

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MP, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES: SPECIAL DISPENSATION FOR THE WALVIS BAY,
SWAKOPMUND, AND ARANDIS LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS.**

6 JULY 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

Director of the Programme
Your Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, President of our Republic
Your excellency, Vice President
Right Honourable Prime Minister
Honourable Ministers
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

As stated by His Excellency, I would like to expound on and give details on additional measures applicable to the Local Authority Areas of Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis, with effect from midnight tonight, Monday the 6th July 2020 to the 3rd August 2020.

1. With the exponential increase of cases at Walvis Bay, the three local authority areas, namely Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis will remain under STAGE 3 for a period of 28 days from the 7th July 2020 until midnight on the 3rd August 2020.
2. The cordon to restrict the movement of people into and out of the three Local Authority Areas will be reinforced as a travel ban, with exception of the movement of essential and critical goods and services, and medical emergencies. This means that the only permits to be issued and authorized to travel into and out of the three Local Authority Areas, will be for these categories provided. Travel between other towns in the Erongo region and to the rest of the country, will be permitted, with exception of the restricted Local Authority Areas.
3. To minimize broader exposure to communities residing at the towns of Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis, travel into, out-of and between these three Local Authority Areas is not permitted and will be restricted only to the supply of essential and critical goods and services as defined in the Regulations.
4. Personal contact details of all persons leaving and/or entering the restricted Local Authority Areas will be recorded in a registry, at the points of entry/exit by law enforcement personnel.
5. Measures to protect the most vulnerable persons in categories as defined in the Regulations, will be strengthened, including shielding elderly persons from exposure to the general public. Caregivers employed in Old Age Homes are required to self-quarantine at alternative locations and avoid contact with the general community. Stricter measures are being put in place to enhance protection at correctional facilities, including restriction on visits by members of the public to such facilities.
6. Isolation of positive Covid-19 cases in terms of locations must be done in ways that do not introduce or increase harm to the community. This may include alternative isolation locations, including private facilities.

7. The Ministry will build in a level of flexibility in the quarantine of contacts, including the locations of such quarantine facilities, in ways that do not introduce or increase harm to the community. This may include home-based quarantine, when safe conditions for such quarantine can be established and verified against a standardized checklist.
8. Public gatherings shall remain restricted to a maximum of 10 people for the whole of Erongo Region.
9. Schools in the restricted areas may not resume face-to-face instruction. Learners who find themselves in the restricted areas will not be permitted to travel out of that restricted area to other parts of the country, owing to the inherent risks.
10. Any person leaving the Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis Local Authority Areas to any part of the country, apart from providers of critical goods and services, will be quarantined for a period of fourteen (14) days at own cost. Drivers of trucks and other vehicles delivering critical and essential services travelling from Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Arandis Local Authority Areas, will be quarantined as per existing modalities applicable to the quarantine of cross border truck drivers and providers of essential goods and services.
11. Inhabitants of the three local authority areas are urged to wear masks correctly when in public places, keep a distance of not less than 1.5 meters from one another, wash hands as frequently as possible, keep on sanitizing and refrain from touching the mouth, nose, eyes and face.
12. The Buying and Selling of liquor are permitted as stipulated under STAGE 3 guidelines, between 12h00 and 18h00 on Monday to Friday and from 09:00 to 13:00 on Saturday. On-site consumption of alcohol is prohibited. Thus, alcohol may only be consumed in private dwellings.
13. Public transport from and into the three restricted Local Authority Areas is prohibited for the duration of this special dispensation.
14. Measures to protect the healthcare system such as minimizing the number of people entering hospitals and carrying out vigorous screening for symptoms will continue to be enhanced.
15. The Proclamation makes provision for penalties for the violation of these additional measures. However, we would like to appeal to the inhabitants of these local authority areas to comply willingly and not to wait to be policed into compliance. This is done to protect yourself, your family members and the Namibian nation. Together we can overcome Covid-19.

16. We are recording different types of transmission, in the different towns. In Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, there is transmission of the virus within the community. At Swakopmund we are mitigating a cluster of cases where most cases have been locally transmitted and are linked to chains of transmission. In other parts of the country, we have thus far recorded sporadic cases which are cases that have been imported or locally acquired.
17. Government is closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the country and the effectiveness of measures being implemented to combat the pandemic. The evidence before us reveals that Namibia is dealing with two very distinct Covid-19 situations. It is, therefore, necessary to apply rational and targeted interventions to respond effectively to both situations. The rising number of cases in Walvis Bay warrants additional containment measures to slow the rate of transmission and reduce the disease from spreading beyond the three Local Authority Areas.
18. We have received report of family members of positive persons being subjected to acts of discrimination and stigmatization. We need to remember that Covid-19 does not discriminate. Therefore, nobody should discriminate anybody or being discriminated against. We must at all times extend our helpful hand to those who have been infected and affected.