



ERONGO REGION
Office of the Governor

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

Honorable Neville Andre

at the

COVID- 19 MEDIA BRIEFING

held on

Tuesday, 23rd June 2020,

at the

Erongo Regional Council's Chambers,

at 15h00

- Director of Proceedings and CRO of the Erongo Region – **Ms. Habate Doeses**
- **Hon Juuso Kambueshe**-Chairman of the Erongo Regional Council
- **Hon Johannes Nangolo**- Walvisbay Rural Constituency Councilor
- **Hon Knowledge lipinge** – Walvisbay Urban Constituency Councilor
- **Your Worship, Alderman Wilfriedt Immanuel**-Mayor of Walvisbay
- **Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu** – Regional Commander of NamPol
- **Captain Appolos Haimbala** – Namibian Marine Corps Commandant
- **Mrs. Anna Jonas** – Director of Health and Social Services in the Erongo Region
- **Mr Hilary Kagume** - Representative of the World Health Organization
- **Surveillance and Case Management Team** of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Led by Dr Martha Ntinda
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Members of the Media.

The Erongo Region is faced with the mammoth task of ensuring that we contain the COVID -19. The virus is here with us and amongst us.

We need, to have hope, faith and believe that if we stand together as a region, we will minimize the further spread of the virus.

We have shown our resilience in the past and I am confident that we can pull through this.

Over the past few days we have learnt about the increases of COVID -19 cases in Namibia, from 32 to 67 in one week.

Most of the latest cases are from the Walvisbay District, where a total number of 13 cases were registered, only in one week.

This necessitates targeted public health interventions, to contain the spread of the virus in the Walvisbay Local Authority area.

Based on the new cases in the Walvis Bay Local Authority area, especially, Kuisebmond Township, the surveillance team has embarked on a plan to identify more cases which may still be in the township to focus on our response and mitigation activities.

As part of this strategy, my Office together with the Erongo Regional Council, Ministry of Health and Social Services with support from WHO, the Municipality of Walvis Bay, Security Cluster and other partners are expanding our testing strategy to ensure that no possible case is missed.

A testing center at the Kuisebmond Community Hall, was established on 20 June 2020. Over 400 people have been tested through Active case search in the district.

To reach out to more people in the Walvisbay Local Authority area, we have embarked on a testing campaign in targeted areas and population, under the name Active Case Identification Exercise and will start on the 24th June 2020 and will end on the 28th June 2020.

The main aims and objectives of the testing would be:

1. To establish the extent of COVID-19 spreading in the Walvisbay District
2. To use data collected to plan for the response activities in the District.

The following activities will be carried:

	Activity	Dates	Remarks
1	Community mobilization and sensitization	23 – 24 June 2020	Will be continued throughout the testing period and will be conducted per site
2	Participants registration and referral for testing	22 – 23 June 2020	Will be conducted prior to testing dates per site
3	Collection of samples and delivery to National Pathology laboratories for testing	24 June – 26 June 2020	Average time to get results; 2 days
4	Identification of cases, isolation of cases and identification of contacts, categorization of contacts and quarantine of contacts	24 June – 26 June 2020	Upon receipt of test results, participants will be informed of their results, positive cases identified and isolated, contacts identified and based on their risk categorization, contacts quarantined
4	Reports writing	27 – 28 June 2020	Report will be shared with stakeholders

Targeted participants:

Since the main purpose of this project, is to establish the extent of transmission in the district, the investigation will target locations with high populations, vulnerable persons who interact with many persons from the community as they conduct their daily jobs and offer essential services.

These will include: health care workers in health facilities, pharmacies, cashiers, tellers, receptionists, security guards, cleaners, security clusters, shops, supermarkets, banks, barber shops and salons, car wash, vendors, drivers, ship operators/staff, operational factories providing essential services.

Target sites, number of tests, date and testing sites

The target per site was determined based on current population size in different areas in the district and current location of cases and contacts in the district.

	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number to be tested</i>	<i>Testing Dates</i>	<i>Testing Site</i>
1	Sea point	268	24-25th June 2020	Kuisebmond Health Centre
2	Namport	268	24-25th June 2020	Mobile team, Coastal clinic
3	Tutaleni	200	24-25th June 2020	! Nara school, Coastal clinic
4	Twaloloka	200	24-25th June 2020	! Nara school

5	Kabeljou	200	26-27th June 2020	Narraville community hall
6	Kuisebmond center	200	26-27th June 2020	Kuisebmond community hall, Coastal clinic
7	Narraville	200	26 - 27 June 2020	Narraville community hall
8	Port and Town	100	26 - 27 June 2020	Mobile team
9	Prison	300	23 June and 27 June 2020	Mobile team
10	Utuseb - 60 km from Walvis Bay district	64	27 June 2020	Mobile team
	Total	2000		

Conclusion:

On Friday, 18th June 2020, I went for a voluntary test and the results came out this morning, I am therefore pleased to inform the media that the test came out negative.

Despite all the euphoria about the test, it was an easy test, not painful as it looks, it's only a few seconds and it is worth taking.

Given the nature of my Office, my staff are also, part of the frontline officers and are exposed through dealing and meeting with many people, as a result of such exposure, all my staff will also be tested within the next few days.

This exercise will focus on targeted and localized responses to arrest and manage the community transmission in Walvisbay District.

This exercise will give us a picture of how many people are possibly affected and where they are located and it will assist us in doing proper planning, to know how much resources, both human and financial we require to arrest this pandemic in the Walvisbay District

In a time of crisis, no one should be the enemy, no one should be the loser, no one should be the victor, but we should take collective resolve and stand together as one community, to solve our problems.

I thank you.