



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**MOTIVATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION OF
EMERGENCY NATIONAL DISASTER (DROUGHT)**

BY

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PRIME MINISTER**

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Introduction

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members

1. His Excellency, the President of Republic of Namibia Dr Hage G. Geingob, yesterday issued a Proclamation to declare a State of Emergency: National Disaster (Drought), in terms of Article 26(1) of the Namibian Constitution, read with the section 30(3) of the Disaster Risk Management Act, 2012 (Act No. 10 of 2012) with effect from 06 May 2019.
2. I now present to the National Assembly the motivation to extend the declared State of Emergency: National Disaster on drought, from an expiry date of the proclamation which is seven days to six (6) months.

Background

3. The Agricultural Inputs and Household Food Security Monitoring Assessment which was conducted during December 2018, concluded that that the first half of the 2018/2019-rainfall season which was characterized by extremely poor rainfall performance, which in turn caused considerable delayed in the cultivation activities. Despite the early and good rainfall showers received at the start of the rainfall season which end in October 2018 to early November 2018, there were no significant follow up rains to strengthen the onset of the rainfall season. High temperatures, light showers and dry conditions dominated the first half (October to December 2018) of the season. The assessment also showed that the rains received at the end of December 2018 to early January 2019 were very low, country wide.
4. Although household food security remained satisfactory in most crop growing regions of the country due to the good harvest of the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 cropping seasons; the situation is however expected to weaken due to poor or no harvest in the current cropping season. The Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring Assessment that has been conducted biannually since 2016 has consistently indicated that Namibia produces less than 40% of the cereals they consume.

5. Based on the background above, it is clear that livelihoods of the majority of Namibians, especially those that depend on agricultural activities is threatened by lack of foodstuffs.
6. Grazing and water availability for livestock continue to be a problem in some parts of the country due to late and poor rainfall performance experienced since the beginning of the rainfall season. Most regions are experiencing water shortage, as most of the rain-fed catchments are either dry or have little water owing to insufficient water, inflow received this season.
7. Provisional crop harvest estimates indicate that all crop-producing regions are expecting a massive reduction in the expected harvest. Cereal production is estimated to have reduced by 70 to 80 percent in the communal area and by 15% in the commercial area compared to last season's harvest. The whole country is expecting a substantial reduction of at least 53% below last season's harvest and over 42% below the 20 year average production. This reduction is largely attributed to the general poor rainfall received during the 2018/2019 rainfall season. This is further compounded by extremely high temperature experienced country wide during the rainy season resulting in mass wilting of crops during the critical stages of germination, flowering and grain formation.

Drought interventions

8. In view of the above, Cabinet endorsed the ongoing and proposed drought relief interventions to the cost of N\$572,700,000.00 to assist affected farmers and vulnerable citizens.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable members;

9. It is in light of the above, that the President declared a State of Emergency, and to implement interventions to safeguard the livelihoods of the drought affected Namibians. The following drought relief interventions are approved for the drought affected:-
 - a) Food assistance;
 - b) Water tankers;
 - c) Livestock Marketing Incentives in the drought affected areas;

- d) Transport subsidy to and from grazing areas, and transport for fodder to the drought affected farmers especially in communal areas;
 - e) Support for Lease of grazing for the drought affected; and
 - f) Subsidy for crop farmers.
 - g) Lick supplements for a core herd of twenty-five (25) cattle and one (1) bull per farmer; and
 - h) Fodder subsidy for a core herd of twenty-five (25) cattle and one (1) bull per farmer.
10. Given the extent of the drought, these interventions will require the support of all Namibians, especially the business community and the international community. We, therefore, call on all Namibians and development partners to assist in any way possible, so that we provide to our people who are affected, as well as the livestock.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members;

Request for approval of extension

11. In view of the above, I request this august House to approve the extension of the declared State of Emergency: National Disaster (Drought) for six months.

I thank you.