



## **Part of New Structures to Accommodate Landless**

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The Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Jerry Ekandjo, is currently inaugurating Resettlement Committees in Oshana, Omusati and Ohangwena Regions as part of efforts to accommodate landless people in communal areas.

Spokesperson for the ministry, Chrispin Matongela, confirmed to New Era that the committees being inaugurated, which will serve for a period of three years, are part of the new structures created by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement.

In the past, he noted, the people were only resettled in commercial areas, but this time new places in communal areas have been identified where certain people can be resettled. Already places were surveyed in the Kavango and Caprivi Regions where land has been earmarked for the purpose of accommodating small-scale farmers.

Another area still under consideration for resettlement is Omusati Region. Matongela said such committees have been created as part of the wider approach of the ministry in order to mostly accommodate communal land residents.

Chaired by the regional governors, such committees will, among others, consist of the Ministries of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Environment and Tourism, agriculture unions and trade unions. As a way to ensure gender balance, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare will also be represented.

On Wednesday, February 7, Minister Ekandjo officiated at the swearing-in of the resettlement committee in Ohangwena Region. He was yesterday in Omusati Region and will be in Oshana Region today, Friday.

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