

VOTE 25: MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM

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INTRODUCTION

The mandate of the Vote

The mandate of the Ministry of Lands Reform is to manage, administer and ensure equitable access to Namibia's Land Resource. The mandate is derived from the Namibian Constitution Article 95, the National Land Policy of 1998, National Resettlement Policy of 2001, Commercial (Agricultural) Land Reform Act of 1995, Communal Land Reform Act of 2002, Property Valuers Profession Act, Act 7 of 2012 and other Legislations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE VOTE

Achievements for 2014/15

- A total of thirty one (31) farms with a combined size of 185,929.1375 hectares were acquired;
- One hundred and thirty nine (139) beneficiaries were resettled on various resettlement farms;
- Sixty nine thousand, nine hundred and twenty four (69 924) land rights were registered in communal areas;
- The splitting of the Kavango region's IRLUPs between Kavango East and Kavango West was completed and approved by stakeholders.
- A total of 24 195 Deeds were registered while 32 960 Deeds were bound and archived 7 024 485 revenue were collected manually through the Deed office.
- Training on Sectional Titles were conducted.

Challenges

- Most farms offered are not suitable for resettlement purposes, especially considering livestock farming as the predominant land use. Suitable Farms offered are waived in favour of Affirmative Action Loans Schemes (AALS) candidates. The bulk of the farms are still pending purchase due to various reasons.
- Final public presentation on the Zambezi Integrated Regional Land Use Plan (IRLUP) was presented in Katima Mulilo on the 26 February 2015 to seek approval by the stakeholders. Stakeholders did not approve.
- The Otjozondjupa Tender for both Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and IRLUP was advertised on 25/11/2014 through tender board and closed on 16/12/2014. No favourable offers were received thus it has to be re-advertised.
- There was lack of ownership and control of CLRR processes by both temporary and permanent staff. Assets (vehicles, materials, & equipment are misused).
- Delayed/irregular uploading experience from Regional Offices partly due to connectivity issues.
- The lodgement and registration of notarial leases into the Deeds Office involve external stakeholder such as the Office of the Attorney General that appoints a Notary Public who is from the Private Institutions to carry out the activity. This process is

VOTE 25: MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM

cumbersome. Funding for the appointment of Appeal Tribunal was exhausted prompting the delay and slow production of appeal judgements.

- Lack of funds to upgrade the Computerised Deeds Registration System (CDRS)
- Lack of space for archived
- Limited funding. Funding not in consonance with planned activities leading to inefficiency.
- Limited personnel with geospatial skills. There is a high staff turnover. As soon as trained staff acquires sufficient skills they leave for other organizations.
- Limited IT skills and infrastructure. The computer systems require regular maintenance and update. Unfortunately, the IT skills are in short supply.
- Directorates do not have sufficient funds for training especially the RPI Directorate that has 13 Regional Offices.
- Shortage of staff in Human Resource as well as low budget when it comes to overtime performance. Staff members cannot be request to work extra hours without payments.

Main objectives of the Vote:

- Ensure equitable distribution and access to land
- Ensure security of tenure
- Ensure sustainable utilization of land resource
- Improve the provision of technical support
- Ensure gender equality
- Ensure access to quality land information

Overall Vote actual performance

Breakdown	Year	2014/15	
		N\$	
		Estimate	Actual
Operational Budget		167 281 000	160 328 871
Development Budget		422 745 000	420 649 087
Development Partners		0	0
Total		590 026 000	580 977 958

VOTE 25: MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM

Overview of the of ministerial targets

Name of the Ministerial Targets	2013/14 Actual	2014/15-2016/17 Target	2014/15 Forecast	2014/2015 Actual
5 million hectares of agricultural (commercial) land to be acquired by 2020 under the National Resettlement Programme	77,000	588,000	64,000	204,000
140 previously disadvantaged landless Namibians to be resettled per year under the National Resettlement Programme	31	548	26	139
All 150,000 existing land rights in communal areas to be registered by 2014	48,000	226,000	76,000	59,079
5 (five) Integrated Regional Land Use Plans to be developed by 2016 (1 per region, 5 regions)	1	6	2	2
64 (sixty four) Small Scale Commercial Farming (SSCF) units to be fully developed by 2016	85	281	112	102
Establishing a fundamental spatial datasets with coverage of 75 % by 2015/2016	65	90	70	68

Target No1: 5 million hectares of agricultural (commercial) land to be acquired by 2020 under the National Resettlement Programme

Effectiveness: A total of 2.6 million hectares, so far has been acquired since 1990. The remaining is 2.4 million (Has) The Ministry exceeded its 2014/2015 forecast of 64 000 hectares of land by acquiring 31 farms measuring 186 000 ha at a cost of N\$ 227 768 084.00.

Efficiency: Target in terms of output was attained as the Ministry exceeded its annual target by a wider margin.

Impacts: Land acquisition is a costly undertaking due to ever increasing land process, thus, it would not have been possible to achieve the same outputs with less inputs.

Target No 2: 140 previously disadvantaged landless Namibians to be resettled per year under the National Resettlement Programme

The Directorate of Resettlement is assigned to accelerating the allocation and management of all acquired land in a transparent and sustainable manner. By doing so people are empowered to farm sustainably. Support is provided to resettled beneficiaries while measures are implemented to speed up the development of infrastructure. The Ministry managed to settle 139 families, one family short of the initial target of 140 families.

VOTE 25: MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM

Effectiveness: The land acquired have been distributed only to eligible beneficiaries as described in the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995, but production on land distributed may be limited by the lack of tailored post-settlement support packages (i.e. seed capital) and infrastructure (water and fencing) development on the farms acquired

Efficiency: As the resettlement criteria do not discriminate, all applicants (with or without agricultural expertise and management) were considered to benefit from resettlement programme and productivity of farmers could not be realized within a year of being resettled. Provision of adequate post-settlement support would have also resulted in improved production per resettlement beneficiary though.

Impacts: The general livelihood condition of beneficiaries at household level has improved significantly due to land allocation for farming purposes. However, more awareness need to be intensified for the resettled beneficiaries to be aware and make use of the available post settlement support funds and other services (mentorship program).

Target No 3: All 150,000 existing land rights in communal areas to be registered by 2014

During the 2014/2015 Financial Year, a total of 75 946 land rights were registered. Of the 75 946 land rights, 56 706 are existing land rights, 18 906 are new communal land rights and 942 leaseholds registered.

Effectiveness: The target could not be attained due to numerous legal, geographical, social and political reasons.

Efficiency: Land registration is a costly exercise with high financial demands thus, the results reported would not have been attained without the level of funding which was appropriated for that purpose.

Impacts: There is improved sense of security of tenure across the general population of residents in communal areas. There are also a high number of permanent infrastructures being developed by individuals which could be attributed to increased confidence and tenure security attributed to land rights registration.

Target No 4: 5 (five) Integrated Regional Land Use Plans to be developed by 2016 (1 per region, 5 regions)

The splitting of the Kavango regions' IRLUPs was completed and final presentation to seek input and approval of the plan was done and approved by the stakeholders. Final public presentation on the Zambezi IRLUP was done in Katima Mulilo on the 26 February 2015 to seek the final inputs & and approval by stakeholders. The stakeholders did not approve.

Effectiveness: The Ministry was able to split the plan for Kavango region into the two newly formed regions of Kavango East and West. However, the Ministry could not seek the approval of the stakeholders of the Zambezi IRLUP. A report is to be made available to the stakeholders to read for comments to plan second workshop to finalise the plan.

VOTE 25: MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM

Efficiency: This exercise requires significant amount of funding due to high level of expertise required to execute the work therefore, it would not have been possible to attain the output as highlighted.

Impacts: The plan is intended for implementation by the Zambezi Regional Councils, but due to that it was not approved by the stake holders, the plans could not be implemented. Impact therefore can only be measured once the plans are finalized and implemented.

Target No 5: 64 (sixty four) Small Scale Commercial Farming (SSCF) units to be fully developed by 2016

Infrastructure development (fencing, water and livestock handling facility) was supported in eight (8) regions. Twenty three (23) boreholes were drilled/rehabilitated and pumps tested in Oshikoto three (3), Erongo four (4), Khomas one (1), Hardap five (5) and //Karas ten (10). Twenty (20) water points were upgraded in Omaheke three (3), Otjozondjupa eight (8), Hardap five (5) and //Karas ten (10). The Ministry is well on target as regards the development of designated areas.

Effectiveness: The output as targeted was attained and since this is an ongoing programme that is based on phases, the actual results are yet to be attained and measured.

Efficiency: Development of farm infrastructure is a very costly undertaking and requires a huge capital outlay. In order to fully develop all the land identified for this purpose, more funds are required.

Impacts: This is an ongoing project still in its implementation phase thus the actual impact of this intervention will be only be measured as the end of the implementation phase

Target No 6: Establishing a fundamental spatial datasets with coverage of 75% by 2015/2016

Targeting: the programme reached a target of 68% as opposed to 70%. There was delay in the award of the tender. It was re-advertised two times due to administrative non-compliance by the tenderers.

Effectiveness: The target programmes reached their targets in terms of outputs and results. The products were of the right quality and are available in different formats that could be useful to a wide range of users.

Efficiency: It was not possible to reach the same outputs with less inputs.

Impacts: The digital output that can be provided in different formats means that that the product can be used as foundation for other geospatial applications without difficult intermediate transformations

VOTE 25: MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM