

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT BY DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF CLARIFYING A REPORT OF A NAMIBIAN NATIONAL REPORTED TO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IN ZAMBIA.**

**2 MAY 2020**

**WINDHOEK**

*\*Check Against Delivery*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shangula', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Director of the Programme  
Members of the Media  
Ladies and Gentlemen

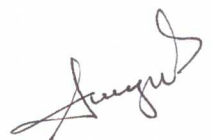
1. Our country continues to implement measures aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. These measures have continued to serve our country well and the number of confirmed cases has plateaued at 16 over the past 26 days. We have scaled up testing, resulting in a cumulative total of more than 1,100 tests having been conducted. No new positive cases have been confirmed in Namibia since 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The impact of the fight against COVID-19 have been felt in all corners of Namibia. It is commendable that Namibians have rallied together in unity to confront this common enemy. This must continue as it is the only way we can overcome this threat.
2. On Wednesday this week, His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob announced steps that have been taken to relax some of the restrictions and to allow economic activities resume. This was done on the basis of available data and Namibia's level of preparedness to face the pandemic. As the President emphasized, the State of Emergency declared on 17 March 2020 will remain in force for a period of 6 months and may be extended, subject to the changing country situation. It is vital that we continue to strengthen and improve our interventions, especially in areas where risks of transmission or importation of the virus into our country are most likely. This is especially important with respect to the control of our Ports of Entry. The Ministry has drafted a Strategy on Strengthening Control at Ports of Entry to Combat the Importation of COVID-19 into Namibia and will convene a meeting with relevant stakeholders next week to plot its implementation.
3. At this point, I wish to state that the Ministry of Health and Social Services, through the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, has received information about what was initially believed and reported to be two Namibian nationals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Zambia.
4. However, following further investigations, it was established that only one of the drivers was Namibian. The other driver mentioned in the correspondence from the Namibian High Commission in Lusaka, has been confirmed to be a citizen of Zimbabwe. The said Namibian citizen, a truck driver, is currently in isolation at Masaiti, in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia.





5. According to available information, the individual entered Zambia from Namibia via the Katima Mulilo Border Post on 19 April 2020 and was placed in quarantine. He, together with other drivers was tested for COVID-19 and the test came out negative. He was given a Release Document and travelled to Kasumbalesa. On arrival at Kasumbalesa, he was summoned back to Masaiti in order to be retested. He went back to Masaiti and was swabbed. The test came out positive and was placed in isolation. He was subsequently tested two times. These tests came out negative. The results for the last test were received this morning. The driver was released by Zambian authorities to go back to his truck at Kasumbalesa and continue with his journey. We are informed that he is doing well physically and is not ill. There is no other Namibian reported to have tested positive for COVID-19 in Zambia.
6. Out of abundance of caution, the Ministry of Health and Social Services had immediately initiated contact tracing of all persons who may have come in contact with the person concerned.
7. I wish to once again caution members of the public from publishing and distributing unauthenticated information. We call upon the nation to use the power of social media as a force for public good. When used responsibly, social media can have a constructive contribution to the fight against COVID-19. That must be our collective focus. Spreading rumors and untruths only undermines our efforts. Let us join hands therefore to stop the *infodemic* of misinformation in order to defeat this pandemic of great proportions.
8. I now proceed to give you an update on Covid-19 in the country.
- Confirmed Cases: 16
  - Recoveries: 8
  - Active Cases: 8
  - Deaths: 0
  - Total tested: 1 060
  - Total tested yesterday: 51
  - Results: Negative
  - Total contacts: 218
  - Total quarantine: 768
  - Total in quarantine: 263

Thank you



## Addendum

STAGE 1: Current situation of a countrywide lockdown for a period of 38 days, (28 March until midnight, 04 May 2020).

STAGE 2: Gradual re-opening under Strict Precautions, from Tuesday 05 May 2020 to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.

STAGE 3 will see more Moderate Precautions and could come into effect from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2020 to 30 June 2020.

The final STAGE 4 from 30 June 2020 will introduce a New Normal and could last until the end of the State of Emergency.

Each Stage of restriction will have an average observance period of two incubation periods, which is 28 days.

