



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**MOTIVATION TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF
STATE OF EMERGENCY: NATIONAL DISASTER
(DROUGHT)**

(in terms of Article 26(3) of the Namibian Constitution)

BY

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PRIME MINISTER

18 June 2024,

National Assembly

MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT
Office of the Minister <i>Delivered</i> 2024-06-18
Private Bag 1341, Windhoek REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members**



INTRODUCTION

1. I rise to provide a motivation ^{for} this august House to consider extension of the State of Emergency: National Disaster on account of drought, issued through a Proclamation by His Excellency Dr Nangolo Mbumba on 22 March 2024.
2. The Proclamation follows the assessment in our country, through the Crop Assessment, which confirms existence of serious drought, and the negative impact that such a drought has on food security for our population, and the livelihood as well as the deterioration in grazing and water conditions in all Regions. As a country, we witnessed below average rainfall during the 2023–2024 rainy season. This have caused devastating effects on the population, which is primarily dependent on rain-fed agriculture.
3. As you maybe aware also, this El Nino induced drought is felt in other Southern Africa countries, prompting also Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia to declare respective State of National Disasters.

BACKGROUND

4. According to the Namibia Meteorological Services' Climate Watch, Namibia has recorded below-normal rainfall with a considerable delay in the onset. As it was observed, most parts of Namibia only received good rainfall in January 2024, followed by a dry spell in the subsequent months (especially February 2024) which led to poor agricultural production and pasture establishment.
5. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform's report on Crop Prospects, Food Security, and Drought Situation of March 2024, projected a sharp decline in the anticipated harvest, with all crop-growing regions in the communal areas expected to yield less than the previous season's harvest, as follows:-

- 5.1. The national cereal production of white maize, sorghum, ^(mahangu) pearl millet, and wheat for 2024, is estimated to be at 72,150 Metric Tons (MT) representing a 53 percent decrease from last season's harvest of 153,012 Metric Tons (MT).
- 5.2. In terms of dam levels, the report reveals that the nation's dams' total capacity was 55% on March 18, 2024, down from 69.7% during the same period the previous year, or a 14.7% decline. At the moment, most of the dams have low water levels. The situation is particularly dire in Central Areas of Namibia (CAN) which includes Windhoek.
- 5.3. The Food Reserves ^{are} ~~is~~ critically low, standing at 16% of all reserves national capacities.
- 5.4. The report further indicates that households' food security has significantly deteriorated in various regions of the country due to a decline in agricultural production during the 2022/2023 season. In many communal crop growing areas, numerous households have exhausted their reserves from the previous season and they now mostly rely heavily on the market and drought relief assistance to get food.
- 5.5. Based on the background above, it becomes clear that livelihoods of the majority of Namibians, especially those that depend on agricultural activities is threatened by the prevailing conditions of drought. Further, the resources available are for targeted interventions to those severely affected. The scale of the drought is nationwide.

DROUGHT INTERVENTIONS

6. The Cabinet considered the above situation, and approved the drought interventions, aimed at providing the assistance to the affected, in order to safeguard and alleviate impact on the livelihoods of ^{affected communities and} affected farmers and farmers:-

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES & TRANSPORT Office of the Minister <i>Delivered</i> 2024-06-10 <i>[Signature]</i> Private Secretary WINDHOEK REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
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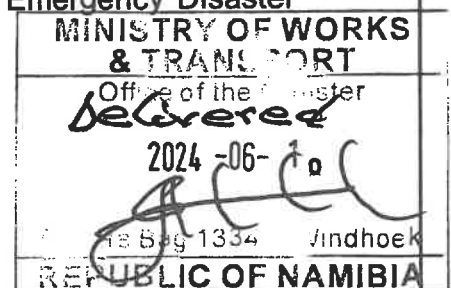
- 6.1. Food Assistance: the Office of the Prime Minister to continue with food assistance to beneficiaries who meet the set criteria, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025;
- 6.2. Seeds and Horticulture support: the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform as from 1 May 2024 to introduce support to farmers to procure early maturing seeds, drought tolerant seed varieties and fertilizers for sale at subsidized prices at Agricultural Development Centres,
- 6.3. The following Livestock Support Programme are also approved:
- (a) Livestock marketing incentive, from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025;
 - (b) Subsidies for lease of grazing, from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025;
 - (c) Subsidies for transportation to/from grazing, from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025;
 - (d) Subsidies on purchase of animal feed, from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025;
 - (e) Sale of subsidized fodder to farmers through Agricultural Development Centers, from 01 July 2024 to 31 December 2024.
- 6.4. Water Provision: the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to continue with the water provision programme to drought-stricken areas.

7. To implement the above-mentioned interventions, Government has made available an amount of N\$825 million from the National Emergency Disaster Fund.

MOTIVATION

8. The assessment of the drought situation has revealed that:-

- 8.1. The drought situation induces food insecurity, caused by the minimal yields, as well as deterioration in the grazing for animals. This poses threat and

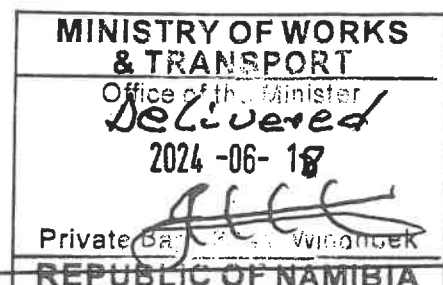


even deaths to the affected households and the livestock, if no further relief interventions are undertaken to alleviate the negative impact.

8.2. The drought affects all Constituencies and Regions in Namibia. The Assessment shows that, food insecurity at household level is spread in all Regions. The number of assisted food insecure households currently stands at 331,009, and is set to increase as households deplete their food reserves, compounded by the low yields this year. And also to ^{be} ^{is} noted that the impact of drought in the country continued from the previous year, which necessitated the introduction of the nationwide drought relief programme from 01 October 2023. Hence, the low rainfall pattern countrywide in 2023/24 exacerbates the situation.

8.3. The Government has extended the drought programme for 2024/25, with a budget of N\$825 million, starting 01 April 2024 for livestock support and 01 July 2024 for food assistance and water provision. The budget is based on estimated assistance to 172,252 households, but the registered beneficiary exceeds 331,009 households. The cost estimate to cover all affected persons at household level is estimated at N\$1.3 billion. The current budget available is N\$825 million. To cover all affected households, additional resources of at least N\$480 million would be required to be mobilised. And the declaration of the State of National Disaster extends an appeal to development partners and international organisations to provide such assistance.

8.4. The extent and magnitude of the drought situation would require more resources than the N\$825 million available, to reach at least 341,00 households. It is on the basis of the above, that the declaration of the State of Emergency: National Disaster on account of drought, issued by His Excellency the President Dr Nangolo Mbumba on 22 May 2024 remain relevant appeal measure to assist ⁱⁿ ^{deal} ^{ing} with the current 2024 drought situation.



9. The implementation of the ongoing drought relief programme requires unwavering support of all Namibians.

10. I wish to now submit that the National Assembly, in terms of Article 26(3) of the Namibian Constitution, consider and support this motivation, and extend the validity of the State of Emergency: National Disaster (Drought) for a further period of six (6) months from the date of approval.

I thank you.

