



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM**

**BUDGET MOTIVATION STATEMENT
VOTE 37: AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM**

**HON. ANNA SHIWEDA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
DEPUTY MINISTER**

08 APRIL 2024



"After the good rains at Farm Hadaloha and working the final details of my Independence Day speech, I spent the last half of the afternoon inspecting my harvest, Food security is a crucial aspect in eradicating poverty. Agriculture has the potential to transform our economy"
says His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

1. I rise to introduce and motivate Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform for the 2024/2025 financial year. Honourable Members, as His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob emphasised in 2018, indeed Agriculture has the potential to transform the economy. I therefore begin this motivation speech by paying Tribute to a farmer, our third President, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob who passionately recognised the importance of food security in Namibia. We are recalling his statement that **“No Namibian Should Die of Hunger during and after the Harambee Prosperity Plan”** (May His Soul Continue to Rest in Everlasting Power).

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

2. As I stand here before this August House, I am motivating for Vote 37, Agriculture and Land Reform, against the backdrop of a year that is marked by below normal rainfall with sporadic and erratic rainfall patterns. This impact is particularly felt on the agriculture sector, which is the mainstay and lifeline of 70 percent of the Namibian population in terms of their livelihoods. This is yet another manifestation of the reality of climate change and climate variability phenomena, which requires us to rethink our agricultural production systems and strategies focusing on irrigation.
3. This remains a cause for serious concern for our Government, especially in view of the fact that the erratic rainfall patterns which hampers the smooth implementation of the agricultural production programmes, such as the **Dry-Land Crop Production Programme**, that are completely dependent on seasonal rainfall. It is obvious, therefore, that these unfavourable climatic conditions erodes our capacity to increase food production and hence limiting our ability to ensure national food security, and impeding our strive towards the achievement of our national goal of food self-sufficiency.



Photo: Hon. Carl Schlettwein visiting an Irrigation plot located at the Otjozondjupa Region

4. According to the outcome of our seasonal assessment, complemented by climatic data from Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) and our national meteorological services, all indications are pointing towards a looming drought or at best wide-spread crop failures. In the Regions where good precipitation was received during the first half of the season, farmers managed to cultivate their fields taking advantage of the old and newly acquired **Government tractors and matching implements** that were distributed to different Constituencies throughout the country. At the beginning of the season, there was a sign of a good crop production year. However, high expectations and hopes of farmers for a good harvest started fading away as the season progressed due to insufficient production rain that was much needed to support further crop growth. As I speak, Honourable Members, Namibia will most probably experience wide spread crop failures, which will result in serious food shortages.



Photo: Graduation of Farm Machinery Operators from all regions, meant to operate newly procured agricultural machineries

5. Looking at the **Food Balance Sheet**, the indications are that the country will experience a high food deficit especially for staple cereal crops (maize, pearl millet) which will require to be covered through food imports from outside the country. I should hasten to draw your attention to the fact that many SADC countries, such as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia on which we often rely for cereal imports, also received below normal rainfall which significantly reduced their cereal production. This means that we will have to import cereals from other sources outside the SADC Region. This in turn means high cost of the domestic food basket for local consumers.
6. This situation is yet another wake-up call for us, as a country, to relook at our food production systems and come-up with **innovative climate smart strategies** that will make the agriculture sector more responsive and resilient to the impact of climate change and climate variability.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,**

Taking into consideration the above fact, I am motivating a total budget of **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 1,937,358,000) for the 2024/2025 financial year for **Vote 37** under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. This budget represents an increase of **8.8 percent** from last year's allocation of **N\$ 1,768,669,000**.

7. The allocation that I referred to consists of **One Billion, Three Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million and Three Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 1,387,358,000) for Operational Expenditure representing **71.6 percent** of the total budget allocation. In addition, the proposed development budget under this allocation amounts to **Five Hundred and Fifty Million** (N\$ 550,000,000) which represent **28.4 percent** of the total budget allocation to this Vote. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform is field-based which requires human resources, vehicles, machinery and equipment to deliver services such as veterinary and agricultural extension services.
8. It is worth highlighting that the increase of 8.8% represents 4.6% for remuneration to ensure that we are visible in all 121 constituencies of our country, 4.1 percent for development budget and only 0.3% for other services of operational nature that facilitates us to effectively execute our mandate. This is worrisome.



9. Overall, **One Billion, One Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, and Twenty-Five Namibia Dollar** (N\$ 1,001,891,025) **(51.7 percent)** is devoted to the development of the agriculture sector; **Two Hundred and Seventy Million, Four Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand and Eighty-Eight Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 270,444,088) **(14 percent)** is earmarked for Land Reform and Resettlement; **One Hundred and Fifty-Eight Million, Seventeen Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Eight Namibian Dollars** (N\$ 158,017,538) **(8.2 percent)** is for land administration, while Five Hundred and Seven Million, Five thousand, **Three Hundred Forty-Nine Namibian dollars** (N\$ 507,005,349) **(26.1 percent)** has been allocated towards Policy Coordination and Support Services.

***Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members,***

10. In line with the Ministerial Medium Term Plan, the Agriculture and Land sector is implementing four key programmes, namely:
- i. Agriculture Development,
 - ii. Land Reform and Resettlement,
 - iii. Land Management and
 - iv. Policy Coordination and Support Services.

In elaborating programme by programme: allow me to provide a synopsis of main achievements that were accomplished, and the specific activities and development projects proposed for funding under these programmes.

11. Programme 1: Agriculture Development

11.1 This Programme consists of the following line functions:

- i. Veterinary Services,
- ii. Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services
- iii. Agricultural Research and Development



11.2 This Programme is at the core of the food and nutrition security objectives, but also the provision of field-based services to enhance increased agricultural production and productivity. It is important to highlight that this Programme has a **high job content** when the enabling infrastructure and support services are optimally set up.



Photo: Hon. Anna Shiweda inspecting crop production at Etunda Green Scheme

11.3 The objective of the Agriculture Development Programme is to, among others:

- a)** Contribute to the achievement of national food and nutrition security through effective and broad-based agricultural extension and veterinary services and the development of value chains in the sector,
- b)** Enhancing animal and plant health through annual vaccination, disease surveillance and diagnostic services to combat the outbreak of diseases such as the Foot and Mouth Disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuroneumonia (CBPP) Lung Sickness as well as the outbreak of locusts and other pests, and
- c)** Increased production, productivity and the adoption of productivity enhancing innovations through agricultural research and development.

During the 2023/2024 financial year, notable progress has been made with dedicated interventions implemented under this Programme, namely: -

11.3.1 The Green Scheme Programme which is a Government initiative designed to maximise irrigation potentials in the Central, Northern and North-Eastern Regions using the Kunene, Zambezi and Kavango rivers,

as well as promote agro-projects in the South, using the Orange River, Naute Dam, Hardap Dam and Neckartal Dam. The overall goal is to work towards making Namibia self-sufficient in food production by increasing crop production, employment creation and boost the contribution of agriculture to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This Programme increases land under irrigation through infrastructure development of the existing irrigation projects which are in need of improvements and expansions, as well as new Brown Field Projects envisaged by the Government (e.g. Zone in Kavango West Region).

During the 2023/2024 financial year, MAWLR received an amount of **N\$ 120,000,000** which was used for the repair and maintenance of aging irrigation infrastructure, procurement of new tractors and implements, as well as procurement of production inputs. It is pertinent to underscore that the Green Schemes were transferred back to the Ministry in a dilapidated state and requires substantial recapitalization to bring them back to full production. Therefore, there is a need to allocate more funds for the operation of these Green Schemes while at the same time fulfilling its mandate to support Small Scale Farmers at the project and Subsistence Farmers in the vicinity of the project, thus creating employment and improving the livelihoods of the communities.

The Ministry has resuscitated the **Sunflower Production Project** by planting 40 ha at Sikondo and Shadikongoro Green Schemes to be processed at Shadikongoro Oil Processing Plant in the coming weeks. These projects are envisaged to grow by accommodating out-growers from neighbouring communities to contribute to sunflower oil production.



Photo: Namibia Vice President Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah inspecting sunflower production at the Shadikongoro Green Scheme due to be harvested in few weeks

With regard to the **Neckartal Dam Phase 2 Irrigation Project**, the Ministry acquired **19 137 ha** of land at the cost of N\$ 19,000,000. So far, 500 ha is ready for development. To this end, the Ministry is in the process of procuring consultancy services for the design and development of the irrigation system for the 500 ha which is in the immediate proximity of the Dam. During the 2024/25 financial year, an amount of **N\$ 65,000,000** has been allocated to the Green Scheme Projects including Neckartal Dam Phase 2 Irrigation Project. This is a **54% reduction** from the last allocation of **N\$120,000,000**.

I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Members that in order to optimally intensify production at the Green Scheme Projects, a total amount of **N\$ 400,000,000** is still required during the 2024/25 financial year. This amount includes the funds required for further development of Etunda Irrigation Project and total overhaul of Green Schemes, which is realistic to enable these projects to operate uninterrupted for the next fifteen to twenty years. This means that the current allocation of **N\$65 000 000** is a mere **16%** of the required amount. While we acknowledge the fact that the Ministry received funds from international financial institutions such as African Development Bank (AfDB), it is imperative to point out that these funds are dedicated and committed to specific projects such as the Namibia Agriculture Mechanisation and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP).

11.3.2 Under the Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP), an amount of N\$45,700,000.00 was allocated during the 2023/2024 financial year while N\$31,200,000.00 is allocated during this financial year. A total of 20 962 farmers were capacitated on crop, horticulture and livestock production as well as rangeland management through demonstrations, farm visits and training activities at the Agricultural Development Centres (ADCs), while over 16 018 Communal farmers, comprising of 6 244 males, and 9 774 female benefited from subsidised mechanized services, and seed and fertilizer subsidies. This Programme is set to benefit from the current roll-out of the **Namibia Seed Improvement and Mechanisation Programme (NAMSIP)** with the financial support from the **African Development Bank (AfDB)**. Through this programme, the Ministry procured **298 Tractors** out of **expected 350 tractors with matching implements and fodder equipment**; In addition, under the same Programme, the Ministry produced **38.6 tons** of Foundation Seeds and **107 tons** of Certified Seeds. The seed were produced at the Ministry's Research Stations as well as Farmers Cooperatives and private farmers.



The seed were distributed to farmers in all 10 crop growing Regions. This Programme is allocated **N\$31,200,000** this Financial Year (2024/2025), a reduction from the **N\$45,700,000** allocated during 2023/2024 Financial Year.

11.3.3 Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme

One of the key component of value chains is the Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme. The poultry sector is an integral part of the family system in rural Namibia. The Programme aims to provide poultry producers an entry point to diversify their income earning and create employment opportunities through training in poultry activities.

The scheme will further address the following among others:

- a) Introduce rural women and youth into sustainable market-oriented poultry rearing activities;
- b) Enhance the productivity of indigenous breeds;
- c) Enhance food and nutrition security of rural populations;
- d) Create job opportunities for rural poultry producers thereby reducing income inequality.

In the 2023/2024 Financial Year, the Programme received **N\$5,500,000** for all 14 Regions which supported **1 110 beneficiaries**. This year (2024/2025), the programme received **N\$5,000,000** to be divided among all 14 Regions. **It is a programme with great potential to create jobs and eradicate poverty at household level.**

11.3.4 The Small Stock Development and Distribution Programme

The Ministry distributed **1 260 small stock** (1200 female and 60 male) to **60 beneficiaries** from //Kharas, Hardap and Erongo Regions with each Region having **20 beneficiaries**. Each beneficiary received 20 does/ewes and 1 buck/ram. The beneficiaries were trained in small stock production and marketing, and received basic veterinary medicines, as well as small stock husbandry equipment and fencing materials for the kraals. Furthermore, the Ministry revolved **1 420 does to 71 beneficiaries** in Zambezi region (2), Kavango East (10), Kavango West (11), Kunene (4), Otjozondjupa (5), Omaheke (8), Hardap (11) and Erongo (20).



11.4 Veterinary Services continues to be one of the mainstay of livelihoods for the majority of Namibians. In order to prevent animal diseases outbreaks in the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs), a total number of **451 390 cattle** were vaccinated against FMD in the Infected and Protection Zones, while a total number of **604 138 cattle** were vaccinated against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) or lung sickness in the entire NCAs.

Equally, the Government has invested in Livestock Value Chain Infrastructure in the NCAs to unlock the economic potential for the producers in the Northern Communal Areas. As such, the **Katima Mulilo Abattoir** continue to sell Namibian beef products to the south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) (with 16 consignments of 168.78 tonnes) and to regional markets, such as Ghana (one consignment of 22.31 tonnes) and Angola (four consignments of 100.29 tonnes) under the **Commodity-Based Trade** and with the quality and safety second to none!

I am delighted to inform the Honourable Members that the Ministry has succeeded in securing market access for meat from the NCA to Qatar. In addition, the Ministry has also secured export market to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for meat from South of the Veterinary Condon Fence (SVCF).

The Ministry has officially handed over the **Rundu Abattoir** to Meatco as an operator as resolved by Cabinet. This abattoir has been registered as an **Export Abattoir** in March 2024 and is ready to export to Qatar once the Halal accreditation is finalised. Furthermore, it is important to inform Honourable Members that the operationalisation of the **Oshakati Abattoir** is being delayed by the on-going arbitration process between the operator and the Government.

Under the same Programme, **Eenhana Abattoir** as a local market abattoir is currently operational. The upgrading of the **Outapi Abattoir** has been completed. However, servicing and testing of equipment is expected to be concluded by end of June 2024 while the operation of the abattoir is expected to commence at the beginning of July 2024. The completion of the **Ongwediva Meat Processing Plant** is at an advance stage with only specialised works remaining to be completed by end of June 2024.

In addition, the Ministry with the assistance of the European Development Fund under the Livestock Support Programme is in the process of upgrading the **Opuwo Slaughter House** to at least a C-class abattoir during



the 2024/2025 Financial Year. The Veterinary Service Programme under Improvement of Animal Health received an amount of **N\$ 82, 011,322** while the Beef Value Chain received an amount of N\$ 22, 034,000 during the 2023/2024 Financial Year. For the 2024/2025 financial year an amount of **N\$87,009,000** and **N\$ 22,634, 000** have been allocated respectively.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members**

11.5 For the 2024/25 financial year, a total of **N\$1,001,891,025.00** is allocated to the Agriculture Development Programme. This is a **5.3%** reduction from **N\$ 1,057,796,000** which was allocated to this Programme during the 2023/2024 Financial Year. The allocation will be used to carry out the following activities, among others:

- 11.5.1** Conduct annual vaccination campaigns against CBPP, FMD and Rabies in order to control and improve animal health status in the NCAs,
- 11.5.2** Conduct farm inspections for animal disease control and compliance with trading partners' import requirement and international standards,
- 11.5.3** Procure diagnostic materials and support the maintenance of the equipment at Central Veterinary Laboratory;
- 11.5.4** Renovation, upgrading and equipping Veterinary Clinics to meet the requirements for registration with the Namibia Veterinary Council and for efficient delivery of veterinary services in various Regions of the country,
- 11.5.5** Construction of Veterinary Clinics and offices in various Regions of the country to improve service delivery. **I wish to also inform the this August House that the dispute between the Government and the contractor have been concluded and August 26 is on the site to complete the construction of Okahao Veterinary Clinic, which is at 90 percent.**
- 11.5.6** Maintenance and upgrading of the Veterinary Fences,
- 11.5.7** Complete construction of the Ongwediva Meat Processing Plant



- 11.5.8** Operationalise Kalimbeza Rice Project in Zambezi Region,
- 11.5.9** Operationalisation of nine (9) targeted Green Scheme projects, namely; Etunda, Musese, Sikondo, Uvhungu Vhungu, Ndonga Linena, Shitemo, Shadikongolo, ORIP and Hardap Irrigation Projects,
- 11.5.10** Operationalisation of MAWLR Research Station, namely: Mannheim, Omahenene, Okashana, Bagani Crop Research Stations and Katima/Liselo farm in order to produce foundation and certified seed under both rain-fed and irrigation,
- 11.5.11** Procure fertilizers and farming inputs for the Dry Land Crop Production Programme, and
- 11.5.12** Supporting the development of the Agricultural Value Chains.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members;**

12. I now move to Programme 2: **Land Reform**

This Programme remains critical for our country's socio-economic transformation. It is a Programme that aimed at rectifying the past imbalances of land distribution and redistribution of agricultural commercial land to eligible landless Namibians. It allows beneficiaries to be self-reliant in their farming operations and enter the mainstream of the Namibian economy. In order to achieve this objective, the beneficiaries are supported and capacitated through pre- and post-settlement support services.

This Programme consist of two line functions:

- i. Land Reform**
- ii. Resettlement and Regional Programme Implementation**



12.1 This Programme addresses land acquisition for resettlement purposes for the previously disadvantaged Namibians, including the Special Social Groups. In particular, the Ministry is tasked with the implementation of the **Resolutions of the Second National Land Conference (NLC)**. Out of the **176 resolutions** taken at the Second National Land Conference, **16 resolutions** were already in existence prior to the 2nd NLC, **25 resolutions** are fully implemented, **134 are ongoing** while 1 resolution *on the Government to conduct a study on the current land tenure systems to determine its impact and productivity for sustainable land management* is pending resource mobilization. A High Level Committee, comprising of various stakeholders and chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia is charged with the responsibility to implement these resolutions.

12.2 Funding resource constraints and market price considerations limit the scale and speed of land acquisition. During the 2023/2024 financial year, the Ministry, with the resources at its disposal, implemented the following activities:

12.2.1 Acquired seven **(7) farms** for resettlement, with a combined size of **33,822 hectares** at a cost of **N\$ 91,439,268.02**,

12.2.2 During the 2023/2024 financial year, **23 beneficiaries** were resettled, of which **1 Unit** was allocated to **four (4) generational farm workers**,

12.2.3 **A total of 7 821** Communal Land Right registrations were ratified by Communal Land Boards. The continuous registration of communal land rights is critical in strengthening the security of land tenure in Communal areas, it is widely recognised that security of tenure helps to promote socio-communal development of people and encourages sustainable use of natural resources, which includes rangelands, grazing and water, and

12.2.4 The Revised Resettlement Policy was approved by Cabinet, providing for, among others, the option of resettled farmers to have Titles over their allocated farms, thus fully realizing the empowerment objectives of the Land Reform agenda.



**Honorable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members;**

12.3 For the 2024/25 Financial Year, a total of **N\$270,444,088.00** is allocated for the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme. This proposed allocation aims to, among others, support:

- i. Land purchase sub-programme;
- ii. Flexible Land Tenure System;
- iii. Integrated Regional Land Use Plans for Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kunene, Erongo and Khomas Regions;
- iv. Ongoing resettlement sub-programme; and
- v. Development of land in communal areas

12.4 One of the transformational reforms envisaged for the 2024/2025 Financial Year is the tabling of the **Land Bill** in Parliament, which is now on the agenda for deliberation at the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL). The Bill will, among others, empower MAWLR to manage communal and commercial agricultural land through one legal instrument. Further, a revised criterion for resettlement will be developed on the back of the Revised Resettlement Policy as approved by Cabinet in May 2023 to give greater impetus on assessed productivity of the farms and to promote youth, women and vulnerable groups' consideration in the resettlement activities. On that note, the Revised National Resettlement Policy presents the Government's commitment to address land redistribution challenges that our country continues to battle with a more coordinated, inclusive and transparent manner.

12.5 On this note, I would like to applause the Right Honourable Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa – Amadhila and our Minister Hon Schlettwein for advocating for the allocation of **50 Million Namibian Dollars** for the acquisition of land for **the Generational Farm Workers**. Although this may equate to three to five farms, taking the farm prices into consideration, at least it is a good move in the right direction to land delivery.



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members;**

13. Programme 3: Land Administration

This is a support programme to land delivery. It supports Regional Councils, Town Councils and other O/M/As with Valuation Services, Surveying and Registration of Deeds. This programme is responsible for the following activities:

- i. Provide valuation and advisory services to O/M/A's
- ii. Implementation of tax on commercial agricultural land;
- iii. Land surveying and mapping,
- iv. Activities of the Deeds Offices, and the delimitation; and
- v. Demarcation of Namibia's international borders.

13.1 During the 2023/24 Financial Year, the Government of the Republic of Namibia commenced with the defence of her submission of the extension of the **Continental Shelf** to the United Nation Commission on the limit of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). During 2024/25 Financial Year the project is allocated **N\$ 54,000,000** out of the total **N\$ 158,000,000**. The remaining **N\$104,017,538** is allocated to cover the following:

- i. Undertaking to reform the Valuation Profession, through establishment of the Council;
- ii. Administration of land tax and valuation;
- iii. National Integrated Geodesy;
- iv. Namibia Digital Cadastral Information System;
- v. Delimitation of the Namibian Continental Shelf;
- vi. Development of National Fundamental Data Sets, and
- vii. Upgrading of Computerized Deeds Registration System to version CDRS 3.0 in Windhoek.

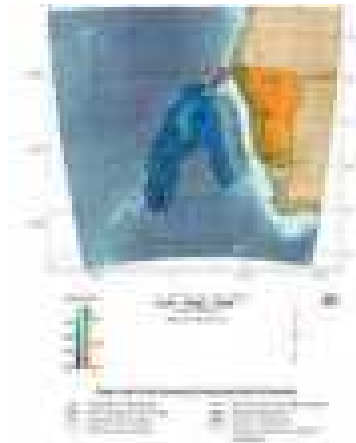


Photo: Delimitation of the Namibian Continental Shelf map

14. Programme 4: Policy Coordination and Support Services

14.1 This Programme is responsible for:

- i. Policy and regulatory functions and supervision,
- ii. Promoting Agricultural Marketing System and Support Services for the field-based functions.

14.2 The key ongoing activities entails the following:

14.2.1 Maintenance of the Ministry's capital infrastructure,

14.2.2 Management of information systems and

14.2.3 Fleet management and maintenance

14.2.4 Operationalization of the Property Valuers Profession Act, the Ministry is now seized with the implementation process.

14.3 Other key policy and legislation reviews that are envisaged for the current financial year include:

14.3.1 Finalisation of the National Agriculture Investment Plan and signing of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact,

14.3.2 Finalisation of the Revised Drought Management Policy and Strategy,

14.3.3 Development of the Disaster Risk Management Strategy for the Agriculture, Water & Land sectors,

14.3.4 Development of the Valuation Bill, and

14.3.5 Various pieces of legislation governing Plant Health.

14.4 A total of **N\$507,005,349** is allocated for the 2024/25 financial year for this Programme as a backstopping function to enable the Vote to execute the above outlined functions. This is an increase from **N\$396,067,771** for 2023/24 for our personnel visibility in all 121 constituencies of the Republic of Namibia.



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee;
Honourable Members;**

- 15.** As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank Honourable Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises and Honourable Obeth Kandjoze, Director General of the National Planning Commission and their teams for the hard work in ensuring that, despite challenges, Vote 37 received an increase of **8.8%** to enable it to deliver its mandate for steering the country through the difficult economic conditions. Sincere gratitude is also due to Honourable Carl Herman Gustav Schlettwein, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform for his visionary leadership and guidance. Special thanks goes to MAWLR Management under the leadership of the Executive Director, Ms Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata for their dedication, hard work and commitment toward ensuring that we overcome challenges such as floods, outbreaks of diseases and pests.
- 16.** Finally, we are mindful of the Macro-economic and Fiscal fundamentals that guided this Financial Year's appropriations to different votes. We are equally aware of the competing needs for resources among other important sectors. Furthermore, we highly appreciate the amount of funds that are allocated to Votes 37. I, however, wish to emphasize production under irrigation is imperative and the only option we have to increase food production in order to ensure that the National Strategic Grain Reserve Facilities are kept at the required levels so as to guarantee national food security and eliminate food import dependency. Therefore, we would like to venture into pleading with Hon. Ipumbu Shiimi to kindly lend us a sympathetic ear when we whisper to him our request for more resources that are needed for the implementation of the Green Scheme Programme for the reasons that I sighted earlier and delivery of services to our farmers who equally share in food delivery.



**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable members**

- 17.** With this motivation, I now call upon this August House to discuss, consider and approve the total budget request which amounts to **One Billion, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million and Three Hundred and Fifty Eight Thousand Namibia Dollar** (N\$1,937,358,000.) for Vote 37: Agriculture and Land Reform for the 2024/25 financial year.

I thank you for your kind attention.











REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM