



Republic of Namibia
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND
CULTURE**

**UPDATE ON THE FLOOD SITUATION AND IMPACT ON
EDUCATION SECTOR**

BY

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MINISTER

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*Hon Speaker,
Hon Members*

I rise before this August House to brief the Honourable Members about the flood situation and its impact on the education sector in each of the affected regions, namely; Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena and Zambezi.

On the onset, I would like to provide the Honourable Members with the background and context on the flood situation.

The current rains received in the north and north-eastern areas of Namibia have made these parts of the country experience the seasonal flooding that have caused the disruption and continue to disrupt educational service provision.

The flood disaster continues to affect the education sector negatively this year 2017.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

In the north Central regions of Namibia, as we may all be aware, the Cuvelai ecological area of the North Central regions is characterized by thousands of shallow drainage channels locally known as 'oshanas'. Flooding of the 'oshanas' in the Cuvelai normally occurs after heavy local rains or good rainfalls in the highlands of neighbouring Angola. The regions face annual small scale floods, which sometimes result in damage of varying magnitudes.

The north eastern region of Zambezi has experienced a yearly increase in the level of flooding since 2003. Floods are caused by the overflow of Zambezi and Kwando river system, high ground water levels and above normal rainfall.

After our consistent monitoring with the regions, the Ministry observed that a total of 27007 learners and 102 schools in the regions of Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Zambezi are affected by floods so far.

Omusati region has the highest number of schools (73) affected by the floods. However most schools that were closed for almost two weeks due to flooding, reopened after the mid-term break. Buildings especially ablution facilities were submerged as most have been damaged and will require some renovations.

About 10 schools are affected by the floods in Oshana region. Oikango Combined School in Eheke circuit is temporarily closed and the Grade 10 learners are currently camping at the Teacher Resource Centre. Meanwhile, Omulunga Primary School with 99 learners is still closed with the possibility of re-opening if provided with tents for camping at school. Lessons at Dr. Chief Ankama PS have resumed in the meantime.

Honourable Members, the Ohangwena region has also been affected by the flood.

In Ohangwena region four (4) schools are completely closed (Omutaku PS, Shingunguma PS, Elao PS, and Nghiteke PS), with a total of 1636 learners affected. While three (3) schools have partly closed (Ohangwena CS, Etale CS, Onghala CS) with a total of 543 learners affected. Four (4) schools which were closed with about 748 learners have since re-opened.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members, the recent case of the Zambezi region has also been brought to our attention.

The current level of the Zambezi River has reached 6.5 meters, which is considered a disaster to the Education Sector. The Zambezi region is therefore considered the most affected region as stated earlier. The region is experiencing deep water floods. This has resulted in 12 schools in Zambezi region affected so far and the flood situation is still developing in that region. No school has been reported closed for now but the water level is rising very fast and there are plans to immediately close schools such as Nankutwe CS, Muzii CS, and Ikaba CS in the coming week as there are no funds to relocate the learners and teachers.

Furthermore, it should also be noted that the current flood situation facing some schools in the Zambezi region is an annual occurrence that will perpetually continue to disturb teaching and learning annually if no sustainable permanent solutions are explored and implemented as a matter of urgency. In spite of the above, the region appears to be grappling with this situation year in - year out as there seem to be no sustainable counter measures in place to effectively deal with the negative effects of the flood in all flood prone schools.

Ideas such as relocating and resettling affected people or communities to higher grounds seem not to be favoured by the locals who prefer to be given relief by government while they remain where they are (their traditional habitats). Also given the existence of so much investment that have been made by government in terms of fixed education facilities in almost all school localities, consideration for relocation may not be economical.

In light of the above, the ministry is currently faced with the shortage of facilities and items (such as the lack of tents, lack of boats, lack of mosquito nets, lack of sanitary materials, lack of capacity to deal with the floods, lack of preparedness and lack of funds) that are needed to mitigate the impact of the flood, provision of education and further to ensure the social wellbeing of learners and staff members.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

In the meantime, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has developed regional contingency plans mostly in the flood prone areas and this has helped the ministry to some extent and use the contingency plans to lobby for funds within the Ministry's budget and buy tents which are used during the times of flooding. Funds are limited and the Ministry is challenged to be able to meet the needs as requested by the regions. In most extreme cases the Ministry is left with no other option but to close the schools while continuing to provide basic needs to the learners such as tents and other facilities.

To ensure that learners do not lose out on receiving quality education, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture has assessed the situation in Omusati, Oshana and Ohangwena regions and it is planning to conduct normal classes during the May holiday for these schools to compensate on lost time. In the case of Zambezi region where flood has just started making impact, the Ministry will close the schools affected and carry out an assessment after three weeks in order to allow these schools to use the existing schools in the upper land to continue with classes during school holiday.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

The Regional Councils of Omusati, Oshana and Ohangwena regions have been trying their level best to manage the impact of the flood although with minimal resources at their disposal. It should be noted that the situation in the Zambezi region is different since it requires relocation of both teachers and learners from flood areas to higher grounds.

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture would like to wholeheartedly thank the Governors of the respective regions for their foresightedness and support to education during this period.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while the ministry conducts a full assessment on the impact of the floods, we call upon our stakeholders and strategic partners to come on board and support us as we address this national challenge.

Finally, I, as the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture call on all Hon members to assist with our drive for resource mobilization. I will continue updating this August House on this situation as we go.

I thank you!

List of schools affected by floods

Region	School Name	Number of learners affected			Number of teachers affected			Status
		F	M	Total	F	M	Total	
Zambezi	Malindi CS	51	71	122	3	3	6	
	Nankuntwe CS	95	71	166	8	5	13	
	Muzii CS	169	152	321	7	7	14	
	Namiyundu PS	45	51	96	4	3	7	
	Ikaba CS	189	131	320	7	8	15	
	Ivilivinzi PS	20	30	50	1	2	3	
	Kasika PS	129	146	275	6	3	9	
	Masikili Junior PS	33	33	66	0	2	2	
	Mbalasinte CS	214	174	388	6	7	13	
	Mpukano Junior PS	37	21	58	1	2	3	
	Nsundwa PS	86	63	149	4	3	7	
Imukusi CS	207	191	398	3	14	17		
Oshana	Okau CS	33	44	77	4	0	4	
	Amutanga CS	9	56	65	0	0	0	
	Eendjati PS	73	81	154	7	1	8	
	Ombunga CS	10	18	28	0	0	0	
	Uukwiiyongwe CS	40	45	85	0	0	0	
	Andambombali PS	10	18	28	3	0	3	

	Dr. Chief Ankama PS	67	56	123	6	2	8	Closed
	Omulunga PS	55	44	99	4	1	5	
	Endombo JPS	4	4	8	0	0	0	L.Camping
	Oikango CS							Closed
Ohangwena	Closed Completely Closed (4)			1636			48	
	Schools Partly Closed (3)			543			12	
Omusati	Oshuuli CS			113				
	Olupumbu CS			84				
	Enkono CS			119				
	Onampira CS			96				
	Othika CS			202				
	Oshalembe PS			86				
	Oikokola PS			838				
	Okaleke CS			110				
	Akayupa CS			606				
	Opawa CS			778				
	Samwel Shilongo PS			600				
	Omutundungu CS			165				
Andreas Amushila PS			97					

	Nikodemus PS		233				
	Shafombambi PS		268				
	Onheleiwa PS		740				
	Ongolo PS		95				
	Pyamukuu CS		478				
	Oluteyi CS		61				
	Onghuta JPS		50				
	Ogongo CS		28				
	Ondeka CS		532				
	Anamulenge PS		646				
	Okanimekwa CS		477				
	Okaelona PS		50				
	Okapopo CS		343				
	Omahila CS		110				
	Dr. K. Dumeni CS		566				
	Oshiputu CS		517				
	Ondeitotela PS		299				
	Jerry Ekandjo CS		50				
	Omufitu North CS		441				
	Onelago CS		120				
	Okafitukakamba JPS		56				
	Okakekete JPS		70				

Ombundamuti CS		296				
Oshikulufitu CS		449				
Sakeus Ihuhwa		250				
DAPP Private School		380				
John A. Pandeni CS		457				
Ombahe PS		124				
Lukas Dama CS		368				
St Gabriel PS		127				
Oshatotwa CS		167				
Onkambadhala PS		24				
John Shekudja CS		244				
Eengwena CS		229				
Epoko CS		238				
Ombwana CS		93				
Sheetekela CS		612				
Ouvale CS		304				
Ondeipanda PS		256				
Oneheke CS		663				
Ekundu CS		454				
Onembamba CS		528				
Pauline PS		97				
Ondombe Yohumba PS		785				

Elao PS			132				
Uushwa CS			273				
Eshakeno CS			355				
Chief Daniel Shooya CS			464				
Omunkete CS			337				
Itamaro CS			293				
Sacky Kayone PS			39				
Peter lilonga CS			260				
Osisia PS			106				
Oukwatelo PS			96				
Oukwandongo CS			818				
Moses Aihalu JPS			405				
Omufitu Weelo PS			325				
Ouma CS			67				
Onangholo CS			161				
Onaholongo CS			352				
			27007				