



ERONGO REGION
Office of the Governor

STATEMENT

BY

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

AT THE MEDIA BRIEFING

HELD

ON

FRIDAY, 31st JULY 2020

AT THE

SWAKOPMUND MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS

DIRECTOR OF PROCEEDINGS- Habate Doeses, Chief Regional Officer of the Erongo Regional Council

Honorable Hafeni Ndemula-Head of the High Level Inter-Ministerial Delegation and Deputy Minister of Labour and Employment Creation

Honorable Dereck Claasen – Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development

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

Honorable Ester Muinjangue – Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services

Honorable Faustina Caley – Deputy Minister of Education, Arts Culture

Dr Kaveto Sikuvi - Head of the National Case Management Team

Honorable Juuso Kambueshe – Chairman of the Erongo Regional Council

Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu-Regional Commander of NAMPOL

Captain Appolos Haimbala - Commandant of the Namibian Marine Corps

Mr Alpheus Benjamin – Chief Executive Officer of the Swakopmund Municipality

Mr. Muronga Haingura – Chief Executive Officer of the Walvis Bay Municipality

Ms. Anna Jonas – Regional Health Director

The Representatives from the Hodago Company

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

Good morning,

Sunday, 26 July 2020, heralded another painful chapter in the town of Walvis Bay.

Barely hours after the prayer day ceremony at the Maranatha Lutheran Church in Narraville, coupled with the Walvis Bay's Municipality's efforts on the decongestion exercise, where earthworks started to decongest Otweya Informal Settlement, we learnt of the devastating blaze that made 150 households and lost most of their personal belongings.

Sadly, during this blaze one life was lost. I want to extend my sincere condolences to the bereaved family, may the Lord comfort them during this time and may the soul of their son rest in peace.

I am sure with the outpour of support and care, **Otweya will rise from the ashes (albeit a new name)**, as one of our media Colleagues, Neil Terblance put in his story earlier this week, on Twaloloka.

I would wholeheartedly like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Namibia, under the dynamic, caring and supporting Leadership of His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, for the swift action in donating tents, food and other material support to bring relief to the affected people.

Equally I would like extend my appreciation to the many Namibians, Business People, Sympathizers, Philanthropist and Organizations, who has contributed unconditionally and out of the understanding and knowledge that we are in a crisis and in the midst of a state of emergency, through donating clothing, food, material and other necessities to help with the reconstruction and rebuilding of Otweya.

It is these type of selfless contributions, without questioning, the due processes of Government, but acting on the real need as experienced by our people, which symbolizes the true Namibian spirit, of pulling together in the same direction.

We need businesses that act and do rather than exploit the current situation and have unending debates and questions, rather than providing solutions to the problems we face.

Now is not the time to say you were supposed to do that or we warned you previously or government is not serious about the situation and the lives of our people.

Now is the time to compliment Governments efforts to contain COVID -19 and other disasters.

If Ministries, Offices and Agencies of Government were not serious, imagine what the situation would have been.

There has been a lot happening over the past week and we were fortunate that most of the things that happened, happened

whilst we had the High Level Inter – Ministerial delegation with us.

They came and they also saw the challenges and issues we are experiencing on a daily basis, but they also saw what efforts we are making in our different spheres as Government and indeed other stakeholders to mitigate the challenges.

Despite our respective short-comings, there are great strides we have made in the way and we really need to be proud of our achievements as the people of Erongo Region.

We are now in the midst of the pandemic, where it is no more about the Namibian who came back from abroad or the truck driver with travel history that brings us the virus.

It is now our own family, our own colleagues, our own friends and people within our community.

Community infection is real and with us now; therefore, we need to make every effort to look after ourselves and take care of our families.

Most of our activities for this week was dedicated to bring about normalization at Otweya Informal Settlement.

Donations Received through my Office for Otweya:

In terms of transparency and openness, my Office is keeping a register, to record all donations that are coming through my Office for the communities of Otweya.

I am happy to share with the media that the following goods has been received through my office from the following people:

- Ms. J. Ulamba – kids and elderly clothes, one bag, a normal top bag
- Lydia Shikomba – Clothes, one bag, a normal 25 kg maize meal bag size.

On Wednesday, 29th July, whilst officiating over the contribution by the Namibian Government, I announced that more still needs to be done and called on Namibians and in particular the Private Sector, who wants to make cash donations, to deposit it into the Governor's Cup-Erongo.

We have so far received confirmations from the following companies:

1. Cadilu Fishing(PTY) Ltd – N\$ 50 000.00
2. Overberg Fishing Company (PTY) Ltd – N\$ 50 000.00
3. The Rainbow Fishing Company (PTY) Ltd – N\$ 50 000.00
4. Ekikimbo Fishing (PTY) Ltd – N\$ 50 000-00

Oshimada Fishing (PTY) Ltd pledged N\$ 40 000.00 and awaits from my Office on what that money should be spend on.

We will do a thorough needs assessment at Otweya, to ascertain where this cash contribution will be spent.

Having said that it is also important to inform you that these moneys will not be spent loosely or out of the boots of cars, but we will follow the due procurement processes, in line with the National Procurement Board and the Erongo Regional Council's regulations and guidelines.

Food Donations from Other Regions:

My counter parts in other Region's continue to support the people in our region, through food packages. One such region has been the Oshana Region, who recently donated mahangu and other perishable food items.

These contributions by Honorable Elia Irimari, and the people of the Oshana region is indeed commendable and shows spirit of true solidarity, reminiscent of the true Namibian spirit.

These valuable contributions would be at our shores by next week.

I am truly humbled and spurred on every day by the level of support we are receiving from all corners of Namibia.

For today's Media Briefing:

For today's media briefing, I have invited the CEO of Walvis Bay municipality to tell us about their plans for decongesting Informal Settlements and backyard shacks.

Please feel welcome to this weekly media briefing, Mr. Haingura.

We will then have our esteem partners from the Security Cluster and Health to give their usual weekly updates.

We will also have Dr Kaveto Sikuvi, National Head of the Case Management Team, to update us on new developments.

Conclusion:

As usual, I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our media colleagues.

Sometimes you might not feel or see it, but to us reading and listening to your stories on radio and television make us proud and appreciate the important role you play in disseminating information.

Please continue to serve the Region and the Country with the same vigor.

I would also want to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who continue to help at the Food Distribution in

Walvis Bay and at Otweya, for their continuous dedication and hard work.

Equally I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Walvis Bay and Swakopmund Municipalities for their continuous support during this period. You have really outdone yourself.

You have opened taps, you have vowed not to increase municipal tariffs, which includes rates and taxes for this year, you have availed facilities for quarantine and isolation, you provide meeting space, you provided a functional Emergency Operational Center, you have availed land for the decongestion exercise, you continue to provide support and guidance in terms of COVID-19, at times you spend your own resources, both human and capital and I am indeed thankful for what you have done so far.

To the Walvis Bay Urban and Walvis Bay Rural Constituency Offices, thank you for the leading role you play in the food distribution and now with the relief to the Communities of Otweya, your offices played a vital role in ensuring that everything went smoothly.

Next week, Thursday 6 July 2020, 10h00, I will be having my maiden State of the Region address.

It will happen in this very chambers.

To the High Level Inter-Ministerial Delegation, it was very good to have had you in our midst and it is our hope as you are going back not to forget about the many faces you saw, which certainly gave you hope, amidst the challenges they face, the many ideas you received during your interactions with a wide range of people, that provides hope in the midst of agony and depression, the many songs of joy you have listened to and danced along to, which certainly spike you up in the midst when people seemed down, the voices you heard during the prayer day session we held, has certainly not only uplift your spiritual being, but certainly give you hope that the people of Erongo will rise again from this pandemic.

It was great hosting you and we are looking forward to receive your report and recommendations.

I would now like to invite the representative of the Hodago Fishing Company to make their donation.

I thank you