



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**

Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks

By

**Honourable Anna Shiweda, MP
Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry**

**At the Official Launch of the Five-Year Ministerial Strategic Plan and the
National Policy on Subdivision and Consolidation of Agricultural Land**

26 April 2018

OLD CABINET CHAMBER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb, Minister of Agriculture, Water & Forestry;
Honourable Governors present;
Mr. Percy Misika, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Water & Forestry;
Deputy Permanent Secretaries present;
Management and Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry;
Senior and other Government Officials present;
Representatives of the United Nations Agencies present;
Representatives of Institutions of High Learning present;
Representatives of the Private Sector;
Representatives of Farmers' Unions;
Distinguished Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we come to the end of this occasion, allow me to make a few remarks and express our gratitude to all of you for making time to attend this event.

At the end of the 2016/17 financial year, all OMAs were tasked to develop their Strategic Plans that will guide their operational activities for the next five (5) years to be used as tools for guiding OMAs' interventions in contribution to as directed by the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5). In this regard, a Ministerial Committee was constituted to spearhead this process. Consultations were carried out in all the regions in order to capture pertinent issues that have an effect on the execution of our mandate and also to ensure that our plan bears responsibility and responds to our national priorities. Furthermore, we were fortunate to be guided by the Office of the Prime Minister, which assisted the Ministry throughout the process of preparing this Plan. We are therefore grateful that the Strategic Plan launched here today has been approved as per the standard expectations of the OPM.

On behalf of the Ministry, it is with humbleness and gratitude that I would like to thank all the people that were involved in this process i.e. the Ministerial staff who were instrumental in the development of the document and all our stakeholders who contributed toward the development of this important strategic document. Your concerted efforts and contributions is a sign of your commitment and dedication to the agriculture, water and forestry sectors and without which, this document would not have been a reality.

With regard to the National Policy on Subdivision and Consolidation of Agriculture Land, we know that Namibia has a vast land area, however, we also recognize the increase in demand for agricultural land which is in limited supply given the agro-ecological zones and climatic conditions necessary for agriculture production. The stance of this policy is not to guard against re-distribution of agricultural land per se, but serves as one of the tools to streamline the subdivision, consolidation and utilization of agricultural land in Namibia in the most possible and sustainable manner. This Policy therefore serves as a guideline for safeguarding our most valuable natural resource, agricultural land, in the interest of ensuring sustainability of agriculture production in the country.

In this regard, I would like to first of all, thank the entire Cabinet Committee on Land and Land Related matters, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of International Relations Hon. Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwa, for the guidance and wisdom in carrying out the Cabinet directive towards formulating this Policy. Secondly, I would like to thank the University of Namibia (UNAM) for the initial draft of this Policy. The Ministry deemed it necessary to get an independent view on the subdivision of agricultural land in Namibia, and hence sought the services of UNAM for the initial draft. I would also like to thank the entire staff, especially the members of the Ministerial Technical Committee on Land and Land Related matters who worked tirelessly on the Policy. I would be indebted if I do not recognize and appreciate the National Planning Commission for the guidance provided during the Policy formulation process. This ensured that the policy conforms to our national public policy guidelines and standards. As such, this policy has an implementation plan to guide its implementation and also facilitate monitoring of its execution.

For us, this policy constitutes a milestone achievement as we strive to respond through practical means, to challenges facing agriculture production as manifested by devastating impacts of climate change and competing demands for land use.

I wish to express our gratitude to Office of the Prime Minister for agreeing to host our launch at this chamber. Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to also sincerely thank all of you present here today, you are true compatriots and to us,

this is a demonstration of your individual and collective commitment to the advancement of the agriculture sector in particular and to the development of this country at large. The two sets of documents we need to be utilized to guide the implementation of our activities on a daily basis with a view to improving the livelihoods of all Namibian citizens without leaving anyone behind.

Last but not least, I would like to recognize and thank the members of the media present here today. As a Government, we continue to count on your usual support and appreciate the important role that you continue to play in disseminating information and ensuring that information reaches the intended recipients.

With these words, I declare this occasion officially closed. I thank you.