon. Albert Kawana), Prof. Kaapama and Mr Martina Shapi both from the University of Namibia (UNAM).

Other invitees included the civic organizations, traditional authorities (recognized and unrecognized), non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, constituency development committees, youth representatives, farmers associations, cooperatives, and women organizations.

## **2. WELCOMING REMARKS AND PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP**

### **2.1. Remarks by the Director of Ceremony**

To kick start the consultations Mr. Kahijoro Kahure who was the Director of Ceremonies indicated to the audience that these consultations on land reform and land distribution was intended as a “filter” engagement of the views of the inhabitants of the region in preparation of the Second National Land Conference slated October 2018. He also mentioned that the regional consultation for Omaheke region was but one of the several other consultations that were taking place in various regions country wide. He reminded the meeting that these consultations were coming at a time when the region was riddled with instances of farm workers being fired by the farm owners and only to be dumped in

corridors and town lands, thus resulting into growing informal settlement as the only settlement option for these workers.

## **2.2. Welcoming Remarks by the Mayor**

On behalf of the Mayor, Councillor John Naodoeb welcomed the workshop participants and pointed out that the land question is a sensitive issue that requires a mature approach from the citizens. He appealed to all participants to take care and control of their emotions in their discussions and contributions, while ensuring that they identify key regional and national land issues that they could propose to inform land related policies and legislation. He concluded by cautioning the audience to embrace the government policy of national reconciliation while advancing their interest with regards to land reform and land distribution.

## **2.3. Official Opening by the Regional Governor**

The official opening was seen off by Hon. Raphael Mokaleng, the Okorukambe Constituency Councillor, who did so on behalf of the governor who was not present. In his remarks he mentioned that the majority of Namibians have been denied land for centuries resulting in the current situations where only a fraction of the Namibian population has access to the majority of agricultural land. He pointed out that the land question has political, social and economic dimensions hence, any discussions of the issue need to take cognizance of this reality.

He further reminded the participants that land was central to the liberation struggle and despite so many years of independence, the issue remain high on the agenda of government. It is for this very reason that, the Second National Conference is long overdue and the inhabitants of Omahake are therefore happy to be hosting the regional consultations serving as an important precursor to the National Conference slated for October 2018.

The mentioned that the second land conference will also be the platform where the nation will be taking stock of the state of implementation of the resolutions of the first National Land Conference of 1991. The Hon. Councillor pointed out that these



consultations are an enrichment of the July of 2017 consultations that saw the region discussing and making recommendations on several land matters. However, given the postponement of the land conference, it was decided that further consultations in all 14 region be conducted in order to allow for broader input from a wider spectrum of the county's citizens.

Among the resolutions of the regional (Omaheke) consultations, the Councilor singled out ancestral land claim to be one of the issues that should be allowed to be discussed in order to accommodate those who had been dispossessed of land to receive preferential treatment in land redistribution.

The governor's official opening was preceded with a presentation of the Concept Paper by the Ministry of Land Reform's Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ms Esther Lusepani), which was also followed by the Regional Council's presentation of the previous year's (2017) regional consultation outcomes. This later presentation was conducted by the Director of Planning, Mr. Tjienda and it also was followed by a brief plenary discussions before the audience splitting into groups to discuss various topical land and land related issues.

### **3. GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

The participants were divided in various interest groups such as Communal and Commercial farmers, Youth, Local Authorities and Regional Council, Women, Farmers Union NGO/Cooperatives, Marginalized Communities, Tswana /Bakgalahari Traditional Authorities, Ovaherero /Ovambanderu Traditional Authorities (due to a high number of participants, these were further divided into groups A&B) Afrikaans Speaking, Damara /Nama Traditional Authorities, San Traditional Authority and Farm workers. Each groups discussed all the 24 resolutions of the 1991 Land Conference and had the liberty to identify and discuss any other land related issues as follows:

#### ***Workshop recommendations***

- National referendum be conducted to pave for amendments to the Namibia Constitution, Articles 131, 100 and 16(2) that will enable government to expropriate land without compensation.

- Excess land that has been unjustly acquired be expropriated without compensation by the state for the purposes of land reform.

### **3.1. RESOLUTION 2: ANCESTRAL LAND**

#### *Description of issues*

The workshop acknowledged the fact that the 1991 Land Conference concluded not to allow ancestral land claim as communities' ancestral land overlapped and further that this issue was far too complicated. However, the workshop felt that there is no opportune time than now to discuss this very sensitive issue in an attempt to enable the restitution of ancestral land to the displaced communities. It was loudly pronounced that the indigenous people were removed from their ancestral land and deprived the right practice their cultures while their traditional governance structures were cruelly collapsed by the colonialist.

Most heritage sites of the indigenous people are now on private farmlands and inaccessible to them. All such sites should therefore be expropriated by the government and handed over to the respective Traditional Authorities under whose jurisdiction such sites falls. It is proposed that research be done in order to identify and properly document ancestral land. It was suggested that a committee be set up which will perform the function of establishing and authenticating all ancestral land claims. Further, preferential treatment should be given to those who lost land when allocating land for resettlement

#### ***Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions***

- Ancestral land right claims be considered and a detailed study on this subject be conducted to pave way for land restitution.

### **3.2. RESOLUTION 3: FOREIGN OWNED LAND**

#### **Description of issues**

Agricultural commercial farmland ownership by Foreigners should not be allowed as they deprive citizens from accessing or owning land. The government must implement land expropriation in order to aid other land acquisition methods. Land owned by foreigners in Namibia should be expropriated without compensation through

Constitutional Referendum to repeal Articles 131, 100 and amend Article 16 of the Namibian Constitution.

### **Workshop recommendations**

- The government must ensure the implementation of the 1991 resolution on foreign owned land. Once the land rights are revoked, the land must be allotted to those who lost it during colonial dispossession.

### **3.3. RESOLUTION 4: UNDERUTILIZED LAND**

#### **Description of issues**

The 1991 Land Conference resolved that un- and under-utilized land be developed for commercial agricultural purposes. The workshop acknowledges that some attempts were made to implement this resolution but no tangible results have been yielded to so. Government should thus ensure the full implementation of this resolution. Foreigners should not be allowed to occupy land which they do not fully utilize as such land should be expropriated for redistribution to those who lost land. Communal areas should be developed into villages and fenced off for better livestock management.

#### **Workshop Recommendations**

- Identify underutilized commercial agricultural land for expropriation,
- Allow the traditional communities to fence off their villages and grazing lands for better livestock management.

### **3.4. RESOLUTION 5: ABSENTEE LANDLORDS**

#### **Description of issues**

Foreign absentee landlord's land is to be automatically expropriated without compensation and be available for redistribution. However, a distinction should be made between Namibian and Foreign owned absentee landlords. Allocation of land acquired for redistribution should be done on a 70/30 basis in favour of the local inhabitants (for example if land is acquired within Omaheke region, 70% of such land should be allocated to Omaheke region's inhabitants and the remainder 30% to those from other regions).

### ***Workshop recommendations/Resolutions***

- Government should expropriated land owned by foreign absentee landlords,
- Land acquired for redistribution be allocated on a 70/30 basis in favour of the inhabitants in whose region such land is acquired.

### **3.5. RESOLUTION 6: FARM SIZE AND NUMBERS**

#### ***Description of issues***

Many farm owners continue to occupy vast track of land while the majority of Namibians remain landless. In order to address this issue, the government should introduce land size ceilings for agricultural (commercial) land owners. Such land sizes should be set based on the agro-ecological zones and land uses. Any person with land in excess of the land size limits so set should be forced to sell excess land to the state at a prize to be determined by government. Government must conduct a study to determine the size of commercial land needed for purposes of productive farming in each region and thereafter by law determine acceptable land size caps of agricultural commercial land.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations***

- The government must conduct a study to determine maximum farmland sizes of commercial land needed for productive farming in each region and thereafter, compel farm owners to sell excess land to the state for redistribution.

### **3.6. RESOLUTION 7: LAND TAX**

#### ***Description of issues***

The workshop recommended that punitive land tax should be levied on absentee landlords in order to compel them to offer/sell their land to government for resettlement purposes. Absentee land owners in Namibia must be taxed at the market value and not the production value of the farm. Expropriation of land as a legal tool is available to Government and should be used to complement tax mechanism.

### ***Workshop Recommendations***

- The workshop supports/upholds the 1991 National Land Conference's resolution on this issue for implementation.

### **3.7. RESOLUTION 8: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

#### ***Description of issues***

The workshop acknowledges that this particular resolution was implemented but the recommendations of the Permanent Technical Team (PTT) was not systematically implemented mandate.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions***

- The government to revisit the PTT (2005) recommendations and ensure systematic and full implementation thereof.

### **3.8. RESOLUTION 9: LAND TENURE**

#### ***Description of issues***

In Omaheke, the issue of land tenure centred on commercial farms bought by the previous Tswana Administration which were converted into communal land by virtue of Proclamation AG 8 of 1980, in particular item 1(b) of the Schedule to the Proc. AG 8 OF 1980. This farmland is about 75 000 hectares in extend. Tswana speaking people were settled on these farms by the then Tswana Administration before independence, each allotted farming units measuring approximately 350 to 1100 hectares respectively. In the title deeds of the said farms filed at the Deeds Office in the Ministry of Land Reform, it is indicated therein that the said farms are communal land. The Communal Land Reform Act of 2002 should therefore be amended to specify that, all the farms that were bought by the Tswana Administration before independence are communal land, unless such farms have been transferred to individuals by the Tswana Administration. The workshop shares in the view that, the said farms are communal farms under the Tswana Traditional Authority and should be classified as such and not be treated as resettlement farms. The workshop was informed that this matter has been brought under the attention of the Ministry of Land Reform as well as the Office of the Prime Minister in August 2017, but though without any response.

Therefore, given the fact that the communal land for the Tswana is the smallest in Namibia and currently overpopulated, it is proposed that these communal areas when recognised as such be extended whenever commercial farms are bought within the vicinity.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions***

- Accord communal tenure rights to farms acquired by the previous Tswana Administration for the Tswana traditional communities.

### **3.9. RESOLUTION 10: FARM WORKERS**

#### ***Description of issues***

The workshop acknowledged that farm workers are often left stranded when farms change hands with nowhere to go, in the process they lose their hard earned animals as they have nowhere to farm. Farm workers should be given the first opportunity to be resettled when farms are bought by the government and be supported in order to enable them to maintain productivity.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations***

- Generational farm workers should be given priority with regards to resettlement

### **3.10. RESOLUTION 11: ASSISTANCE TO COMMERCIAL FARMERS**

#### ***Description of issues***

It is a known fact that those who acquired lands through the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme (AALS) are struggling financially and some also lack skills to farm commercially. The government should thus provide assistance to these farmers especially during the drought period.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations***

- The government should offer tailored support (e.g. inputs, training, finance, etc.) to AALS and Resettlement farmers in order to enable them farm productively.

### **3.11. RESOLUTION 12: THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE COMMUNAL AREAS**

#### ***Description of issues***

The workshop is of the view that rural areas should be divided into economic units like it was done with Rietfontein, Okamatapati and Corridor at Aminius. Agricultural production in the communal land can be improved and sustained if communal land tenure rights upgraded into title deeds. The government should ensure that Traditional Authority boundaries are clearly demarcated to ensure effective administration.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions***

- Expand communal land areas and intensify the production of communal land by conferring freehold Titles.

### **3.12. RESOLUTION 13: ACCESS TO COMMUNAL LAND**

#### ***Description of issues***

In Omaheke region, communal areas are overcrowded such that people do not have enough land to make a decent living. The majority of the region's inhabitants lost land during colonial times and thus the government should make land available for the expansion of communal areas in Omaheke region. Some areas remain inaccessible due to poor road infrastructure and residents in such areas find it difficult to access markets and input supplies to increase their agricultural production. Communal farmers remain poorly supported thus, the government funded mentorship scheme for resettlement farmers should also be extended to communal farmers.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations***

- Commercial farms adjacent to communal areas should be acquired for the expansion of communal areas.
- Standard (minimum) resettlement farm unit sizes and communal land parcels sizes (e.g. 1500ha) should be considered for allocation,
- Government should prioritize the development of road infrastructure in far remote areas in order to enable communal farmers easy access to markets.

### **3.13. RESOLUTION 14: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

#### ***Description of issues***

The first National Land Conference and the National Resettlement Policy (2001) omitted to recognize people displaced from their ancestral land by colonial occupation as one of the disadvantaged groups. Given this situation, land distribution has not been fair. People who lost land during colonial times are equated to those who did not lose their ancestral land when it comes to land distribution. The San people have been recognized as disadvantaged, however they are resettled in overcrowded group resettlement farms without individual allotments and thus making it difficult for them to farm productively and to access financial facilities to apply for production loans.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions***

- People who lost their ancestral land should be recognized as disadvantaged groups in addition to the San.
- Preferential treatment should be accorded to those who lost land due to colonial dispossession.
- Resettlement beneficiaries in group resettlement farms should be issued allotment letters and also be considered for resettlement elsewhere in order to reduce overcrowding.

### **3.14. RESOLUTION 15: GAME CONSERVATION**

#### ***Description of issues***

Resettlement farmers do not have the same privileges of utilizing wildlife on the resettlement as compared to commercial farm owners and this deprives the opportunity to generate income which they so need to support their farming ventures. For example private farm owners are able to attract hunters for commercial purposes whereas resettlement farmers are only allowed to hunt for household consumption.

On the other hand, land designated for conservation in communal areas is often at times allocated to farmers by Traditional Authorities (TAs). This practice hinders the activities of the conservancies..



### ***Workshop Recommendations***

- Resettled farmers to be given full rights to utilize wildlife resources and other natural resources found on their resettlement farms for income generation purposes and to aid their livelihood.
- The TA's should not allocate settlement or grazing right in areas designed for conservation

### **3.15. RESOLUTION 16: PAYMENT FOR LAND**

The workshop acknowledged that the payment of land allocation by Traditional Authorities is still continuing despite it being outlawed by the resolution of 1991 National Land Conference. There is no transparency in the management of Traditional Authorities finances hence, their books should be audited to promote transparency. All payment for land (business purposes) should be done directly to government rather than traditional leaders.

### ***Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions***

- Traditional Authorities' books should be subjected to annual audits in order to improve accountability and transparency,
- Payment for land for business purposes should be done to the government and the TAs. However, a certain percentage of such funds should be shared with Traditional Authorities.

### **3.16. RESOLUTION 17: RIGHTS FOR WOMEN**

The workshop acknowledged that society is still discriminating against women and as such, they must be given preference in all land allocation activities. Women farmers need to be supported with fencing materials in order to control stock theft and to manage their grazing because rich and strong farmers are fencing off large portions of land at the expense of the vulnerable and poor who are mostly women.

### ***Workshop Recommendations/Resolutions:***

- The government should subsidize poor communities including women to erect communal fences to control livestock and grazing.

### **3.17. RESOLUTION 18: LAND ALLOCATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### ***Description of issues***

The workshop acknowledged that there is insufficient knowledge amongst the communities about the land tenure systems as advocated in the Communal Land Reform Act, 2002 therefore, communities need to be educated. The traditional authorities are not empowered to enforce communal land laws thus, they should be empowered accordingly, especially with regards to the removal of illegal fences. Allocation for resettlement is problematic, there is no equitable distribution of farm land to landless Namibians because Traditional Authorities (TAs) representation ends at regional level. There should therefore be TAs representation at all levels of resettlement land allocation to ensure equitable land redistribution.

It also noted that some, people are resettled on big farms but they are not utilizing such land but instead sub-lease to others. In order to address this issue, there is need to subject resettlement farmers to a mandatory probation period during which they should prove their worth for resettlement. Resettlement beneficiaries should therefore be given a 10 year provisional lease with an option to purchase their farming units after successful completion of their probation period.

#### ***Workshop Recommendations:***

- Resettlement beneficiaries should be subjected to a probation period and issued a 10 year provisional lease for the duration of the probation after which they should be offered the opportunity to buy their farming units at subsidized rates.
- Traditional Authorities should be represented at all levels of decision making with regards to resettlement land allocation.

### **3.18. RESOLUTION 19: STOCK CONTROL**

#### ***Description of issues***

The Red Line / Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) erected between the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs) and the rest of the country was designed to control and restrict animal movement for disease control purposes. Currently there have been occurrences of outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD) and lung sickness and given

this reality, the Red Line cannot be completely removed. Measures such as erection of quarantine kraals, frequent controlled vaccination of animals against diseases for a period of say at least 4 years should be in place first. Government should consider subsidizing compulsory animal vaccinations for all farmers in the affected areas for another 4 years period before the gradual removal of the Red Line.

#### ***Workshop recommendations***

- The veterinary cordon fence be shifted gradually further to the north while disease control mechanism should be put in place in order to ensure effective control of animal diseases. The fence should only be completely removed if sufficient disease mitigation measure are put in place to ensure that animal diseases would not spread southwards following the removal thereof.

### **3.19. RESOLUTION 20: ILLEGAL FENCING**

#### ***Description of issues***

The uncontrolled fencing of communal land poses a serious threat to the future sustainability of small scale farmers in communal areas. The problem of illegal fencing in communal areas is increasing alarmingly and need to be stopped. It is proposed that all fences belonging to individuals should be removed. Community fences be allowed for the demarcation of villages and for protection of common grazing areas and livestock management improvement.

#### ***Workshop recommendations***

- The government must ensure the full enforcement of the CLRA (2002) on the protection of common grazing areas as well as the removal of all illegal fences in communal areas. Villages that have fenced off to protect their commonages and for livestock management should be allowed to retain their fences.
- Traditional Authorities be empowered to enhance their capacities to fulfil their role with regards to the removal of unauthorized fences.

### **3.20. RESOLUTION 21: DUAL GRAZING**

#### ***Description of issues***

Despite the recommendation against dual grazing as per the 1991 National Land conference, the practice continues because there is no enforcement.

The workshop noticed that there has not been a Land Audit to determine the extent of dual grazing. It is also noted that there has been increasing complains against this practice. The government should revisit the existing legal provisions and ensure that enforcement mechanism are put in place in order to curb this undesired practice. Land reform can only be effective if enforcement mechanism are put in place to aid institutions to fulfil their roles as stipulated in the policies.

#### ***Workshop recommendations***

- More specific and strict mechanism be put in place to ensure adherence to the provisions of the Law.
- Traditional Authorities be supported in order to enhance their capacities to fulfil their roles with regards to communal land administration such as the enforcement of the law on prohibition of dual grazing.

### **3.21. RESOLUTION 22: TRANSFER OF LARGE COMMUNAL FARMERS TO COMMERCIAL LAND**

#### ***Description of issues***

The workshop took cognizance of this resolution as passed by the 1991 land Conference and noted that there is no enforcement provisions for it policy/legislative wise nor administratively. This could be the reason for the lack of fulfilment of this resolution.

#### ***Workshop recommendations***

- The implementing Ministry to ensure that the necessary amendments are caused to both the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, 1995 and the Communal Land Reform Act, 2002 in order to ensure the full implementation of this resolution.

### **3.22. RESOLUTION 23: ACCESS FOR SMALL FARMERS TO COMMERCIAL LAND**

#### ***Description of issues***

This resolution was noted and adopted as resolved by the 1991 National Land Conference. However, the workshop stated that the allocation of commercial land ought to be done for the purpose of ensure productivity in order to contribute to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and food security.

#### ***Workshop recommendations***

- This resolution is adopted as per the 1991 National Land Conference.

### **3.23. RESOLUTION 24: NGOs AND COOPERATIVES**

#### ***Description of issues***

The work of NGOs and cooperatives in agricultural development should be recognized, encouraged and promoted. Awareness and advocacy for proper land use planning and proper road infrastructure leading to conservancy areas should be created. The government should assist NGOs and cooperatives which are active in the field of rural development.

#### ***Workshop recommendations***

- The government should continue to support cooperatives to access land and ensure they contribute to rural development.

## **4. ADDITIONAL ISSUES1: URBAN LAND**

#### ***Description of issues:***

Urban Land is not accessible to poor Namibians because of the fact that most Local Authorities in Namibia are unable to service land due to very poor revenue base. These Local Authorities only receive project-based subsidies for land servicing which does not allow for structured planning of capital investment in urban development. All these leads to increase in the prices of serviced land well beyond the affordability levels of the majority of citizens. Disadvantage groups such as the youth are mostly affected as they are unable to access urban land because they lack collateral. Preference should therefore be given to the youth with regards to access to land.

Most Local Authorities use property developers to service land and sell it to the public. This practice is the major contributor to the escalation of land prices in towns because the developers are after profits. Local Authorities should service land themselves and sell such land directly to individuals. Additionally, Central Government should subsidize urban land development to accelerate land delivery both for housing and businesses. Town planning should also be decentralized to the Local Authorities such that the land development process is shortened and land delivery is made efficient and effective. The situation of foreign nationals having equal access with nationals to urban land especially residential should also be revised to ensure that non-Namibians are not advantaged at the expense of Namibians.

### ***Workshop recommendations***

- The Central Government should subsidize urban land servicing in order for the Local Authorities to reduce the cost of serviced land and consequently, housing can be affordable.
- The use of property developers or any middle men in land servicing and transitioning should be outlawed.
- Review and streamline town planning legislation and delegate Town Planning to Local Authorities.
- Foreign Nationals should not be allowed access to land for residential purposes at the disadvantage of nationals.

## **4.1. ADDITIONAL ISSUES 2: LAND AUDIT**

### ***Description of issues***

There has not been a land audit done in Namibia to inform the nation which land is held by absentee landlords, which land is held by foreigners and which one is held by Namibians. This valuable information is needed for appropriate policy intervention. It is therefore recommended that a land audit be commissioned to guide policy formulation for effective land reform.

## **Workshop recommendations**

- A detailed land audit should be done to inform land legislations and policies.

## **4.2. ADDITIONAL ISSUES 3: RESETTLEMENT**

### ***Description of issues***

The workshop took cognizance of the ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Land Reform to revise the National Resettlement Policy (2001). The revision should include provisions that will ensure that farms acquired for resettlement remain productive and can contribute to the GDP. Some resettled farms remain underutilized resulting in the loss of revenue to the State. Resettled farmers should thus be subjected to a probation period of 10 years to prove themselves, after which those that will remain unproductive should be evicted.

Resettled farmers, who do not own livestock but can afford to buy livestock, should be resettled for a period of 20 years after which they will be required to buy the farm from government at market prices. Any person, who owns livestock and can afford to buy the farm, should be given 10 years after which they either buy the farm or leave the farm to acquire their own farm outside resettlement. Any person without livestock, and whose affordability to buy livestock is doubtful should be given a smaller portion of land to settle on and engage in other farming activities like crop, poultry, etc.

The selection criteria for resettlement should be revised to provide for a quarter system whereby 80% of those to be selected should be from the region where the farm is located and the remainder 20% to be served for those from other regions.

Surviving spouses (mainly females) on resettled farmers do face challenges after the death of the other spouse to which the farm was allocated. Often they face eviction from their resettlement farms by the family members of the deceased. It will therefore be best if couples should both sign the lease agreement with the government.

### ***Workshop recommendations***

- Allocate land to a ratio of 80% for regional inhabitants and 20% to those from other regions.

- Resettlement farmers should be subjected to a 10 year probation period at the end of which unproductive beneficiaries should be evicted and productive ones be offered an option to buy their farming units.
- Both spouses should be required to sign the lease agreement in order to curb unwarranted eviction of the surviving spouses from the land.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The consultative workshop which only ended the morning of Saturday 28 July 2018 requested that the final draft report be shared with the workshop participants prior to submission for further consideration by the higher authorities. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which the workshop was conducted and they overwhelmingly adopted the recommendations as stated in the report as a true reflection of the region/s position with regards to the land reform question in the country.

The official closing and vote of thanks was given by Hon. Raphael Mokaleng, the Okorukambe Constituency Councillor who thanked the government and all its relevant structures for coming back to the people in order to ensure that no one's views were left out in crafting the agenda to the upcoming National Land Conference. He further thanked the participants for the respect they have shown one another during the discussions and submission of their divergent views on the land question.

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