



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER & LAND REFORM

Ministerial Speech, on the expansion of Otjimbingwe, Aminus and Ovitoto communal land in terms of the Communal Land Reform Act, 2002, as amended.

BY

HON. CARL GH SCHLETTWEIN
MINISTER (MP)

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- **Hon. Prof Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly.**
- **Distinguished Hon. Members of Parliament.**

It is my honor to stand before you and deliver this statement, pertaining to the Government of the Republic of Namibia intention to expand the communal land of Otjimbingwe in Erongo Region, Aminus in Omaheke Region and Ovitoto in Otjozondjupa Region.

Communal land and the commonage of the land is a tenure systems that is recognised and legally provided for in the Republic of Namibia. After Namibian gained her independence in 1990, the Government of the Republic of Namibia resolved to maintain the communal land tenure status on State Land which were previously communal areas where the user rights were exercised under the customary regimes under various Traditional Authorities. Theses respective Traditional Authorities after being recognized, are mandated to manage the communal land resource in the best interest of their traditional community. The majority of Namibians are living on communal land where they are deriving their livelihoods. Furthermore slightly more than half of Namibia,s national cattle herd is kept by farmers living on communal land. Given the above, you will agree with me that the grazing area in communal needs to be managed sustainably and consequently, where congestion and resulting over grazing is evident, measures to decongest by enlarging such communal areas is required.

Having said that Comrade Speaker, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has expanded Traditional Authority's communal areas before. This was done as a mean of restorative measure by giving land to the Namibians and to relief grazing pressure on communal areas.

Commercial Farm Uitdraai and Farm Kamandimund were added to the Otjimbingwe communal area, in the Erongo region. Farm Gross Otjiumue and Farm Otjiumue were added to the Okombahe communal area still in Erongo region. Farm Haichas was added to Vaalgras communal area in //Kharas region. While Farm Klein Swartmodder was added to !Hoachanas communal area in Hardap region.

Comrade Speaker,
Honourable Members,

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform is persistently receiving requests from Traditional Authorities and individual for settlement and for expansion of Traditional Authority's communal areas due to unavailability of grazing area for their livestock. However, the expansion of communal land can only happed when the Ministry acquired commercial farms and add them to Schedule one of the Communal Land Reform Act, Act No 5 of 2002, as amended.

The Ministry responded positively to the above requests, by acquiring the following commercial farms with a purpose to relief grazing pressure on communal areas.

- 1. Remaining Extent of Portion A of the Farm Okongava, No: 72, measuring 15,160.19. This farm will be added to Otjimbingwe communal area.**
- 2. Farm Osema No: 63, measuring 5374.39, this farm will be added to Ovitoto communal area.**
- 3. Farm Gusinde No: 197, measuring 3753.93, this farm will be added to Ovitoto communal area.**
- 4. Farm Alpha, No: 628, measuring 6767.6098, this will be added to Aminus communal area.**

The combined sizes of the above farms is 31,056.1198 hectares.

The farms were acquired at a combined cost of N\$ 66,909,803.93 Million.

- Comrade Speaker,**
- Honourable Members,**

The expansion of communal areas is in line with the First and Second National Land Conference Resolutions which noted that communal areas sustain a great majority of Namibian farmers, especially subsistence farmers. The said Conference therefore concluded that

communal areas be retained, developed and expanded. This was due to the fact that the majority of the Namibian people live in overcrowded communal areas with limited grazing areas.

I must further state here that the expansion of communal areas was also supported by our late President, Dr. Hage Geingob **(May his legacy continue to inspire us)**. The late President directed that communal area must be expanded to relief grazing pressure.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has fulfilled this directive, and his desire by acquiring the farms I have just mentioned for the expansion communal areas purposes.

Comrade Speaker,

Dear Honourable Members,

Section 16 (1) of the Communal Land Reform Act No 5 of 2002, as amended states that the President, with the approval of the National Assembly, may by proclamation in the Gazette declare any defined portion of unalienated State land to be a communal land area. It is with the above view that I am here today, appeal to you all Honourable members, of this August house, to support and approve this initiative of expanding communal area to enhance the living conditions of the Namibians.

It is our belief that this expansion of communal land is a restorative justice to the Namibians. We believe that through expansion of these communal areas, land has been given back to the Namibians. The expansion of communal Traditional Authority area will remain one of our main focus, and we shall extrapolate it further to other Traditional Authorities.

Once the said farms are incorporated into schedule one of the Communal Land Reform Act, the administration of it will be done by the MAWLR, the respective Regional Land Boards and the Traditional Authorities as per the respective provisions of the Communal Land Reform Act, Act 5 of 2002.

The Traditional Authorities will play a huge role by allocating the land to the people and ensuring that the land is utilized for the intended purposes, within the allowable carrying capacity.

I therefore once more, appeal to you Hon. Members, to approve the expansion of Otjimbingwe, Aminus and Ovitoto communal land.

I thank you for your attention!