

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT BY DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MINISTER OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE FURTHER RECOVERY FROM
COVID-19.**

14 MAY 2020

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

1. I would like to discuss briefly an important event in the calendar of every Member State of the World Health Organization, commonly known as WHO. The primary role of the World Health Organization is to direct international health within the United Nations system and to lead partners in global health response. The World Health Organisation is a specialized agency of the United Nations Organization on health matters.
2. On the 7th April 1948 the World Health Organisation held its first World Health Assembly. This day became to be known as the World Health Day and is commemorated annually as such. The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of the World Health Organisation. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on specific health agenda. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organisation, supervise financial policies, review and approve the programme budget. The Health Assembly is held every year in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. The main focus of the 73rd World Health Assembly will be Covid-19. Whereas in the past, delegates would converge in Geneva, this year the delegates remain in their capitals. Whereas in the past, the World Health Assembly lasts for two weeks, this year it will last for two days only, starting on Monday the 18th May and concluding not later than Tuesday the 19th May 2020. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Health Assembly will be virtual.
4. The 73rd World Health Assembly is taking place amid Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic situation has exceeded **4.3 million** cases and **295 000** deaths. The disease is characterized by a high basic reproduction ratio in a highly susceptible population. It was reported that in Ghana, one infective individual gave raise to a chain of infection involving 530 other persons.
5. Namibia is doing relatively well against all odds. This can attributed to early interventions in suppressing the transmission by instituting measures, including the declaration of a State of Emergency by the President and putting the country under lockdown. We have also been able to draw from the experience of managing previous outbreaks. Today, I am happy to announce the 12th recovery, that of Case No 13. This brings the number of those who have recovered from Covid-19 to 12. The remaining 4 cases are in a satisfactory condition.
6. I now proceed to give you an update on Covid-19 in the country.
 - Confirmed Cases: 16
 - Recoveries: 12
 - Active Cases: 4
 - Deaths: 0
 - Total tested: 2 011
 - Total tested yesterday 176
 - Results: Negative
 - Total contacts: 243
 - Total quarantine: 1 240
 - Total number discharged: 659
 - Total in quarantine: 581

7. We have expanded our capability in testing for Covid-19. I am pleased to announce that Pathcare is now able to do Covid-19 tests locally. This will assist us in upscaling our targeted tests. NIP has received additional equipment and will decentralize testing to some regional laboratories.
8. We have entered Week 2 of Stage 2 of the State of Emergency. As I have explained earlier, the virus is spreading throughout in the world. We must continue to cooperate and observe the preventive measures, especially in instances where some restrictions are being relaxed. The World Health Organisation is predicting that Covid-19 may just become endemic, a very frightening prospect indeed! It is said that “forewarned is forearmed”!
9. I have stated on numerous occasions that coronavirus is not running amok attacking people indiscriminatory. It is people who are exposing themselves to coronavirus attack. We can avoid this by remaining at home even if it is allowed to go to public places. Let us do that only when it is necessary. Let us continue to do the basics: to stay home as much as possible; to wash hands regularly, to sanitize, practice social distancing and to remember to wear you’re a mask whenever in a public place.



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