



ERONGO REGION
Office of the Governor

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

Honourable Neville Andre

at the

WEEKLY MEDIA BRIEFING

held on

Friday, 01st May 2020,

at the Swakopmund Municipality Chamber,

at 10h00

- Director of Proceedings and CRO of the Erongo Region – **Ms. Habate Doeses**
- **Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu** – Regional Commander of NamPol
- **Captain Appolos Haimbala** – Namibian Marine Corps Commandant
- **Honorable Juuso Kambueshe** – Chairman of the Erongo Regional Council
- **Your Worship, the Mayors and All Local Authority CEOs**
- **Mrs. Anna Jonas** – Director of Health and Social Services in the Erongo Region
- **Mr. Kavin Harry** – Acting CEO of NamPort
- Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all present here today. I know it is a public holiday today, but I opted to maintain my promise of the weekly media information sharing and update on COVID – 19, hence our briefing today.

1. On International Workers Day.

International Workers Day is a day to highlight the preventable nature of most workplace disturbances and ill treatment of employees; and to support the campaigns and union organizations in the fight for the advancement of workplace safety.

As the world is currently facing the coronavirus pandemic, it has without any doubt affected and is still affecting many workers regardless of sector or locality. Tens of thousands of workers worldwide have died. Numerous of them has fallen ill or continue to go to work risking their lives. Many more has been laid off or retrenched due to the heavy impact the virus has on the global economy.

Many workers are still serving work ill-equipped and without certain safety measures in place.

Here at home, I would like to pay homage to the men and women in uniform, who on a daily basis risk contact with their families in a bid to save

us from getting infected with the virus. I am especially paying tribute to the health workers, our security personnel and all other essential services.

In our region we are also faced with the plight of our mine workers and fisherman. Many are unemployed today due to global and other realities.

My Office will in the coming months continue to engage all relevant stakeholders to find lasting solutions for a better outcome for those workers.

I therefore salute the Workers of the World during these trying times.

On the Opening of the Open Markets:

Two weeks ago, the Ministry of Urban and RURAL Development, engaged the Regional Governors and Local Authority Councilors, through video conferencing, after being inundated by the Informal Traders on the aspect of losing out on income, whilst established businesses operate.

We then tasked all Local Authorities to send in their preparedness and readiness strategies on the opening of Informal Markets. All local Authorities responded to this call.

For today's press briefing I have invited the Municipalities of Walvis Bay, Henties Bay and Swakopmund to inform us about their readiness strategies.

I have also invited the Acting CEO of NAMPORT, Mr. Kavin Harry, to share information on the Port's surveillance on COVID – 19.

I also acknowledge the presence of Mrs. Anna Jonas, the Regional Director of Health, who will share with us a summary of the regional Epidemic Preparedness Index.

The Mayors and their CEOs have been invited and will present an update on their respective respective town's readiness to reopen the operation of open markets.

On the Patrols:

Over the past three (3) days, I joined the Security Cluster and in particular, our Uniformed Officials patrolling in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Henties Bay and Arandis on foot.

I must say that I am very impressed with the efforts of our uniformed Officials, especially at a time that there are resource constraints. I am calling on all inhabitants of the Region, to adhere to the regulations of the lockdown, even when it has been announced that the nation will gradually readjust back to normality.

On the Media:

I am very thankful for your positive coverage during this time and would like to continually urge you to maintain the cordial relationship with my office in curbing the spread of COVID-19. We need each other during this pandemic and it is only when we work together that we can send out helpful information in our fight against the pandemic. Our Government is trying its level best with the available resources to ensure our people have something to eat and remain healthy during this pandemic. Now is also not a time to be selective. Let us make do for what is provided.

With these few words, I once again thank you for your presence and look forward to continue working with you all.

I thank you.