

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

7th PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**REPORT ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE RESETTLEMENT FARMS IN
OTJOZONDJUPA, OMAHEKE, KUNENE & ERONGO REGIONS**

REPORT NO. 08/2025

1 INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources undertook oversight visits to resettlement farms in Otjozondjupa and Omaheke regions from the 15 – 19 May 2023 and Kunene and Erongo regions from the 31 July to 4 August 2023. The committee visited 6 farms in Otjozondjupa region, namely; Farm Okaputa No. 379, Farm Sumas No. 752, Farm Wagnog No. 384, Farm Cox Montis No. 229 and Farm Okorusu No. 88 and farm Marburg No.1 whereas in Omaheke the committee visited farm Dixieland No. 76 and Farm Kaukurus No. 79. In Kunene Region the following farms were visited: a. Farm Rustig No. 632, b. Farm Holstein No. 249 and c. Queen Sofia Group Resettlement Farm whereas in Erongo the committee visited: a. Otjua No 37, Unit A, B, C and D, b. Kamombonde West No. 80 Unit A and B, and Otjumue Nord No. 108 Unit A and B.

2 BACKGROUND TO RESETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA

The resettlement programme is guided by the National Resettlement Policy of 2001. Under the programme, government buys farms from commercial farmers for allocation to previously disadvantaged Namibians on a leasehold basis. The main goal is to ensure that the land is fairly and equitably allocated and sustainably utilised in order to improve the livelihood of the beneficiaries and contribute to food self- sufficiency.

Resettlement is aimed at improving the lives of the displaced or dispossessed previously disadvantaged Namibians. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform is expected to launch a revised national resettlement policy (2023-2033) replacing the 1991 to 2001 policy that prioritises underprivileged communities, including generational farmworkers. Land Reform Statistics for the 2021/2022 financial year issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform with assistance from GIZ indicates that from 1990, the government, through its Land Reform Programme, has bought 3,4 million hectares of land (571 farms) at the cost of N\$2,4 billion. It has resettled 5,458 beneficiaries after the first land conference in 1991. The resettled include 2,188 males, 1,485 females and 30 juristic entities. In total 3, 4 million hectares of land (69%) has been acquired in the 32 years 1,6 million hectares.

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There are criteria used to determine beneficiaries under the resettlement programme involves three categories;

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| • Zero zero zero | beneficiary with no land, no livestock and no income |
| • Zero zero one | beneficiary with few livestock, no land and no income. |
| • Zero one one | beneficiary with income, few livestock but no land |

3 OBJECTIVES OF THE OVERSIGHT VISIT

1) Assess pre and post resettlement support received by the resettled farmers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform.

2) Establish Capacity Building Programmes pre and Post resettlement offered to resettled Farmers to improve productivity.

- 3) Establish and understand the Level of productivity since resettlement and Market accessibility the farmers.
- 4) Understand the funding model in place, how resettled farmers access financing to expand their operations.
- 5) Understand Success and failures of the resettlement model used by the government for possible review.
- 6) Assess the contribution of resettled farmers in relation to the country's economy (in terms of employment, food security, etc.)
- 7) Establish if the current Modus Operandi the resettlement policy is achieving its intended objectives relative to the country's developmental initiatives.
- 8) Understand the Challenges faced by the beneficiaries hampering productivity.
- 9) Understand the MAWLR key role in ensuring the success of resettled farmers.

4 METHODOLOGY

In order to fulfil its mandate, the Committee visited and held meetings with the Regional Governors and resettled farmers at their respective resettlement farms.

5 COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION

The group comprised of the following Members of Parliament (MPs) and staff;

Hon Vincent Joseph Mareka - Head of the delegation

Hon. Lucia Tjiveze

Hon. Jan Van Wyk

Hon. Ephraim Nekongo

Hon Gothard Kasuto

Hon. Mike Venaani

Mr Albius Mutonga – Deputy Director

Ms. Frankhilde Endjala – Chief Parliament Clerk

Mr George Sanzila – Chief Information Officer

6 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the National Assembly of the committee's findings on the visits undertaken to the resettlement farms in the Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Kunene and Erongo regions.

7 MEETINGS WITH THE BENEFICIARIES IN OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

7.1. Farm Okaputa No. 379: Unit A

Farm Okaputa has a total size of 11 700 ha and is demarcated into six (6) economic units. Amongst the six units, the committee only visited two units; A and F. Beneficiaries at the farm were resettled in June 2002. Mr Stanley Sitali, who occupies unit A, employs six workers of which three are registered with the Social Security Commission.

Mr. Sitali informed the committee about the difficulties he faced when he was first resettled as there was no infrastructure except the fence. The situation forced him to sell his property in Windhoek to generate money to de-bush the area due to bush encroachment. He started farming with ten (10) cattle. Water was also a challenge as MAWRL had only managed to drill a single borehole by November 2002. He is currently growing crops such as sorghum, maize and tomatoes. His livestock range from cattle (75), goats (25) and sheep (6).

Although Mr. Sitali has tried to diversify further by engaging in poultry farming with more than 300 chickens in 2021, such a venture could not proceed further due to rising costs in poultry feed. He has however managed to drill two boreholes for crop and animal production. He hailed government's resettlement programme but noted that what has been lacking is government support as farmers are left to fend for themselves adding that the assistance given to beneficiaries has been very minimal. He stated that water scarcity has been a hindrance for him to keep enough large livestock as water available is only enough for domestic use and gardening.

He further stated that, as a resettled farmer, the lease agreement under MAWRL did not allow him to keep more than 200 cattle, to avoid overgrazing and land degradation. Additionally, to address bush encroachment, he implored government to introduce a programme aimed at assisting farmers with de-bushing, an exercise that has proven to be both labour intensive and costly. Mr Sitali also urged the government to consider introducing a policy that regulates the market for produce, in order to support and encourage farmers.

7.2. Farm Okaputa No. 379: Unit F

Mr Elia Akwaake of Okaputa Unit F, echoed similar sentiments regarding the capacity of allocated units; stating that his allocated farm unit measuring 1795 ha, is not large enough for him to fully venture into commercial farming as he is restricted to keep cattle that is less than 200. He suggested that government look into increasing the number of hectares to at least 3000 for farmers to engage in meaningful agricultural activities. He noted that it was difficult for him to get sufficient financing from Agribank as such loans were limited to a once off amount of N\$200 000 for resettled farmers. As a result, he too, had to use his own property as collateral to secure enough funds from Agribank to develop his farm.

Mr. Akwaake specializes in livestock farming with a total number of 150 cattle, and harvesting grass for sale. The severity of drought determines how much cattle he keeps on the farm. Mr. Akwaake has also diversified his activities to include charcoal, and animal feed production but that such activities have been hampered by lack of resources. The change in weather patterns have adversely affected cattle farming on his farm forcing him to sell some of his livestock to maintain his livelihood and avoid losses. He is one of registered members of the Forestry Stewardship (FSS) responsible for regulating the charcoal industry. He has been fortunate to be selected amongst farmers who received the pilot training in farming by Agribank through a mentorship program provided by the Germany government.

7.3. Farm Sumas No. 752, Unit A

Farm Sumas has a total size of 14 828, 5 ha and is demarcated into fourteen (14) economic units. The committee visited two units under this farm, Unit A & C2. Unit A is a co-operative of eleven (11) members, called Etupe Co-operative. Mr Gebhard Ashipala, a representative of Etupe Co-operation was resettled in 2008. The unit was inaccessible due to bush encroachment

and had only one damaged borehole. The initiative to clear the land for the purposes of creating a road to have easy access to the area. Farming on the land started in 2010 after soil tests were conducted with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture to determine suitability.

He initially farmed on an 8 ha piece of land under irrigation, planting maize, tomatoes, cabbage and onions. Although the government assisted with clearing 1000 ha in 2010 for irrigation purposes, water was still a challenge, a situation that forced the farmer to divert from crop farming to animal husbandry. He managed to drill a borehole that pumps 20 m³/h. Even though there has been relative success at the farm, challenges such as lack of access to the market for his agricultural produce still persist. This predicament is worsened by poor road infrastructure and lack of support from government. Water scarcity is another challenge that has ruined progress at the farm that employees over 13 workers 9 of which are registered with SSC. Ashipala also informed the committee that in July 2022, he requested MAWLR to assist with clearing the land but to no avail (see annexure A).

Ashipala's residence is located on top of a mountain presenting an attractive view that has enticed a number of tourists to visit his farm. Tourists mainly from Germany often visit his farm for sightseeing. However, this potential economic activity is hampered by poor road infrastructure. He further appealed to government to create a conducive environment for food producers in the country to sell their goods with ease. He repeated appeals for more training and financial support from the line ministry to ensure productivity and contribution to food security in the country. Additionally, he suggested that institutions of higher learning engage farmers to attach agricultural students to farms to gain first-hand experience which might be useful to their careers. Ashipala specialises in animal husbandry, with 310 cattle, 260 goats, 4 sheep, and horticulture and crop production.

7.4. Farm Sumas No. 752, Unit C2

Unit C2 owned by Ms. Diergaardt is one of the smallest units on the farm with a size of 108, 5 ha. However, the committee spoke to her spouse, Mr Diergaardt, as the owner was not available during the visit. The family is engaged in poultry farming with a total number of 380 egg laying chickens. Additional to poultry, are other activities such as animal husbandry with 40 cattle, 50 goats and 60 sheep. The major challenges facing this unit were identified as bush encroachment, lack of farming equipment and access to financing. There is no tractor, they rely on borrowing from neighbours since the MAWLR couldn't assist. Water scarcity is also another challenge as they only have one borehole which they pump twice a day depending on the availability of water. Diergaardt also mentioned that although they had electricity from NAMPOWER it is currently disconnected due to cost high costs.

7.5. Farm Wagnog No. 384, Unit A

Farm Wagnog No. 384, which is situated over 50 kilometres South East of Otjiwarongo with a total size of 3493 ha demarcated into three units. Three resettled farmers at Wagnog No. 384 share one borehole and resort to water rationing due to limited water sources in the area and lack of support from government to drill more boreholes. According to Martha Hausiku, one of few women farmers in the area who keeps over 100 cattle with 48 calves, 78 goats, 5 sheep and chickens, she was resettled with no proper infrastructure on the farm and had to use her own savings to put-up infrastructure and drill her own solar powered borehole that has since dried up due to poor aquifer system in the area. Other infrastructure set up at her farm include three camps. Hausiku complained that due to her advanced age, she cannot meet the

requirements to access a loan from Agribank. She was resettled in 2000, with no water point and no boundary fence. Haufiku also complained the two boreholes drilled by MAWLR at the size of 100 meters deep are not functional as the depth supposed to be 140 – 160 metres in order to get water.

7.6. Farm Wagnog No. 384, Unit B

At Unit B, Petrus Tobias echoed similar sentiments noting that even though he was thankful to government for having allocated him a farming unit, many challenges continue to disrupt his plans, particularly limited water sources that have prevented him from engaging in crop production. He was resettled on a 992 ha unit in July 1999 without a fence. Mr. Tobias is involved in animal husbandry with over 35 cattle, 79 goats, 29 sheep and 4 lambs.

7.7. Farm Wagnog No. 384, Unit C

Ouseb Edward in Unit C measuring 1473 ha repeated the same adding that water was not sufficient enough to be able to supply all three units. He noted that, he has in the past tried to drill his own boreholes but such efforts proved to be futile due to lack of underground water in the area. He further stated that he has lost over 100 cattle due to the protracted drought that affected the whole country. He noted water scarcity as one of major reasons resettled farmers in the area fail to engage in meaningful agricultural activities.

7.8. Farm Cox Montis No. 229, Unit B

Cox Montis No. 229, is located 60 kilometres north east of Okahandja with a total size of 2924 ha. The farm is demarcated into two units, A and B. However, the committee could not visit Unit A because the owner was not available. A young farmer at Cox Montis No. 229, Unit B, Peter Ndeilenga who was resettled in December 2016, appealed to government to assist resettled farmers with training, financial support and farming implements, if food security is to be realized. Ndeilenga who is engaged in mixed farming noted that he had ideas to diversify his farming activities but lack of necessary farming equipment's. He appealed for support such as training and mentorship programmes from government in order to diversify and contribute significantly to food security and poverty alleviation. He further stated that there was a misconception that resettled farmers are not productive and that such sentiments can only be debunked if farmers received the necessary support.

Additionally, he highlighted predators such as leopards and cheetahs as a challenge as farmers keep losing their livestock, including isolated cases of poaching in the area. Ndeilenga has over 100 cattle, 200 goats and 20 sheep. He is further engaged in crop farming producing mahangu, maize, sunflower, watermelons, chillies, cabbages, tomatoes and onions. He is providing employment to four workers. With abundant underground water in the area, Ndeilenga has managed to drill two additional boreholes at his farm.

7.9. Farm Okorusu No. 88, Unit A

Farm Okorusu No. 88 which is situated 55 km north of Otjiwarongo, has a total size of 3052, 695 ha. The farm is demarcated into two units and the committee visited both units. One of the successful farmers at Okorusu farm No. 88, Unit A, Johannes Damaseb, inherited the farm from his father in 2014 noted that, he has made great strides since resettlement in 2006 but lack of access to financial support and stringent loan requirements, have adversely affected productivity on the farm. An award-winning farmer, Damaseb, employees over 10 permanent

and 60 seasonal workers. He has been involved in intensive agricultural activities including producing maize, sunflower for animal feeds, sorghum, beans and supplying bales and other animal feeds to local farmers.

Due to lack of farming equipment and infrastructure on his farm, Johannes had to sacrifice his savings to procure some of the farming implements. Damaseb was given an award for Best farmer in 2013 and selected as a mentor in 2014 due to his successes. In 2019, he trained over 100 resettled farmers and donated over 1200 bales of animal feed to Kunene and Erongo regions in 2021. He owns farming implements such as 3 tractors and a crusher among others, bought from his own savings. He bemoaned the once off N\$200 000 loan amount offered by Agribank to resettlement farmers adding that it was negligible given the massive infrastructural requirements on farming units. The cost of fertilizer was also identified as a major challenge due to the import cost involved.

7.10. Farm Okorusu No. 88, Unit B

Another farmer at Okorusu, Thusnelde Higon echoed similar sentiments of lack of funding, adding that she had to secure her own funding to install a water point and erect the other necessary infrastructure. Higon who is involved in both animal husbandry, crop and charcoal production, inherited a 1579,69 ha farm from her mother who passed on in year 2000. They were first resettled at Farm Marburg but had to relocate due to theft in the area. She appealed to law enforcement agencies to strengthen their patrols in the area as stock theft remains a big challenge.

7.11. Farm Marburg

At Farm Marburg, a farm allocated to a collection of families, water scarcity has been preventing families resettled on the farm to engage in any significant farming activities. Farm Marburg is situated 58 kilometers north of Otjiwarongo and has been occupied by generational farm workers and their families. Residents at the farm bemoaned water scarcity as the reason for lack of any type of agricultural activities at the farm.

7.12. Meeting with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

The Deputy Director in the Lands Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in the Otjozondjupa region, Gottlieb Elifas concurred that there was lack of support to resettled farmers but added that the ministry's limited budget allocation made it difficult to offer support. He stated that the ministry's allocated budget only catered for the acquisition of land and not infrastructural support and training.

The Deputy Director of Planning and Development at the Otjozondjupa regional council, Wilma Guriras during the meeting further noted that government has been actively involved in reviewing the National resettlement policy of 2001 in order to address the challenges. Gaps identified in the policy include a mismatch between the policy and the criteria for allocation of acquired land, lack of monitoring and evaluation of resettlement process and poor stakeholder involvement among many others.

8 MEETINGS WITH THE BENEFICIARIES IN OMAHEKE REGION

8.1. Courtesy call on Governor

The Governor, Hon. Pio Nganate, expressed hope that the reviewed resettlement policy, recently adopted by cabinet, will address some of the challenges facing government's resettlement programme. He bemoaned the slow pace of decentralization that has derailed efforts aimed at assisting resettled farmers in the region. He indicated that, some farmers have resorted to sub leasing their farms because they cannot afford to successfully manage them. He is of the opinion that, the resettlement criteria, need to be reviewed to include more young people beneficiaries in the resettlement programme.

The exclusion of more young people in the resettlement programme has resulted in the region having to deal with increasing and complex cases of inheritance. The governor further noted that, the resettlement programme lacks punitive measures for defaulting resettled farmers, especially for farmers who have been given all the necessary support but still fail to be productive nor adhere to the regulations. He further called for diversification of farming activities, stating that for that to be realized farmers needed to be capacitated and mentored through deliberate government initiatives. He further briefed the committee that marginalized communities such as the San, who make up over 23% of the population in the region, continue to benefit from government's resettlement programme.

8.2. Farm Dixieland No. 76, Unit B

Seretse Olibile one of resettled farmers at Dixieland farm unit measuring 1567 ha criticized the lack of coordination between government stakeholders adding that farmers had no support from the ministries and do not get assistance with seeds or fertilizer. He noted that farmers were sent from office to office when seeking help and that there was no coordination and harmonization of activities. Mr. Olibile is one of successful farmers in the Omaheke region who is engaged in animal husbandry, poultry and charcoal production.

8.3. Farm Dixieland No. 76, Unit C

Ms. Victoria Kalundu is occupying the unit with a size of 935 ha, inherited from her late husband in 2012. After her husband passed on, all livestock were sold and had to restart animal farming. There were no major farming activities taking place at the farm and Kalundu cited lack of financial support as one of the major reasons for lack of productivity on the farm. The farm is underutilized as she only has eight (8) cattle, and forty (40) goats. When the committee visited this unit, they learned that Kalundu is sub-leasing the farm to a certain person without informing MAWLR.

8.4. Farm Kaukurus, Unit C

Simon Kangootui, who farms at Kaukurus, 50 kilometers west of Gobabis, with a unit size of 1222 ha, complained about stock theft as a major challenge in the area and that lack of cooperation from the police exacerbates matters. He noted that as a result, resettled farmers in the area have taken the initiative to form a neighborhood watch to deter would be cattle rustlers. Kangootui was grateful to government for having allocated him a farm noting that in the absence of financial assistance, he has made sure that he comes up with his own initiatives to

invest at his farm. He has continued to de-bush at his own cost in order to improve his farm's carrying capacity. He also mentioned the lack of market for his produce as a major challenge.

9 COURTESY CALL TO THE GOVERNOR – KUNENE REGION

The delegation was met by Hon Hendrik Gaobaeb Chairperson of the management committee and constituency councillor of Sesfontein Constituency on behalf the Governor. He briefed the delegation on the prevailing drought situation in the region that has affected many of the inhabitants. In some areas drinking water is not fit for humans, he thus appealed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to assist drilling boreholes to serve the affected communities and their livestock. The Ministry he underscored is not doing enough to support resettled farmers to find their feet, there is no capacity building programmes and financial support.

He emphasised the need to re-look at the resettlement criteria to ensure people with experience and commitment to farm are resettled as it has been observed some resettled farmers have no interest at all in farming. He further stressed the need for the farms to be in the name of the resettled person for easier access to loans from any commercial bank other than Agri-Bank. The chairperson was in support of increasing the agribank loan amount of N\$ 200,000 as is its not enough to carter for all the farming needs. The chairperson felt resettlement in a way is creating landlessness as farm workers are chased out of farms they have lived all their lives and in the process become landless. He urged the Ministry to first when resettling consider farm workers residing at such farms to avoid landlessness.

10 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM –KUNENE REGIONAL OFFICE

Kunene region has a total number of 60 farms, among these seven are for the marginalised and 31 for veterans. The ministry offers pre-settlement training in a wide range of areas including infrastructure, rangeland and financial management. Continuous mentorship programmes are done by Agribank to all resettled farmers in particular those that have acquired agricultural loans with the bank.

The Ministry undertakes annual visits to all resettled farmers to monitor adherence to lease conditions and payment of rental fees among others. Rental fees range from 400 to 2000 N\$ per annum, even with such modest fees many are not paying inclusive of high ranking people in government.

11 MEETINGS WITH THE BENEFICIARIES IN KUNENE REGION

11.1. Farm Rustig No. 632

The farm measures 2833 ha and is occupied by Mr. Arnold Gaseb a seasoned farmer who also serve as a mentor, trainer under the Agribank mentorship programme. There was nothing much on the farm he had to put up all the existing infrastructures such as a house and additional boreholes. The farm when advertised indicated it has 15 camps, but in reality only 8 were there,

reservoirs were supposed to be 4 but only 3 were found, boreholes were three (3) as advertised but only one (1) was found. He spent close to N\$ 400 000 in an effort to drill for water, with the total of 4 sites drilled only one had water. He is a beneficiary of the N\$ 200,000 agribank loan. In regard to livestock he has 151 cattle and 907 small stock (sheep and goats). He also has about 100 springboks and employs three people to work on the farm. He sells his small stock in Kamanjab at regular auctions and is satisfied with the proceeds. He is also involved in small scale gardening as a pilot though water scarcity is a limiting factor, regardless he has earmarked a site for the purpose to use drip irrigation system.

Among the challenges he faces include livestock theft which is rampant in the area attributed to Himbas (men) residing at Tokoloshi Lodge with their women. The twenty-three (23) Himba Women were settled in the area for tourism (entertain visitors) with men allowed to visit on a limited time. The arrangement has backfired as the men have come to stay resulting in increased number of livestock theft. The other is that he felt the ministry is not forthcoming in assisting resettled farmers, it often takes very long to respond to calls of assistance as result farmers resort to borrowing and own means to address the issues. He proposed the Ministry should give a time frame of which farmers are expected to produce failure of which the rights must be withdrawn.

11.2. Farm Holstein No. 249

Farm Holstein is a hunting ranch and guest lodge occupied by Mr. Immanuel Hanabeb and five other shareholders Ms Priskilla Namases, Ms Cecilia /Awaras, Ms Hilde !Hanabes, Mr. Wiseman Molatsi and Mr Michael Kawiwa. The joint venture operates under the company Turma Lodges and Safaris (PTY) Limited were allocated the farm measuring 6993.5 ha in Kunene Region located about 103 kilometres north west of Outjo. The company strives to ensure availability of world-class facilities and services and the implementation of sustainable wildlife breeding and conservation. The farm has four chalets, main house, deep freezer, store rooms, workshop/garage, worker's units (10 in total), nine boreholes (5 functional), five reservoirs and six (6) troughs.

In terms of game species, the farm has Eland, Blesbok, Oryx, Hartebeest, Black Wildebeest, Burcell's Zebra, Hartman's Mountain Zebra, Kudu, Duiker, Warthog, Ostrich, Giraffe, Waterbuck, Impala, Steenbok, Cheetah and Leopard. The lodge employs about 30 people to manage and look after the entire farming unit. The main challenges poaching and theft in particular of water pumps and game within the parameters of the farm. Permits for trophy hunting were only approved in 2022 whereas the certification and registration of the fence was approved in early 2023 after much delays which affected progress and impacted of the company's revenues heavily. The structures found on the farm were in a bad shape, the company had to for example drill four more boreholes, renovate the lodge itself and existing structures which has so far costed the company about N\$ 2 million.

In case of future plans the farm has earmarked a portion of land for crop farming to supplement income in times of drought when tourist numbers are in the decline. There are also plans to construct an amusement park for team building exercises and complete the registration process to get licence to operate as an accommodation establishment. He urged government to relook at partnership resettlement to rather allow individuals to have the rights to avoid infighting, unproductiveness and lack of commitment from other partners.

11.3. Queen Sofia Group Resettlement Farm

The project consists of six (6) government farms with a total area of 21 000 hectares about 75km between Outjo and Otavi in the Kunene region. The project is named after the Spanish Queen, the main sponsor of the resettlement project. Fifty (50) families are resettled which each owning a unit and sharing water sources. Each resettled family were given a house, livestock (to assist with school fees and daily sustenance). The families engage in various farming activities ranging from cattle, goats, sheep, chicken, pigs, crop farming and charcoal among others. They each are given allotment letters which clearly stipulate the carrying capacity of their units of which often they exceed. The settlement has a school, a clinic with a police station envisaged (land has already been identified).

In relations to challenges the settlement faces over-population due to people coming to settle in the area even though they are not family members of the right holders. The other is the alarming rate of crime and theft in particular, this has been abated by the absence of police station at the settlement. Disputes over boundaries often ensue, thus the community urged for the Ministry to re-demarcate them so they are clearly visible and easily identifiable. The road is not in a good condition (worse in during rainy season) not even an ambulance can reach the area which possesses a risky to patients who require emergency evacuations. The issue of inheritance is a major challenge once the rights holder passes on, it often leaves the remaining family members fighting over who takes over many of such cases are still unresolved to date.

The settlement has about 17 boreholes in total which carters for their day to day needs for the families and their livestock. Overall the community of Queen Sofia are grateful to the government for resettling them, supported them and for the provision of health and education services. They are also thankful for the capacity building programmes they get for having assisted them to prosper and become seasoned farmers.

11.4. COURTESY CALL TO THE GOVERNOR – ERONGO REGION

The delegation was welcomed by Hon Banitta Indonga Chairperson of the Management Committee of the Erongo Regional Council. She underscored the need to ensure that Namibians benefit from its natural resources be it mining, fisheries and the right to land. In most cases she stressed its foreigners ripping the benefits with little or no skills transfer at all to ensure Namibians will in future be in charge of their own resources.

11.5. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM –ERONGO REGIONAL OFFICE

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) as the main custodian of Namibia's land is tasked with prudent management of the country's land resources in a just and empathetic way and with efficacy as it seeks to promote equitable land distribution and access to socio-economic development by all citizens. Within this broad policy framework, the Ministry has been pursuing a Resettlement Programme guided by the National Resettlement Policy (2001) currently reviewed and the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act (Act 6 of 1995). The resettlement programme involves the purchasing of commercial farms and the demarcation of these farms into farming units, which are leased by selected beneficiaries for 99 years.

Section 9 of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, (Act No. 6 of 1995) gives the Land Reform Advisory Commission the power to establish sub-committees at the regional level to serve within the scope of the functions of the Commission. This is geared towards decentralization and bringing services much closer to the people and gave rise to the Erongo Regional Resettlement Committee (ERRC). The ERRC functions are to receive, scrutiny, and evaluation of received resettlement applications, to shortlist and recommend prospective beneficiaries amongst the applicants to the Commission. Monitoring and Evaluation of the resettlement activities at the regional level i.e. production, collection of lease fees, pre and post-support (infrastructure and water rehabilitation), and dispute resolution amongst many others.

Regional Statistics and lease fees collected: 31 farms comprising 58 farming units, Fifty-eight (58) resettled beneficiaries, 42 lease agreements issued to beneficiaries, while 16 are currently in process. Total amount collected 859,790.85 out of the expected total lease amount of NS952,706.62 outstanding NS92,915. 77 for the period 2002/3 to 2022/3.

Resettlement Challenges: Fencing and water issues; Illegal subleasing by beneficiaries, Boundary disputes of newly acquired farms. Trivial disputes among farmers, none compliance on lease conditions i.e. defaulting on lease fees, Vandalism by community members in the region on newly bought farms awaiting advertisement. Lack of farm infrastructure (water and fencing) maintenance by beneficiaries. Over-dependency on the government by some beneficiaries. These challenges have negatively impacted on productivity on the certain farms. Farmers receive pre and post-training upon and after resettlement. A mentor is assigned to the Erongo region and a training programme is disseminated to all farmers to attend training sessions. Erongo Resettlement Farmer's Day is held annually, the event is aimed bringing farmers together to interact, share experiences on all farming related matters.

12 MEETINGS WITH THE BENEFICIARIES IN ERONGO REGION

12.1. Otjua No 37, Unit A

Measuring about 2799 ha is occupied by Ms Nafthali Hiko and was awarded the rights holder in 2014. She has 228 goats (started with 16), 95 cattle (started with only 11) and 250 chicken layers.

The farm employs three (3) staff to look after the livestock and attend to daily chores. The main challenges she is experiencing are, Lack of water, the available water provided by Namwater is not safe to drink for either humans or livestock. She has lost a number of chickens due to the water which she still pays Namwater N\$ 3000 a month. The other challenge is stock theft by communities residing near the farm who often cut the fence, so far she has lost four (4) cattle and seven (7) donkeys. The lack of water is compounded by the fact that neighbouring farms are not keen on sharing their water sources contrary to what the Ministry's stand for all farmers to share available resources.

12.2. Otjua No 37, Unit B

Occupied by Ms Martha Ngodji currently employed by NAMCOR. The farm measures 3520 ha in size. She keeps livestock sheep (240), goats (136) and cattle (260). Water is provided by Namwater and from the farm's boreholes.

She has not made use of the Agribank N\$ 200 000 loan yet but will consider it in future should the need arise. Main challenges she faces include among others theft of her livestock and the difficulty finding water given the area is prone to drought. She plans to get involved in horticulture, in this regard land has been identified and implements required are in place such as a tractor and ploughs.

12.3. Otjua No 37, Unit C

Occupied by Ms. Goamus Christa who was resettled in 2012. The farm measures 1729 ha in size. She employs 6 workers and has 36 cattle, 45 sheep, 250 goats, 4 horses, 12 pigs, chicken and 4 donkeys at the farm. In addition, she is involved in gardening and produces a variety of vegetables. Water is provided via a solar pump provided by the ministry whereas electricity is generated using solar energy and a generator. The main challenges she faces are theft of livestock by locals near the farm and loss of stock due to leopard attacks.

12.4. Otjua No 37, Unit D

Unit D is occupied by Mr Clive Gawanab the current Fishcor chief executive officer resettled in 2014. The farm measures 2600 ha in size, has four camps and employs 3 workers living with their wives and kids. He has 67 cattle, 160 goats and 150 sheep. Main challenges faced is water quality, its saline, salty therefore not ideal for human consumption. The other is stock theft and vandalism of the farm fences.

12.5. Kamomonde West No. 80, Unit A

The farm measures 2707 ha, occupied by Chief Manasse Zeraeua resettled since 2015. He has 69 cattle, 27 calves, 81 sheep, 111 goats, 6 horses, 2 donkeys and 14 chicken at the farm. In addition, he practices horticulture and produce a variety of fresh vegetables.

He employs four workers all registered with social security commission in fulfilment of the country's labour laws. The farm has quality water; all 12 existing boreholes are functioning properly as such plans are in motion to extend the garden. Being a Chief most of what he produces in the garden and the milk is donated to his subjects, especially the needy in Omaruru and his traditional headquarters of Omatjete. In terms of challenges theft and poaching is rampant in the area, as a result he has lost a number of cattle in particular small stock. The other is bush encroachment which is a costly exercise and requires approval from the Ministry. He has since obtained the green light and will use cut trees, bushes for an envisaged charcoal production to supplement income from livestock. In case of future plans he intends to venture into dairy production having realised the demand for milk and milk products in the region.

12.6. Kamomonde West No. 80 Unit B

Measures 2493 ha, occupied by Mr. Cleophas Tjongarero resettled since 2016. He has 54 cattle, 40 sheep, and 71 chicken at the farm. He has not received since being resettled any basic training on farming all what he has achieved so far is through experience and hard work. He is a beneficiary of agri-bank loan which he used to develop the farm, buy cattle, upgrade the fence and install boreholes. He employs 2 staff at the farm and is in the process of constructing accommodation facilities for them and himself as the farm had no house in place.

The main challenges include among others theft, he lost 11 cattle and 10 goats worthy 140 000 in one day. In addition, thieves also keep stealing water pumps and in the process they damage

fences. The other is water, the available water quality not safe for human consumption it's just used for livestock.

12.7. Otjumue Nord No. 108, Unit A

Measuring 2803 ha is occupied by Ms. Meita Kamo who is employed by the city of Windhoek inherited it from the parents initially resettled in 2007. She employs four workers who takes care of farm and the 85 cattle, 96 goats and 175 sheep on it. The farm has four boreholes, two are working whilst the other two are not.

12.8. Otjumue Nord No. 108, Unit B

Measures 2276 ha in size, occupied by Mr. Salmon Uusiku resettled since 2008. The farm's infrastructure is dilapidated; boreholes are not producing enough water he has to get from Unit A. The farm has four camps of which he rotates his livestock consisting of 104 cattle, 16 goats and 23 sheep. The main challenges he faces is theft, in January 2023 armed robbers stole 16 goats, 23 sheep and 3 cattle from his farm. Cases of theft are reported to the police but the reaction time way too long mainly due to constraints with vehicles. He employs three staff to look after the farm, he is not a permanent farmer as he has a fulltime Job in Oshakati.

13 MAIN FINDINGS

13.1. Agribank funding scheme for resettled farmers of once off N\$ 200, 000.00 payable at 4% interest rate is too minimal to make any meaningful impact on farming units.

13.2. Lack of access to financial support and stringent loan requirements by Agribank and other financial institutions, have adversely affected productivity as farmers are unable to acquire the necessary equipment's to ensure sustained productivity.

13.3. The absence of title deeds is preventing farmers from accessing loans. Lease agreements currently offered to resettled farmers cannot be used as collateral to access loans from financial institutions.

13.4. Bush encroachment is affecting a number of resettled farmers and reduces the farm's carrying capacities. De-bushing is a costly exercise most farmers cannot afford.

13.5. Stock theft is a major concern for farmers in the regions exacerbated by the alleged lack of cooperation from law enforcement agencies and in case of Queen Sofia there is no police station to attend to cases promptly.

13.6. Farmers lack access to markets for their products due to uncontrolled imports, resulting in their produce being sold at cheap prices and donated to charity.

13.7. Farming units allocated are too small to engage in meaningful agricultural activities with some farmers forced to sell their livestock to avoid exceeding their carrying capacity as per the regulations.

13.8. Lack of properly defined guidelines on inheritance of the farms in case the right holder passes on, this has resulted in increased disputes among family members left behind.

13.9. Some farming units, mainly due to lack of capacity of the resettled individuals, are being sub-leased without notifying MAWLR.

13.10. Water scarcity remains a major factor at a number of farming units threatening productivity.

13.11. Lack of diversification in farming activities by resettled farmers is contributing to poor market access.

13.12. Poor road infrastructures in to resettlement farms is of great concern especially during rainy season it is difficulty for an ambulance to reach the farm in cases of emergencies.

13.13. Farms infrastructures (camps, boreholes etc.) are not as advertised, in most cases the description does not correspond to what is on the ground.

14 RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1. There is a need for Agribank's funding scheme for resettled farmers to be increased to at least N\$1 million.

14.2. The Resettlement policy should consider issuing farmers with Title Deeds that could be used as collateral to enable farmers to access loans from financial institutions.

14.3. A quota system for young people in the resettlement programme should be introduced in order to address their lack of involvement.

14.4. The resettlement programme should introduce an active monitoring mechanism and punitive measures to defaulting resettled farmers who have been given all the necessary support but still fail to be productive or adhere to regulations, such as sub leasing of farming units.

14.5. To complement the work of law enforcement agencies, farmers should consider establishing neighbourhood watch initiatives to protect their properties.

14.6. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security to expedite the construction of a police stations or satellite ones at strategic locations to minimise theft.

14.7. MAWLR should initiate and support programmes aimed to encourage the production of seeds and fertilizers locally to reduce dependency on imports.

14.8. There is a need to harmonize the activities of different directorates within MAWLR in order to properly address the needs of resettled farmers.

14.9. The MAWLR should promote mentorship programme for resettled farmers from successful peers, including attaching students to such programmes.

15 MEMBERS SIGNATURES

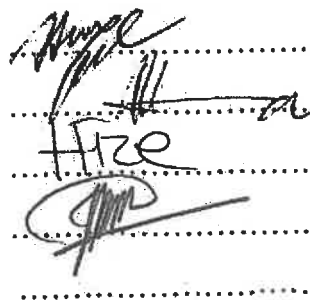
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Hon. Agnes Mpingana Kafula (Deputy Chairperson)

Hon. Herlinde Tjiveze

Hon. Vincent Joseph Mareka

Hon. Bernadus Swartbooi



Hon. Maria Elago
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