**Submission: Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment Bill**

The Chairperson Mr MaleselaDikgale, the Portfolio Committee Members.

My name is KebuengMolaolwe from DOCKDA Rural Development Agency in the John TaoloGaetsewe District, Northern Cape Province. I am grateful for the opportunity to make a submission which represents the views of the rural women of John Taolo Gaetsewe District regarding the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Amendment (ULTRA) Bill.

The amendment of the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act (112 of 1991) should be celebrated as a positive step in the right direction towards promoting and improving women’s access to land tenure in South Africa. This amendment is important for its intent to address the unfair discrimination of women based on their gender to their right of tenure.

In the John TaoloGaetsewe, like many other parts of the country, women in the rural areas are subjected to a myriad of despicable practices masquerading as cultural norms. Such practices include patterns of patriarchy and male primogeniture which preclude women from gaining access to or owning land. The patterns of systemic disadvantage continue to be acutely felt by the women in the rural communities of our society. That all such discrimination needs to be eradicated from our society is a key message from the *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*, 1996 (Constitution). The preamble to the Constitution speaks to the creation of a ‘new order in which there is equality between men and women’.

Given this background, I would like to submit that the application of the amendment Bill be extended to include all land in the republic, both urban and rural land should be subjected to the application of the Bill. The Bill, which will eventually become an Act of Parliament, should not be partisan to the patriarchal hegemony institutionalised by traditional leadership in the rural communities. If the Bill is to apply to the exclusion of rural or tribal land, that will be incongruous and such will result in inconsolable harm to the women in the rural areas. Moreover, if the tribal land will be excluded in the discussions of this Bill, the injustices of the past which the Constitution and the Rahube case (*Rahube v Rahube and Others* [2018] ZACC 42) speaks against will continue to existin South Africa (sadly so, to the disadvantage of women in the rural communities). To avid the latter manifesting, the ULTRA Bill should apply to all pieces of land in the Republic to promote equall access to land tenure rights by women in South Africa, including those in rural dwellings.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.