

Republic of Namibia



STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE ROYAL J. K. /UI/O/OO, MP

DEPUTY MINISTER: MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

16TH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SIX MANDATED AREAS OF THE
PERMANENT FORUM**

UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK

26 APRIL 2017

Your Excellency the Chair of the Indigenous People Forum
Your Excellencies
Dear Delegates

On the implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the mandates areas being of health, education, human rights, economic and social development, environment and culture, Namibia would like to comment as follows:

- The Division Marginalised Communities has implemented various programs and activities as an essential government utilities for the attainment of the National Development Plans, Sustainable Development Goals and Vision 2030, and contributes towards Government's constitutional duty to serve all its citizens equally.
- As part of the implementation of these Programs; Education, Resettlement and Livelihood Support programs were identified as key development components to poverty alleviation amongst these communities. Hence, the government has prioritised them as key priorities towards addressing the socio-economic situation of the marginalised communities in a spirit of Harambee Prosperity Plan and that nobody must left out in the Namibian House.

PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES

1. EDUCATION SUPPORT

The high illiteracy rate amongst these communities are receiving attention to ensure that learners/students from these communities are having access to education like all Namibians. The division coordinate amongst others the identification of beneficiaries for education support, facilitate enrolment of students in tertiary institutions and render financial, transportation support to learners and students. The Office also coordinate projects for construction of permanent building for schools, early childhood centres, and teachers houses at various settlement centres. Today the number of learners and students from these communities has increased tremendously over the years.

2. RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION

Access to land plays a vital role in the development of these communities in Namibia, therefore, the provision of land to the landless is regarded as an important development aspect.

- It is delighting to mention that the Government through the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement has procured various farms for the resettlement of San Communities.
- In Kunene Region (Epupa Constituency), the Ovatie and Ovatjimba communities have been resettled in different villages.
- At all the resettlement farms and villages- post resettlement support continues to be availed to the communities. These includes, Agronomic and Horticultural projects, distribution of livestock, access to water and housing, education and health facilities, supplies of farming materials and equipment's, and general provision of post resettlement support;
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Health has been strengthen to make sure that these communities have access to health facilities and young people from these communities are receiving training to become nurses and health extension officers.

3. LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

- The provision of coffins to these communities has been identified by the government to make sure that communities are receiving dignified burials.
- Due to extreme poverty amongst the marginalised communities, the Office has continue to distribute the food rations amongst these communities under the Special Feeding Programme on a monthly basis.
- Income generation projects have been implemented in almost all resettlement farms and villages such as garden projects, wood projects, etc...

- These Programs also enjoyed throughout the years the continuous support and positive relations with local public and private stakeholders, and multilateral organisations such as the ILO, Spanish Corporation (AECID), and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).
- On the implementation of the Human Rights and Culture mandated areas, the Constitution of Namibia provides for the Bill of Rights and all Namibian are treated equally before the laws and are allowed to practice their own culture without any discrimination.
- We would like to acknowledge that we need to do more as a country for the marginalised communities but due to limited resources, we can only just implement actions within our means.
- We therefore, urge the United Nations and United Nations Agencies to continue and strengthen its support to member states in the implementation of its Programs.
- We also urge the United Nations system to continue with the implementation of equal representations of all indigenous peoples from different continents in its decision making process.
- In conclusion, as we are gathering here as peoples of the World, at the United Nations celebrating the tenth anniversary of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Republic of Namibia would once again affirm and commit itself to the implementation and ratification of all the United Nations Declarations, Conventions, and Treaties as a Member state.

I Thank You