



ERONGO REGION
Office of the Governor

STATEMENT

BY

**THE GOVERNOR OF THE ERONGO REGION,
HONORABLE NEVILLE ANDRE**

AT THE

WEEKLY MEDIA BRIEFING

ON

FRIDAY, 24TH JULY 2020

AT

10H00

SWAKOPMUND MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS

Director of Ceremony- Ms. Habate Doeses, CRO of the Erongo Regional Council

Head of the Ministerial Task Team - Honorable Hafeni Ndemula- Deputy Minister of Labour and Employment Creation

Honorable Esther Muinjangué – Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services

Honorable Daniel Kashikola – Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Emigration, Safety and Security

Honorable Dereck Claasen – Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development

Honorable Faustina Caley - Honorable Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture

Honorable Juuso Kambueshe- Chairman of the Erongo Regional Council

Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu-Nampol

Captain Appolos Haimbala – Commandant of the Namibian Marine Corpse

Mrs. Ehrenfriede Stephanus – Regional Director of Education from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

Mrs. Anna Jonas-Regional Director of Health in the Ministry of Health and Social Services

Dr Helvi Petrus – Regional Head from the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

We once again extend a warm welcome to members of the media, who continue to be our valued partners in the fight against COVID-19.

High Level Inter- Ministerial Delegation:

This morning we are blessed with the presence of the High-Level Inter-Ministerial Delegation, led by our Former Chairman of the Erongo Regional Council, Honorable Hafeni Ndemula as well as the Former Mayor of Walvis Bay Honorable Dereck Claasen. This High Level Inter-Ministerial delegation has been send to the Region, to:

- Show empathy, solidarity and unity of purpose to the people of the Erongo Region
- To render a shoulder of support to the people of Erongo
- To re-assure the people of the Erongo Region that the National Leadership remains fully committed to the protection of lives and livelihoods in this region and across Namibia.

We are thus humbled to receive the delegation in the Erongo Region, the third delegation from our Government within a short space of three months.

This is just an indication that our President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob and the National Leadership is caring and are committed to the plight of the people in the Erongo Region.

Such visits are reassuring and giving us the much needed energy and hope to continue to fight this virus till the end.

Therefore, I want through you Honorable Ndemula and the Team to convey our appreciation to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia Dr Hage Geingob for reassuring us of the National Leadership's support and solidarity during this time.

We have not given up hope and we will not give up until we have flattened the curve and ensure the reduction in mortality rate.

During the past two days, the team has acquainted themselves with the situation on the ground.

The High Level Inter – Ministerial Team visited various facilities, both public and private and met with a number of stakeholders as well as some of the bereaved families who lost their loved ones as a result of COVID -19.

For the next two days the team will continue to meet different stakeholders as well as visiting different public and private facilities.

Director of Proceedings,

We are in the midst of a deadly pandemic and must act accordingly, and in line with the preventative measures we continue to communicate. We are all required to be responsible, careful and compassionate.

The truth is we are not helpless in the face of this storm.

On the Weekly Media Briefing:

The idea of this weekly media briefing, was started during my first week as the Governor of this great Region. At that time, I felt it is important to keep the media updated and informed on issues pertaining COVID -19.

I am therefore happy, that this weekly media briefing has happened uninterruptedly and on schedule.

This media briefing wouldn't have been possible without the hard working and committed media practitioners in our Region and I would like to thank them for always honoring this event with their presence, but most importantly sharing the information received here, through their different media houses with the people of the Erongo Region and Namibia at large.

Consultations between the Private and Public Doctors

Last week, during our weekly media briefing, I informed the media of ongoing consultations between the Private and Public Doctors – aimed at looking at a way to work together, share the limited resources and give expert advice and support to the various WHO guidelines and SOP's.

I am pleased to inform the media that we have reviewed certain guidelines and protocol's and will share such with the Honorable Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Shangula, to further discuss it at National level.

The guidelines and protocols reviewed includes amongst others:

- The issues around **quarentine and isolation-**
- The issues around testing
- The issues around testing health workers and medical practitioners as well as issues around burials

We will now wait on the responses from the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Standard bank Food Donations:

On Tuesday 21st July 2020, I officiated over a donation of food parcels from Standard Bank, Walvis Bay Branch. Standard Bank donated 1000 food parcels with immune boosters to our patients in the isolation centers.

These warm and kind gestures of goodwill carry an even higher level of significance at a time like this when COVID-19 has caused so much economic devastation, including the loss of people's livelihoods, through the closure of firms

Launch and Handing – over of the Sanitizing Booths:

On Wednesday, 22nd July 2020, my Office handed over three Sanitizing Booths to the Ministry of Health and Social Services. These booths will be used at the three District hospitals namely Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Omaruru.

We are still having a long way to walk.

There is no vaccine yet for the pandemic, the only way out of this pandemic at present is to protect ourselves, limit our movements, keep a social distancing, wash our hands regularly, wear a mask in public places and adhere to the regulations under the State of Emergency.

Honorable Ndemula as you and your delegation observed we have many challenges and needs Government's firm support if we want to be victorious over this virus.

As you could see during the past two days and will still see and hear in the coming days of your visit;

- Our economy is on its knees
- Our people cannot go to work and get an income
- Many of our people are retrenched,
- Many of our people are evicted from houses and other rental places
- Our kids are home
- Our families can't worship anymore
- Quarentine and isolation facilities are full
- Deaths are on the increase

I appeal to Central Government to make the Erongo Region a priority support area as we are dealing with these serious challenges on a daily basis.

It is heartbreaking to see a young woman with little children visiting my Office, complaining about having no food, due to the fact that she has lost her job due to COVID-19.

It is equally painful to see a young man who was employed in the tourism industry, down and out as he can no longer provide for his family.

It is very painful to see the artisan and the crafts man who can't sell his art work anymore and get an income, due to COVID-19.

These are the type of faces and the harsh realities I am faced with on a daily basis.

We need to develop special packages to help the people of the Erongo Region, out of these tough times.

We therefore plea to Central Government to take our concerns with the necessary urgency it deserves.

Today's Media Briefing:

For today's media briefing, I have invited **Dr. Helvi Petrus**, the Regional Head of the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade, to talk about the startup sanitizer support program.

I have also invited **Ms Stephanus**, the Regional Education Director, who just like me is in a very hot seat, she will tell us about when schools will re-open or not as well as other issues.

We will then have, the Regional Director of Health, Ms Anna Jonas to give a comprehensive status report regarding COVID-19 in the Erongo region.

We will then have our usual security cluster update, by **Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu** and **Captain Appolos Haimbala**.

I will then invite the members of the Ministerial Task Team if they want to comment and be available to answer questions from our esteemed media.

Conclusion:

Following on the National Day of Prayer day, by His Excellency President Dr. Hage Geingob in April 2020, I would like to announce to the residents of the Erongo Region, to set aside Sunday, 26th July 2020, as a day of Prayer.

My request to all churches who wish to participate, is to ring their bells at exactly three o'clock on Sunday, 26th July 2020.

I will join other church leaders through a skype prayer event which can be followed on the different Social Media Platforms.

To the Residents of the Erongo Region and Namibia at large, wherever you are on Sunday, 26 July at 15h00, go down on your knees for a few minutes to pray for the protection and welfare of our region and Namibia.

Director of proceedings,

As we now approach the peak of infections, we need to take extra – precautions and tighten existing measure to slow down the rate of transmission.

We will certainly get through these challenging times, just as the sun rise in the East and sets in the West, so will the sun shine again over a glorious Erongo Region.

I thank you.