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**Media Release**  
**Procedures Needed for Better Land Administration!**

A new NRI report, released today has highlighted the need for formal procedures to be established for the smooth administration of Special Purpose Agricultural and Business Leases (SPABLs).

The report states that there needs to be more regularity particularly in the procedures undertaken by the Department of Lands and Physical Planning when administering SPABLs.

It points out that the process for granting SPABLs needs to be set out in the *Land Act* 1996 or in appropriate regulations.

However, an alternative would be to develop departmental policies and guidelines for processing SPABL applications, including the land investigation process.

The report explains that without a set procedure to govern decisionmaking, there would continue to be a pattern of questionable outcomes that would eventually be quashed by the courts.

Author Elizabeth Moore discusses that the state's failure to administer SPABLs in a transparent and accountable manner signals the need for a single process that will allow customary landowners to utilize portions of their land for economic development as a better option.

This has been the case with some landowners who are now utilizing the new voluntary registration model so that portions of their land can be opened up for economic development.

Ms Moore states that if SPABLs are to continue, a review of the relevant sections of the *Land Act* 1996 as well as the development of a framework for guiding the administration of SPABLs needs to be done.

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