



*ERONGO REGION*  
*Office of the Governor*

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE GOVERNOR OF THE ERONGO REGION,  
HONORABLE NEVILLE ANDRE  
AT THE HANDING OVER OF COVID -19 AIDS  
TO !NARA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**HELD**

**ON**

**THURSDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**AT THE**

**!NARA PRIMARY SCHOOL – WALVISBAY**

**11H00**

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR- Ms. Higoam**

**Mrs. Ehrenfriede Stephanus-Regional Director of Education**

**Mr Henri Cochrane – Representative from Hungry Lion**

**Ms. Martha Shikongo-Representative from Tunacor Fisheries**

**Ms. Christine Gontes – Principal of !Nara Primary School**

**Ms Vanessa Rheeder- Head of Department and Project Coordinator**

**Mr. Visagie – who gave us that inspiring prayer**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMAN**

**MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA**

**Good Morning,**

With the start of face to face classes, a lot needs to happen so that students can learn and thrive without raising the risk of spreading COVID-19.

The goal of having children attend school in person-which is how they learn best--will only be safe when the community has the spread of the virus under control. And then, when it is possible to reopen a school for face to face learning, a layered approach is needed to keep students, teachers and staff safe.

Over the past couple of months, the Namibian Government has placed a lot of emphasis on planning the re-opening of schools, it has not been an easy exercise, it took up a lot of resources and as can be seen, there are still challenges to ensure that we have a safe environment at school.

Whilst a safe environment is guaranteed at the school grounds, the same cannot be said about the homes many of these children come from, some are living under harsh conditions, of overcrowding environments, no water for washing hands, no electricity and no hygienic conditions.

In order to redress these fundamental issues and to make sure that the learners homes are also safe, Government and the Municipality of Walvis Bay is currently implementing a decongestion exercise which would allow for more space per family, provision of water, ablution facilities, electricity and entertainment for the kids.

It is therefore very enthralling to see that despite the current economic challenges, due to COVID-19, that Private Sector still responds positively and compliment Governments efforts to provide relief to many of the learners who comes from very low income households and the informal settlements.

It was equally through the support and collaboration with the Private Sector that we could contain the virus, to no cases as on Tuesday this week.

The virus will still be for us for some time, but we can keep our schools safe by:

- Washing hands and sanitize
- Clean and disinfect door handles, desks and other touch surfaces
- Desks one point five meters apart
- Fewer Staff and Learners in each Classroom
- Teachers move classrooms, not learners
- Lunch packs on the desks
- Use outdoor spaces when possible
- Mask for all adults and learners
- Flexibility to go virtual should the virus surge
- Temperature Checks

We are here today to say thank you to Hungry Lion for:

- Providing 1010 cloth facemasks
- 50 litres of hand sanitizers
- 2 x tippy taps
- And two water basins

We are also here today to acknowledge and say thank you to Tunacor for donating 20 water stations. Your contribution will bring about relief to the learners of !Nara Primary school. I would therefore want to thank you and call on you to continuously support educational initiatives such as this.

I just want to implore on the Management of the school to take good care of the facilities and to provide the food to the most vulnerable children.

**I thank you**