



Republic of Namibia



Oshana Regional Council

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



Facilitation and Report Writing Team

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August 2018

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1. Introduction

During the State of the Nation Address (SONA) held on the 11th of April 2018, the President of the Republic of Namibia His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob announced that the Second National Land Conference will take place in the first week of October 2018. Holding the Second National Land Conference is part of achieving the goals and the Strategic Plan enshrined in the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP). The Second National Land Conference is a long overdue opportunity that is aimed to avail a platform for the Namibian nation to regroup and review the progress of implementation of the 24 Consensus Resolutions that emanated from the National Conference on Land Reform and the Land Question held in 1991. The conference will further deliberate on the challenges experienced during the implementation of the land reform programme, propose strategies to address these challenges. In July 2015, Cabinet approved 89 Resolutions by the Special Cabinet Committee on Land and Related Matters (SCCLRM). The Second National Land Conference will also review progress of the implementation of the 89 Resolutions. Since the first national land conference, new dynamics and issues around land have emerged. The Second National Land Conference therefore also aims to deliberate upon the new and emerging land related matters, and how the existing land reform programme is responding to contemporary issues. All these deliberations are aimed at forging a new direction of how the land reform programme should proceed, a programme which is informed by the aspirations and addresses contemporary needs of the Namibian people.

Prior to the Second National Land Conference, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) tasked the Ministry of Land Reform (MLR) to facilitate regional consultative conferences in all the 14 regions of the country. These consultative conferences were crucial to accord the regions an opportunity to deliberate on the regional land issues and related matters, and for them to craft their positions on critical issues pertaining to land, as inputs into the deliberations of the Second National Land Conference. The 2018 regional consultative conferences built on the consultations that were held in 2017, during which the 24 Resolutions from the 1991 Land Conference were reviewed. In addition, the 2018 regional consultative conferences built on the Concept Paper for the Second National Land Conference prepared by the High Level Committee for the preparation of the conference. The Oshana regional consultative conference took place on the 26th and 27th of July 2018, in Ongwediva. The conference deliberated on land related themes each with several issues and on which consensus resolutions as the regional position to the Second National Land Conference emerged.

2. Approach of the Regional Consultative Conference

The regional consultative conference in Oshana Region took place on the 26th and 27th of July 2018 in Ongwediva Town. The Mayor of Ongwediva, Her Worship Angelina Angula welcomed all the participants to the regional consultative conference. In her welcoming remarks, she emphasised the importance of land as a means of production and livelihoods, an important asset that affects economic efficiency, as an asset that can drive empowerment for women, and that can help eliminate extreme poverty, and boost economic growth. The Mayor underscored that land has far reaching implications for governance and development not only for Oshana Region, but for Namibia as a whole. When governed well, access to land enhances national unity, harmony, peace and stability. This is not to underestimate the fact that land is a scarce resource and therefore as given, it needs to be managed appropriately through collective and collaborated efforts.

Subsequent to the welcoming remarks was the official opening of the regional consultative conference by the Governor of Oshana Region Hon. Clemens Kashiupulwa. The opening remarks of the Governor centralised the objectives of the consultative conference, which are to deliberate on the regional land related matters as inputs into the Second National Land Conference, but also to provide an opportunity to Namibians that were left out from the 2017 regional consultations, in the spirit of inclusivity. The Governor highlighted that the land question is a political, social and economic issue that seeks to address dispossession, equity and to promote productive and sustainable livelihoods. The fundamental objective of these consultative conferences building up to the Second National Land Conference is therefore to re-group, consult and accord the Namibian nation a platform to contribute to the direction that the land reform process should take. The Governor reminded the participants of the collective responsibility to provide and maintain a platform for open discourse on land matters. Finally, the Governor informed the conference participants that the inputs from the regional consultative conferences will be compiled into a Final Document that will guide the heads of various delegations to articulate the views of the people and communities at the grassroots levels during the Second National Land Conference.

The opening session was followed by a presentation of the Concept Paper for the Second National Land Conference by the official from the Ministry of Land Reform, the presentation of the Regional Consultation Report for the 14th and 15th of July 2017. The Oshana Regional Council organised and held in-house consultations in all its Constituencies from which inputs emerged and formed core of the deliberations during the 26th and 27th of July 2018. During the in-house consultations at Constituencies'

level, local and traditional authorities were requested to engage and consult the public under their respective jurisdictions on land related matters using the recommended Thematic Land Related Matters as stipulated in the Concept Paper for the Second National Land Conference. A presentation of inputs from these consultations was done during the consultative conference.

Subsequent to the opening session of the regional consultative conference and the presentations, the facilitation team led a discussion on the deliberations of topical regional and national land related matters. This report is a consolidation of these deliberations together with inputs from the regional consultation conference of 2017, the in-house consultations report of 2018 and the Concept Note for the Second National Land Conference. During the regional consultation conference participants were required to identify the issues, what is problematic about the identified issues and suggestions for the strategic interventions. From all these discussions the regional positions and resolutions for consideration at the Second National Conference were crafted.

3. Land Issues and Related Matters

The Oshana regional consultative conference deliberated on several land issues and related matters. The conference did not only deliberate on land related issues and matters pertaining to Oshana alone, but also land related issues of national importance. The issues discussed are grouped under three thematic areas below, and expanded in the table next page:

- **Freehold Land Reform**
- **Communal Land Reform and Other Land Related Matters**
- **Urban Land Reform**

No	Identified Topical Issues	Problem statements	Strategic Intervention	Regional Consultative Position
Freehold Land Reform				
1.	Ancestral Land Claims for Restitution	The discussions of ancestral land claims are divisive and hold potentials for civil strife resulting in destabilisation of the country's hard won independence and prevailing peace.	Land should be dealt with as a national resource and not on ethnic basis. It should be dealt with on the spirit of One Namibia One Nation.	The fundamentals of the Namibian Constitution must be upheld. This provides that Namibia is a unitary state and every Namibian has a right to settle anywhere in the country.
2	Willing-Seller Willing Buyer Principle	The Willing Seller Willing Buyer system of land acquisition has failed. It has not yield significant results.	The government should do away with the Willing Seller, Willing Buyer system and come up with an effective way of land acquisition.	The government should do away with the Willing Buyer Willing Seller system.
3	National Resettlement Programme	<p>The resettlement programme is cumbersome, and the criteria do not give preferences to the war veterans, youth and people with disability.</p> <p>Some farmers have been resettled and are not putting the land to productive use and some are not using it for the purposes it is intended for.</p>	<p>The resettlement policy and the selection criteria need to be reviewed to cater for the war veterans, youth and people with disability. Notwithstanding this, the point should not always be about who to get the land but who will put it to good use. Criteria should not only be on the special groups, but considerations must also be put on the productivity of the land for food security.</p> <p>The government should monitor resettlement farms if they are being used for the agreed purposes, if not the land should be taken back for re-distribution to others.</p>	The National Resettlement Policy and Criteria must be reviewed.

4	Expropriation of Agricultural Land	<p>There are still farms/agricultural land owned by foreigners, while many Namibians have no land at all. There are also some Namibian with excessive land. Some farmlands underutilised.</p> <p>Some farmers have resorted to registering their farms under the Companies Act and as Close Corporations to circumvent the law.</p>	<p>Agricultural Land owned by foreigners and absentee landlords must be expropriated without compensations, with immediate effect. Unutilized and underutilized agricultural land owned by Namibians should be expropriated and given to those that are able to fully utilize it. Expropriation from Namibians with compensation on improvements on the land.</p> <p>The government must strengthen, speedily enforce and implement the Expropriation Act and its regulations to acquire land. No farm should be registered under a company.</p>	<p>No ownership of land to foreigners. All land owned by foreigners must be expropriated with compensation only on infrastructure on the land. The government must expropriate unutilised and underutilised land regardless whether it's owned by a Namibian national. The government must speedily enforce and implement the Expropriation Act and its regulations to acquire land.</p> <p>NO farms should be registered under companies</p>
5	Pre and post re-settlement	<p>Resettled farmers are not capacitated to engage in productive farming.</p>	<p>The government must support, capacitate and provide mentorship to farmers before and after they have been resettled in order to boost their morale, knowledge and skills on farming.</p> <p>The government must also monitor and evaluate how successful/effective the training programmes are.</p>	<p>The government must support, capacitate and provide mentorship to resettled farmers.</p>

6	Affirmative Action Scheme and Programs	<p>Some potential farm sellers obtain waivers from government facilitated by previously disadvantaged farmers. Once they get the waivers the farm owners/seller sell to the highest bidder.</p> <p>The start-up capital granted by Agribank is too little.</p> <p>The grace period for repayment of the loans is too short.</p> <p>The application requirements for loans by Agribank do not consider the needs of the youth especially those that are coming out of university and without collateral.</p>	<p>There should be pre-sales agreements to protect potential farm buyers after waivers are provided to potential farm sellers by the Government.</p> <p>The start-up capital must be increased from N\$ 200 000 to between N\$ 500 000 and N\$ 1 000 000.</p> <p>Grace period for repayment of the loans must be increased from 3 to 5 years.</p> <p>Application requirements need to be reviewed to be inclusive of the youth needs and positions (e.g. they should be able to get collateral free loans).</p>	<p>Put pre-sales agreements before the government grant a waiver.</p> <p>The start-up capital must be increased from N\$ 200 000 to between N\$ 500 000 and N\$ 1 000 000.</p> <p>Grace period for repayment of the loans must be increased from 3 to 5 years.</p> <p>Application requirements need to be reviewed to be inclusive of the youth needs and positions (e.g. they should be able to get collateral free loans).</p>
7	Generational Farmworkers	<p>Farm workers are still being evicted and left homeless along national roads and between corridors of farms.</p>	<p>Recognise farm workers as fellow Namibians that need to have a place they can call home. The inhumane practice, of discarding these people after they have been in service to the farmer for life, is unacceptable.</p>	<p>Provide priority to generational farm workers in the resettlement programme and secure their rights to land (occupancy rights in terms of commercial land).</p>
8	Farm size and numbers	<p>Some farmers have more than one farm and others have excessive land.</p>	<p>Adopt one farmer, one farm. The size of the farms must be reduced (depending on the land uses on the farm).</p>	<p>Adopt one farmer, one farm. The size of the farms must be reduced (depending on the land uses on the farm).</p>

Urban Land Reform				
9	Urban Land Reform Programme	<p>Some individuals have many plots in local authority areas, while others have nothing.</p> <p>In most local authorities' areas, land is allocated in unfair and questionable manners.</p> <p>The urban land is expensive and unaffordable to many Namibians. PPP is not working.</p>	<p>The government must come up with a law outlawing ownership of many plots by an individual (through buying). A monitoring systems must be in place and enforced to monitor multiple ownership of parcel.</p> <p>Government must ensure fairness and just in urban land allocation.</p> <p>Urban land prices must be regulated by government. The government must subsidise the servicing of land in local authorities and involve young graduates from universities to reduce costs.</p> <p>No foreign ownership of urban land</p>	<p>Outlaw multiple ownership of urban plots. Ensure fairness and accountability in urban land allocation. Regulate urban land prices.</p>
Communal Land Reform and Related Matters				
10	The Removal of the Veterinary Cordon Fence	<p>The Red Line inhibit farmers in the northern communal areas from participating in the lucrative commercial market.</p> <p>It perpetually divides the Namibia nation, perpetuates colonial racist legacy.</p>	<p>The Red Line must be relocated to the Namibia/Angolan borders.</p> <p>Provide mechanisms to protect the local/national market from possible effects of removal of cordon fence.</p>	<p>The Red Line must be relocated to the Namibia/Angolan borders.</p>

11	Land Valuation and Compensation	What communal land owners have invested in their cultivated land is not equivalent to the compensations amounts they receive in cases of relocation.	<p>The compensation policy must be revisited to be fair and just to communal landholders.</p> <p>The compensation policy must be revisited. The local authorities must subsidise rates and taxes especially for the elderly.</p>	The compensation policy must be revisited to be fair and just to communal landholders.
12	Accessibility to land by women, orphans and the youth	<p>Women's rights on access to land especially those in cohabitation relationships are not protected.</p> <p>Youth who are not married are discriminated in land allocation by some traditional authorities.</p>	<p>Enforce the law to protect the rights of women in accessing land.</p> <p>Protect customary co-habitations relationships in land distribution and allow for the partner/widow inherit the land when the partner dies.</p> <p>Educate traditional leaders about the country's laws such as by not denying someone land on the basis of age or gender.</p> <p>Orphans must be able to inherit land from their deceased parents (the law must be enforced.)</p>	Improve on laws and policies that protect the rights of women, orphans and the youth's to access land.

13	Bankability of communal land	Financial institutions are not willing to grant financial assistance to communal land farmers due to security of tenure.	<p>The Banks must accept the Leasehold agreements as collateral security.</p> <p>Communal land should not be commercialised/traded as collateral as it is the only land we have. It has far-reaching implications (e.g in cases of evictions as a result of non-payment). Communal land is a safety net for the people that live in the communal areas. This is particularly for the customary land rights (crop and residence).</p>	<p>The Banks must accept the Leasehold agreements as collateral security.</p> <p>Communal Land is safety net for many. Protect and secure it from the forces of the market.</p>
14	Dual Grazing	Some commercial farmers are still practicing dual grazing	<p>-Dual grazing and its definition has no meaning and does not reflect our context. We should rather adopt One man One Farm.</p> <p>-Enforce the law against the fencing of large parcel of communal</p>	Adopt One man, One Farm.
15	Marginalised and vulnerable communities	<p>Overcrowding in the settlements and areas were marginalised and vulnerable communities such as the San people live.</p> <p>Lack of participation of the marginalised and vulnerable groups in traditional governance</p>	<p>Expand areas where the vulnerable communities live.</p> <p>Traditional leadership structures should cater for the marginalised and vulnerable communities.</p>	Protect the rights and ensure access to land of the vulnerable communities. Ensure their participation in the traditional leadership structures.

4. Adopted Resolutions for the Second National Land Conference

1. The Oshana Regional Consultative conference for the 2nd National Land Conference took place in Ongwediva, at the Trade Fair Centre on the 26 – 27th July 2018.
2. The Consultative Conference delegates were welcomed by the Mayor of Ongwediva, Her Worship the Mayor Honourable Angelina Angula, and officially opened by the Governor Honourable Clemens Kashiupulwa.
3. The Ministry of Land Reform tabled the Concept Paper on the 2nd National Land Conference to the Oshana Regional Consultative conference.
4. The Oshana Regional Council tabled the Regional Consultation Report of the Consultative Workshop held on the 27-28th of July 2017 and the Report on the Regional Inputs of the In-house Consultation held on the 19th of July 2018.
5. The Concept Paper, the Regional Consultation Report of 2017 and the In-house Consultative Workshop Report were used as guiding and source documents for the discussions on the topical regional land related matters.
6. The Oshana Regional Consultative conference in preparation of the 2nd National Land Conference adopted the consultative workshop reports of August 2017 and July 2018 to be still valid for the forthcoming National Land Conference slated for the first week of October 2018.
7. After the deliberations on the topical regional land related issues by participants, the Oshana Regional Consultative conference has adopted the following resolutions for consideration in the forthcoming National Land Conference:
 - 7.1 On ancestral land claims for restitution, the Oshana Regional Consultative conference has resolved that the fundamentals of the Namibian Constitution must be upheld. This provides that Namibia is a unitary state and every Namibian has a right to settle anywhere in the country, in the spirit of One Namibia One Nation.
 - 7.2 On the Willing Seller Willing Buyer principle for agricultural land acquisition, the Oshana Regional consultative conference has observed that the Willing Seller Willing Buyer principle has failed, and urged the government to come up with an alternative and effective way of land acquisition.
 - 7.3 On the National Resettlement Programme and Criteria, the Regional conference resolved that the National Resettlement Programme and Resettlement Criteria must be revisited to include special population

categories such as the war veterans, the youth and people with disability, and high regard should be made for food production and food security.

- 7.4 The Oshana Regional conference directed that government must expropriate agricultural land owned by foreigners and absentee landlords without compensation. It further directed government to expropriate underutilised land with compensation on the improvements on the land only.
- 7.5 On Urban Land Reform Programme, the Oshana Regional consultative conference has observed that the prices of urban land are too costly. The conference therefore resolved that the government must subsidise the servicing of land in local authorities areas. Furthermore, the conference urged the government to pass a directive to all local authority areas and property owners not to allow foreign ownership of urban land.
- 7.6 The Oshana Regional consultative conference observed that The Red Line inhibit farmers in the northern communal areas from participating in the lucrative commercial market. Therefore the conference called for the immediate relocation of the Red Line to the Namibian/Angolan border.
- 7.7 On the Land Valuation and Pricing of Communal Land, the Regional consultative conference observed that what communal land owners have invested in their cultivated lands/*omapy* is not equivalent to the compensations amounts they receive. Therefore the conference called for the Compensation Policy to be reviewed.
- 7.8 On the Pre and Post re-settlement, the conference observed that farmers that are resettled are not capacitated to engage in productive farming. Therefore the conference urged the government to support, capacitate and provide mentorship to farmers before and after they have been resettled in order to boost their morale, knowledge and skills on farming.
- 7.9 On the Affirmative Action Scheme Programme, the conference observed that some potential farm sellers obtain waivers from government facilitated by previously disadvantaged farmers. Once they get the waivers the farm owners/seller sell to the highest bidder. Therefore the conference called for the government to institute pre-sales agreements. On the start-up capital granted by Agribank, the conference proposed for increments from 200 000 to between 500 000 to 1 000 000. On the grace period for repayment of the loans, the conference proposed for the period to be extended from 3 to 5 years.
- 7.10 On the accessibility to land by women, orphans and the youth, the conference called for the government to improve on laws and policies

that protect the rights of women, orphans and the youth and that guarantees their access to land.

- 7.11 Bankability of Communal Land, the conference proposed that the Banks must accept the leasehold agreements as collateral security, especially when one would like to purchase livestock and other valuable items. This is particularly for land used for commercial purposes through the long-term lease agreements. The conference further agreed that communal land should not be commercialised/traded as collateral as it is the only land we have. It has far-reaching implications (e.g in cases of evictions as a result of non-payment). Communal land is a safety net for the people that live in the communal areas. This is particularly for the customary land rights (crop and residence).
- 7.12 The conference observed that the concept of Dual grazing and its definition has no meaning for substantive communal communities. It does not reflect their context. The conference therefore proposed to rather go for One man, One Farm.
- 7.13 On the Generational Farmworkers, the conference resolved that the government must provide priority to generational farm workers in the resettlement programme and secure their rights to land.
- 7.14 On the farm sizes and numbers, the conference concluded that the government must adopt the principle of one farmer, one farm, and the sizes of farms must be reduced in consideration in of the land uses.
- 7.15 Last but not least, the conference deliberated on the Marginalised and vulnerable communities. The conference concluded that the rights of the marginalised and vulnerable people must be protected and their access to land must be secured. The conference further agreed for the marginalised and vulnerable people to be included in the traditional institutional structures.
- 7.16 The Oshana Regional consultative conference expressed its gratitude to the hospitality and the excellent facilities extended to it by the Ongwediva Town Council.

Done at Ongwediva Trade Fair on the 27th of July 2018 at 17H00.

5. Annexes

Annex 1: Consultative Conference Programme



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND NATIONAL
LAND CONFERENCE
OSHANA REGION
Oshana Regional Council**

26-27JULY 2018

Director of Ceremonies Martin Elago ,CRO

Day 1: Thursday, 26 July 2018

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
08H00 09H00	Arrival of invited Guests and Registration	
09H00 09H10	National and AU Anthems	All
09H10 09H20	Welcoming Remarks by Her Worship the Mayor	Her Worship the Mayor Angelina Angula
09H20 09H40	Key note statement by Hon Regional Governor	Hon. Clemens Kashiupulwa
10H00 10H30	<i>HEALTH BREAK</i>	
10H30 11H30	Presentation of the Concept Paper for the Second National Land Conference.	Mr. Eric Ndala
11H30 12H30	Presentation of the Regional Consultation Report for 2017 Regional Inputs of the In-house Consultations for the 19 th July 2018	Mr. JT Nangolo
	Discussions and Clarifications	Mr. E. Negonga Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa
13H00 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14H00 15H00	Identification of topical regional land related issues.	Mr. E. Negonga
	Discussions and Clarifications	Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa
15H00 15H30	Health Break	
15H30 17H00	Discussions and Clarifications	Mr. E. Negonga Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa
17H00	End of Day One	Mr. E. Negonga Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa

Day 2: Friday, 27 July 2018

TIME	ACTIVITY	REPORTEREUR
09H00 10H00	Recap of Day One	Mr. E. Negonga
	Discussions	Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa
10H00 10H30	<i>TEA BREAK</i>	
10H30 13H00	Presentation of Regional Resolutions for adoption	Mr. E. Negonga Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa
13H00 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
14H00 15H00	Presentation of Regional Resolutions for adoption	Mr. E. Negonga Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa
15H00 15H30	<i>TEA BREAK</i>	
15H30 16H40	Presentation of Regional Resolutions for adoption	Mr. E. Negonga Dr. R. Nghitevelekwa
15H40 16H50	Closure	DC
16H50 17H00	AU and National Anthem	All
17H00	End of Day Two	

Annex 2: Speeches

Welcoming Remarks by Her Worship the Mayor Angelina Angula

Director of Ceremonies, Mr. Martin Elago, The Chief Regional Officer
Hon. Peya Mushelenga Minister of Urban & Rural Development
Hon. Clemens Kashuupuulwa Governor of Oshana Region
Hon. Michael Mwinga, Special Advisor to the Regional Governor
Honorable Chairperson of Oshana Regional Council Gerson Kapenda
Honorable Regional Councillors present
Hon. Worship the Mayor of Ondangwa Town and Oshakati Town
Esteemed Local Authority Councilors present
The Chief Executive Officers of Ongwediva, Ondangwa and Oshakati Town Councils
Senior Government Officials
All Traditional Authorities' Leaders present,
Invited Stakeholders,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen

GOOD MORNING!

It is an honour and privilege to welcome the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Hon. Peya Mushelenga in Ongwediva Town and indeed at this important consultations in preparation for the Second National Land Conference. I am also pleased to welcome, our regional leadership and all Stakeholders who made it to this regional consultation.

Firstly, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Land Reform for creating this platform where the regional stakeholders can engage and provide inputs to the upcoming 2nd National Land Conference.

As we are all aware that Land is a scarce resource and as given, it needs to be managed appropriately through collective and collaborated efforts.

Your presence at this workshop signals the great importance of land as a means of production and livelihood in our region and Namibia as a whole. It is such an important asset that affects economic efficiency. It can drive the empowerment of women, help eliminate extreme poverty, and boost inclusive growth. It is also essential to meeting the critical challenges of climate change that face our communities. Moreover, it also has far-reaching implications for governance, the development of our towns, settlements, and our region as a whole. Access to land enhances national unity, harmony, peace and stability.

Dealing with these wide-ranging issues effectively, requires consultation and collaboration among many stakeholders; and I am very happy that this conference opens doors to constant consultations with all stakeholders involved in land matters. I look forward to your active engagement during this 2-day workshop, sharing your experiences, and developing new perspectives on how we can together harness the enormous development and environmental potential of land.

Director of Proceedings, Honourable Members, esteemed Regional stakeholders, with these few remarks allow me to welcome you all ones again to this consultations and indeed to Ongwediva Town.

I THANK YOU!

Opening Remarks by the Governor of Oshana Region

AT THE OCASSION THAT MARKS THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONSULTATIVE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE BUILD UP TO THE HOSTING OF THE 2ND NATIONAL LAND CONFERENCE BY OCTOBER 2018

DATE: 26TH JULY 2018

Venue: Ongwediva Trade Fair Centre

- **Director of Ceremonies**
 - **Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Urban and Rural Development**
 - **Your Worship the Mayor of Hon. Angelina Angula,**
 - **Members of the High Level Committee,**
 - **Members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee,**
 - **Senior Government Officials,**
 - **Representative of Political Parties,**
 - **All Regional Councilors present,**
 - **All Local Authorities Councilors present,**
 - **Representatives of Churches,**
 - **Representative of Civil Society,**
 - **Honorable Chiefs and all 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,**
-

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.

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 Oshana 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.

In the past two years, we all have witnessed regional consultations towards our envisaged Second National Land Conference. These 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.

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 two 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 Namibian society felt there were left out in the first consultations, hence the second round of consultations for inclusivity.

The land question is a political, 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.

At these consultations we should ask a lot of questions and take cognisance of the way various programmes and projects have been implemented within the general framework of the mandate of the Ministry.

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 discussions. 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.

As alluded to in August 2016 and July 2017, I pay particular homage to our independent Government for providing the first platform for wide participation and open discussions on land issues. Our Country at that time, still in its infancy, managed to achieve consensus on the issue of land. More than 500 participants representing all facets and the diversity of our country made their voices heard and known. Thus in conformity with our democracy and our country's traditions of consulting our people before taking major decisions that affects their livelihoods, we

are today informing the Namibian Nation that the anticipated Regional Consultations begins in earnest today until the 27th of July 2018.

As this is the year of reckoning, the Government is mindful and hugely indebted to the Namibian people for their support and patience as we strive to find the best way to deliver on our mandate in a sustainable manner. Let us be open and listen to each other and most importantly come out of these discussions with concrete recommendations. The Ministry of Land Reform will make a presentation on the Concept Paper for the Second National Land Conference followed by the presentation by the Regional Council on the Regional Report pertaining to the concluded regional consultations that were held last year, 2017 for your comments and inputs.

Director of Ceremonies, 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.

All the inputs from the 14 Regional consultations will be compiled into a Final document that will guide the Heads of various Delegations to articulate the views of the people and communities at the grass root level during the 2nd National Land Conference.

The Ministry of Land Reform in collaboration with the Office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister as well as all the 14 Regions will ensure wide participation and open discussions on land issues in order to achieve consensus on the successful implementation of the land reform programme in Namibia.

Lastly, Director of Ceremonies, I urge the Nation 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 honour to declare to the Region that the Oshana Regional Consultations on the 2nd National Land Conference are officially opened.

I THANK YOU

Annex 3: Attendance Register

Annex 4: Written Inputs