



ERONGO REGION
Office of the Governor

STATEMENT

BY

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

AT THE MEDIA BRIEFING

HELD

ON

FRIDAY, 21st AUGUST 2020

AT THE

SWAKOPMUND MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS

Director of Proceedings-Ms Habate Doeses – Chief Regional Officer of the Erongo Regional Council

Your Worship, the Mayor of Swakopmund – Honorable Nehemia Salomon

Honorable Local Authority Councilors Present

Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu - Regional Head of NAMPOL

Captain Apollos Haimbala – Commandant of the Namibian Marine Corps.

Ms. Anna Jonas – the Director of Health in the Erongo Region

Dr. Marita Mouton – Senior Medical Officer

Mr. Alpheus Benjamin - Chief Executive Officer of the Swakopmund Municipality

Mr. Laurens – From the Health Department – Swakopmund Municipality

Ladies and Gentleman

Members of the Media

Good morning,

I am very pleased to welcome the invited guest and the media, to today's weekly media briefing.

We have witnessed ever since Saturday that the curve is flattening in Walvis Bay, this does not mean that we have won the battle over COVID-19. We still have a very long way to go to ensure that we have totally eliminated the virus. I would therefore like to plea with the residence of Walvis Bay, to keep adhering to the regulations and by staying indoors, exercise, washing hands, sanitize, putting on a masks, avoid large gatherings and keeping a social distance.

Whilst the figures of Walvis Bay have been declining, we have witnessed a surge in the figures of Swakopmund and other towns such as Arandis, Usakos and Omaruru in our region.

To this end, I had consultations with the Local Authorities of Swakopmund, Hentiesbay and Arandis, to look at their overall readiness and response mechanisms for COVID-19.

I have undertaken these consultations guided by the Public and Environmental Health Act of 2015, the Disaster Risks Management Act and the Regulations under the State of Emergency as pronounced by the Cabinet.

In terms of overall readiness and compliance with the acts:

I am happy that all three Local Authorities met, had elected their representative Local Authority Emergency and Disaster Risks Management Committees. Despite having met during the initial stages of the pandemic, these Committee's was inactive and hence my call to the Local Authorities to revive these Committees. We also need to strengthen Public Awareness and Community Education, to ensure that our people fully understand and comprehend not only the education around COVID-19, but the education around the regulations under the State of Emergency.

I am also pleased that the Local authorities adhered to the directives under the state of emergency, which includes amongst others:

- The opening of water
- The implementation and adherence to SOP's and in some cases streamlining such SOP's
- The provision of burial space and support to the Health Officials or the burial committee's
- The provision of space for quarentine and isolation
- The rolling out of food distribution
- The implementation of directives under the state of emergency.
- The provision of accommodation support to the security cluster
- The decongestion exercise in line with Cabinet directives
- Tippy taps and public hand sanitizer points in informal settlements
- The provision of PPE's to staff

If we continue with the same vigor and energy and working together as a team, we would ensure the flattening of the curve in our region.

Through this exercise we were also able to see where the challenges are, how they can be resolved and by when and whom they will be resolved.

As from Saturday, all the Local Authorities consulted will be presenting their strategies at our weekly Emergency Operational Center Meeting. They would do so to share their experiences as well as looking at ways and means on how their challenges can be resolved at a regional level.

We need a well-coordinated effort to fight this pandemic, no one needs to feel left out, we are all together in this, we need each other more than ever before.

Apart from the afore-mentioned efforts, we have also witnessed how we continue to get more support for the Otweya fire victims, today two institutions are about to make their contributions namely the employees from Bank Windhoek and Bishop Mark Noble. Your contributions will definitely bring relief to the affected communities. Having said that I would like to plea to all Samaritans, philanthropist, funders, donors, the public and private sectors, that Otweya now needs support in the form of medium to long term solution to their housing problem, they need for fix structures, therefore we would welcome any support

in the form of constructing moveable structures, whilst we await the completion of farm 37.

I have also received a donation on Tuesday morning from the Chinese Business Community in the Region, they have donated the following items:

- 3000 masks
- 200 mattresses
- 160 chairs
- Loads of household plastic goods
- 20 duvets

The Business Community also handed an amount of N\$ 30 000 00 to the Namibian Police, to boost their budget in their fight against the pandemic.

The mattresses and other equipment donated has been handed over to the Mayor of Swakopmund to support victims during this pandemic.

Today's Media Briefing:

For today's media briefing, I have invited Dr Marita Mouton, Senior Medical Officer, Swakopmund District, to inform us about the statistics of the Swakopmund District as well as an update on their response.

I have also invited Mr. Laurens, the Head of Health in the Swakopmund Municipality to brief the media about Swakopmund's response initiatives.

Then we will have Mrs. Anna Jonas, the Regional Health Director to update us on Health issues in the Region.

Then we will have our Colleagues from the Security Cluster, Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu and Captain Apollos Haimbala to give an update on the Security Situation.

I thank you