

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

REMARKS

BY

RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

AT THE OCCASION OF THE

2ND LAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2018

WINDHOEK, SAFARI HOTEL

- *His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia*
- *His Excellency, Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President*
- *Honourable Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly*
- *Honourable Margret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council*
- *H.E Sam Nujoma, Founding President*
- *H.E Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President*
- *Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice of Namibia*
- *Honourable Cabinet Members*
- *Honourable Members of Parliament*
- *Honourable Regional Governors*
- *Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Communities*
- *Traditional and Religious Leaders*
- *Representatives of Civil Society and Community Based Organisations*
- *Special Invited Guests from Abroad and from here at home*
- *Other distinguished stakeholders*
- *Members of the Media*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

A Very Good morning!

1. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to this important conference which is convened under the theme “**Towards a comprehensive and sustainable land reform in Namibia**”. I would like to especially welcome His Excellency the President, His Excellency the Vice President; The Founding President and the Father of the Namibian Nation, Former President, and our Special invited guests.

2. This conference comes 27 Years after the first Land Conference which was held in 1991. During the intervening period since the first Land Conference, Government has been engaged with the implementation of the Resolutions that were adopted at the First Land Conference. During the process of implementation we have learnt valuable lessons some of which resulted in the adoption of new laws and policies or adjustments to existing ones in order to give effect to the resolutions from the Conference. These new frameworks form part of the documentations for this conference. The Minister of Land Reform will later give a comprehensive report in this regard. We will also receive presentations from other stakeholder public institutions involved with the implementation of programmes related to Land Reform.
3. This Conference is intended to provide a platform for engagement on the successes recorded and challenges encountered during the implementation of the Land Reform Programme and to deliberate on ways and means to tackle the remaining challenges so that we can fully realize the transformation of the Land distribution in the country and optimize benefits from the use of land promote economic growth, create jobs and tackle the challenges of poverty and inequities.
4. Amongst the issues to be discussed at the conference are:
 - Ancestral land rights and restitution,
 - Willing–Seller, Willing-Buyer principle for Land acquisition,
 - National Resettlement Programme and Resettlement criteria

- Land Expropriation
- Agricultural Land Reform (both Commercial and Communal)
- Urban land reform
- Agrarian Reform and
- removal of the veterinary cordon fence

5. The conference will also consider related issues such as:

Land valuation and pricing, Affirmative Action Scheme, accessibility to land by Women and the youth, Land Tenure System as well as land productivity.

6. To coordinate the preparation for the Land Conference, Government established a High Level Committee chaired by the Prime Minister with membership from the non-State actors and relevant public institutions.

Specifically, the membership of the High Level Committee includes:

- Representatives from Civil Society and Community Based Organisations,
- Religious Organisations,
- Labour Movements,
- Farmers Unions,
- Business Representatives,
- Traditional Authorities,
- Genocide Committees,
- Relevant Public Institutions,
- Academic Institutions and;

- Individual persons selected on the basis of their expertise and experience on land and related matters.
7. The diversity of the committee was aimed at ensuring inclusivity. The High Level Committee was supported by a Technical Committee of experts chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet.
 8. I would like to thank the members of the High Level Committee and the Technical Committee for their useful inputs into the preparations for this Land Conference.
 9. This conference was preceded by extensive consultations with stakeholders through workshops conducted in all the 14 regions of our country at which the implementation of the Land Reform Programme was discussed, and regions formulated their inputs into the deliberations of this conference, which will be presented by their representatives. The reports from the Regional Workshops have been posted on websites alongside the Government Report on the Implementation of the Land Reform Programme and other related documents relevant to Land Reform.
 10. I should further note that these Regional Consultative Workshops supplemented an earlier round of Regional consultations that was conducted in 2017. The purpose for the second round of consultations

was to supplement the inputs from the first round of consultations by reaching out to stakeholders that may not have been covered during the first round of consultations and also to consider additional issues that were not covered under the first round of consultations. This follows the call made to Government by some stakeholders for further consultations to be held before the holding of the conference and in line with the President's clarion call for inclusivity as per the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

11. The Government has, therefore, extensively consulted the public for their input into the preparation for this conference and has ensured deep reflections on issues pertaining to the agenda of this conference.
12. Because of the large participation at this conference and the elaborate nature of the programme, the time allocated to individual speakers may not be to their full satisfaction. However, given the earlier consultations held through regional workshops that I referred to earlier, and the two days group discussions that are scheduled for later on during this conference I believe we have provided a fair amount of time to deliberate on pertinent issues.
13. Regarding concerns expressed that there is a predetermined outcome for the conference, I wish to categorically state that Government comes to this conference with an open mind to receive inputs from this conference and to work towards consensus building on

this very important issue. We, therefore, encourage all delegates to share their honest views on all aspects forming part of the Agenda of this conference and help us to arrive at a common position on this pressing National issue. We also look forward with great anticipation to the presentations from our special invited guests, which I have no doubt will greatly enrich the deliberations and outcome of this conference, and for which I would like to thank them in advance.

I wish to conclude my remarks by once again welcoming you all to this conference and thanking you all for your attendance.