



ERONGO REGION
Office of the Governor

STATEMENT

BY

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

AT THE

WEEKLY MEDIA BRIEFING

ON

FRIDAY, 03rd JULY 2020

AT

10H00

SWAKOPMUND MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS

Director of Ceremony- Ms Habate Doeses, CRO of the Erongo Region

Honorable Juuso Kambeushe-Chairman of the Erongo Regional Council

Commissioner Andreas Nelumbu-Nampol

Captain Appolos Haimbala – Commandant of the Namibian Marine Corpse

Mrs. Ehrenfriede Stephanus-Regional Educational Director

Mrs. Anna Jonas-Regional Director of Health

Mr. J.J. Doeseb – Chairman of NCCI Walvisbay Branch

Mr. Ivory /Uirab – Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

More than 237 cases of COVID -19 have now been reported in the Erongo Region, with no deaths so far.

All these cases have been reported in the last two weeks.

The best way to get out of this virus, is a comprehensive approach to fight this virus.

I know we have been doing this over the past couple of months, but with the increase in cases, I think we need to pause and take stock of what we have done, and how we can improve going forward.

It is thus timely that we need to review our approach as stakeholders in the Erongo Region and develop an approach that will contain the virus.

All of our efforts are necessary during this time.

In March, Italy and Spain were the epicenter of the pandemic. At the peak of its epidemic, Spain had almost 10 000 cases a day, and Italy had more than 6,500 cases.

But both countries brought their epidemics under control with a combination of leadership, humility, active participation by every member of society, and implementing a comprehensive approach.

Both countries faced the same daunting situation we are in today, but turned it around.

The difference in our case is that there are no deaths recorded yet.

We therefore need to stand together and fight this pandemic.

We need the continued bottom up approach to ensure broader participation and ownership during these trying times.

Next week I will be tasking the different Constituency Disaster Management Committees to come up with a comprehensive approach that will help us to contain the virus in our region.

1. Food Distribution:

Last week I reported that the Food Distribution Program under the Office of the Prime Minister will resume to the identified households. These households were identified through the offices of the Constituency Councilors and Municipalities. I inspected the warehouse in Karibib over the past weekend.

Each parcel is made out of maizemeal, pumpkins, tinned fish, sugar, tea and cooking oil

I am therefore happy to inform the media that as of Monday this week, Food distribution started in the Towns of Arandis, and Walvisbay. Yesterday, the distribution of food was extended to Henties Bay.

I must therefore thank the Namibian Defense Force for availing their trucks for this exercise.

2. Meeting with the Fishing Industry.

Yesterday I met with the top Executives of 15 Fishing Companies, representatives from the Hake and Horse Mackerel Associations, Officials from the Ministry of Fisheries, Health and Security Cluster, as well as the representative from Trade Unions, to hear about their readiness as it pertains to COVID -19. All participants expressed satisfaction on being consulted and having an open dialogue.

The meeting concluded and agreed on the following:

1. That a Committee be established consisting of Trade Unions, the Horse Mackerel and Hake Associations, Officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Services and Fisheries and Marine Resources to look at the following:

- Review of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Operators and Unions at the onset of COVID – 19
- Do site inspections to ensure the safety of workers

Today's media briefing:

For today's media briefing, I have invited Mr. Johny Doeseb, to share with us the perspectives of the Business Community in terms of COVID – 19.

I have also invited Mr. Ivory Uirab to present more on the health issues as it pertains to COVID -19 in the fishing industry.

I have also invited Mrs. Stephanus to talk about educational issues.

We will then have our usual security cluster and health updates respectively.

Vote of thanks:

I would like to express my gratitude to NAMDOCK for converting garages and a storeroom into isolation wards. These are the type of contributions we need, to contain the virus.

Equally my appreciation goes out to the Namibian Defense Force for availing their well-equipped military field hospital, which includes 18 beds and an intensive care unit facility as

well as medical personnel. All these efforts will further supplement our needs for beds as the figures are increasing on a daily basis.

I am happy to inform you, that today at 14h30, the field hospital will be handed over for operation.

I thank you.