



**ERONGO REGION**  
Office of the Governor

**MEIDA STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE GOVERNOR OF THE ERONGO REGION GOVERNOR,  
NEVILLE ANDRE**

**STATE OF THE SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SITUATION IN THE  
ERONGO REGION**

**08 OCTOBER 2020**

**SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA GUARANTEES BOTH EQUALITY AND FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION TO ALL ITS CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RACE OR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION. NAMIBIA HAS RATIFIED INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS THAT FORBID GENDER BASED VIOLENCE, SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW), THE PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA, THE SADC PROTOCOL ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND MANY MORE.**

**I MUST POINT OUT THAT GBV CUTS ACROSS GENDER LINES BUT WE CANNOT IGNORE THE GLARING STATISTICS THAT SHOW THAT WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE THE MOST AFFECTED BY THIS SCOURGE THAT IS STEALING THE INNOCENCE OF OUR CHILDREN, KILLING OUR WOMEN AND LEAVING THE CORE OF THE NAMIBIAN FAMILY IN TATTERS.**

**THE ERONGO REGION IS NOT IMMUNE TO THE DEVASTATION OF THIS NATIONAL CURSE WHICH IS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. IN MARCH THIS YEAR, OUR COUNTRY RECORDED IT'S FIRST COVID19 CASES, AND ON 17 MARCH 2020, HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT, DR. HAGE GEINGOB DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS. NOT LONG THERE AFTER, THE ERONGO REGION WAS CONFIRMED AS THE EPICENTRE OF**

**INFECTION IN NAMIBIA AND STRICT MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER LOCKDOWN MEASURES WERE IMPOSED ON ERONGO, WHICH SAW US EFFECTIVELY 'LOCKED IN' FOR OVER 5 MONTHS.**

**FOR THE PERIOD SINCE MARCH 2020 UNTIL END SEPTEMBER 2020, THE NAMIBIAN POLICE IN THE ERONGO REGION RECORDED 24 RAPE CASES AND 176 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER GBV RELATED OFFENCES. IN APRIL 2020 WE HAD ONLY ONE (01) RAPE CASE REPORTED AND ELEVEN (11) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER GENDER BASED RELATED OFFENCES REPORTED WITH THE NAMIBIAN POLICE IN THE ERONGO REGION AS OPPOSED TO 05 RAPE CASES AND 23 GBV RELATED OFFENCES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER 2020. THIS STARK INCREASE IN RAPE AND GBV OFFENCES IN SEPTEMBER, WHICH IS AFTER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS LIFTED, CAN NOT BE IGNORED.**

**IN OUR INVESTIGATIONS, IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE INCREASE IN OFFENCES IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE WIDER USE OF ALCHOHOL DUE TO THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY REGULATIONS THAT RESTRICTED THE SALE AND USE OF ALCOHOL, AS ONE OF THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.**

**THE LOSS OF JOBS AND THE ECONOMIC FALLOUT CAUSED BY COVID19 ON NATIONS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IS TANGIBLE WHICH HAS EXCERCABATED THE SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH OUR**

PEOPLE LIVE. THESE ARE VERY CHALLENGING TIMES AS PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD AS WELL AS OURSELVES IN NAMIBIA, NAVIGATE OUR FUTURE DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES.

WE HOWEVER, CANNOT ALLOW OUR CHILDREN AND OUR WOMEN TO LIVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES WHERE WE AS THEIR MEN, THEIR BROTHERS AND PROTECTORS ARE THE ONES THAT ARE TEARING THE FABRIC OF OUR HOMES APART BY WREAKING HORROR ON THEM THROUGH RAPE, VIOLENCE AND MURDER.

GBV HAS BECOME OUR SHAME AS A COUNTRY AND AS A PEOPLE. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHEN WE SEE CHILDREN AND WOMEN BEING ABUSED, SIMPLY BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED – BY KEEPING SILENT WHILE WITNESSING ABUSE, MAKES US COMPLICIT IN THE BROKEN AND STOLEN LIVES OF OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

I CALL UPON THE MIGHTY REGION OF ERONGO TO JOIN ME IN STANDING UP TO THE SCOURGE OF GBV IN ERONGO AND MAKE A COMMITMENT THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS ANY LONGER IN OUR FAMILIES AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES. I URGE US ALL TO ALERT AUTHORITIES, EVEN ANONYMOUSLY, OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN THAT WE WITNESS BEING NEGLECTED AND ABUSED AS WELL AS WOMEN THAT WE KNOW ARE BEING ABUSED IN THE HOMES OR IN THEIR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS/MARRIAGES BY ABUSIVE PARTNERS AND SPOUSES.

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THE ERONGO REGION AND INDEED THE ENTIRE  
COUNTRY SAFER FOR OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN BY BECOMING PART OF  
THE SOLUTION. LET'S UNITE AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE.**

**I THANK YOU**