



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENT

BY

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PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ON THE  
CURRENT FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 AT 7:45:30

Honourable Speaker;

Honourable Members;

1. On Tuesday, this House was apprised of how the flood situation is affecting learning in the affected regions of the Northern belt of our country.
2. I rise today to brief this August House about the current flood situation in general in the Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Zambezi regions which have been hit hard by the devastating flood following this year's rainy season. The efundja floods are mainly the result of floods in the Cuvelai River spreading out over the full width of the Cuvelai Delta in Southern Angola. The OPM is in touch with the affected regions who provides us with updates to enable us to monitor and assess the situation and to plan and coordinate the type of assistance Government should render to the effected people and communities.
3. The latest information obtained this week indicate that a combined 1,455 people are affected in all the above mentioned regions and 810 people have been re-located to high grounds and are currently receiving assistance from the Government.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable members,

4. Per region, the situation is as follows;

#### **4.1. Oshana Region**

- 4.1.1. The affected people in this region have been relocate to Ekuku centre. The number of affected households in the region is 120, with 566 people having been relocated. We have noticed that the water levels are increasing from the Cuvelai source where 8 villages in the Ongwediva constituency were reported to be surrounded by water. Some health facilities have also been effected and those that have been completely cut off, are receiving health services through Government helicopters.

## **4.2. Omusati Region.**

4.2.1. In the Omusati region, we have over 265 people who are affected mainly in the Etayi, Onesi, Outapi and Okalongo constituencies. The total number of people re-located is 265, while 8 roads are damaged and not useable. Two clinics are also completely cut off and helicopters are providing health services.

## **4.3. Ohangwena Region**

4.3.1. In the Ohangwena region, affected areas are Omafo and Omatunda areas with 34 Households and 120 people having been re-located. The affected areas that are not accessible by pedestrians or vehicles are Onghala village and Onghala Primary School as well as a clinic in the Ongenga Constituency. Here too, helicopter services are being used.

## **4.4. Zambezi Region**

4.4.1. In the Zambezi region, 33 Households are currently surrounded by water and 51 Households crop fields are affected by pests and flood. We have nine (9) households' crop fields affected by boll worms.

5. All regional structures have been activated to respond to the flood situation and the Government has and will continue to provide assistance in the form of tents, food, ablution facilities in the relocation centers, water tanker services, helicopters for outreach services and insecticides for malaria prevention, mosquito nets, as well as cooking utensils. Assistance was also received with sincere appreciation from the Namibian Red Cross Society to support the effected people.

6. Early Warning information was provided by Regional and Constituency Councilors informing communities living in flood prone areas of the raising of the water level

and requesting communities to move to higher grounds. It is important for communities to cooperate and adhere to these warnings while Government is working with all stakeholders in finding a lasting solution and put flood mitigating measures in place.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable members,

7. Before I conclude, I also want to brief the August House about the recommendations by the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CANDRI) emanating from the capacity assessment for Disaster Risk Management System conducted in 2016 with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

7.1. The Assessment identified existing capacities, gaps and needs related to disaster risk management, and proposed a set of prioritized recommendations on how these capacities should be strengthened.

7.2. The prioritized recommendations form the backbone of a National Framework for Disaster Risk Management which will guide stakeholders involved in disaster risk management to implement the requirements of the Sendai Framework, which is international framework for Disaster Risks Management.

7.3. The findings and recommendations of the assessment are being implemented within the structure of the National Disaster Risks Management Committee. Permanent Secretaries and Chief Regional Officers are expected to incorporate such recommendations into their new strategic plans.

7.4. The recommendations focus on the following four priority areas:

- Understanding Disaster Risks;

- Strengthening Governance and Institutions to Manage Disaster Risk;
- Investing in Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Resilience
- Enhancing preparedness for effective response, and building back better in recovery and reconstruction

7.5. The aim is also to create community resilience to cope with any form of natural disaster that may occur in the country. Government, therefore, call on the support of all stakeholders in dealing with natural disasters in the country and our preparedness to provide proactive and early responses.

I thank you, Hon Speaker.