

# BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSION: NAMIBIA

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**South African High Commission Namibia**

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*H.E. Archie Whitehead  
Head of Mission*

*From the High Commissioner's pen...*



The South African Newsletter is a vehicle to communicate, inform and facilitate interaction between the South African High Commission and all its stakeholders in Namibia. It is intended to ensure regular accessibility to the High Commission whilst enhancing the South African Government's fundamental principle of service delivery, that is, Batho Pele/ People First.

June 2020 finds us in the anvil of the corona pandemic which is ravaging the planet mercilessly whilst ushering in unprecedented political, social, economic and cultural carnage.

The Corona Virus Plague's impact will continue to influence the global mindset and lifestyle deep into future generations. The epidemic has thrown naked societal, social, economic and class contradictions and disparities between rich and poor, wide differentials between developed and developing countries, racial inequalities that were so syphilitic camouflaged. Covid-19 gives credence to the universal truth that we live in a global village, share a common destiny and will determine earth's future prospects by the manner in which we interact with one another. At a political level the archaic belief that unilateralism should be the world order is being quashed. While the principle of multilateralism in being proven as the only sustainable approach.

The winds of Covid-19 have also landed on the African shores. Many of our nations have bravely risen to the challenges emanating from the disease but face formidable challenges due to weak health infrastructures, limited communicable disease experts, economies with marginal fiscal maneuverability. The lack of a strong and coherent policy framework coupled with capacity constraints also poses challenges in relation to execution.

We in South Africa were strategic enough to anticipate the potential impact of the pandemic and quickly declared a state of disaster. This had positive effects of slowing down the spread of the virus and buying us time to setup infrastructure for the oncoming onslaught of Covid-19.

However, the current reality of having to kickstart the economy whilst curbing and containing the spread has also added to the related consequences of the current escalation of the virus.

Our neighbours, Namibia's Covid-19 numbers are extremely low with Walvis being the epicentre, the Namibian government is applying stringent measures to contain the spread. We must maintain vigilance at all times since this is an invisible disease. We should be reminded that it takes a spark to set the prairie on fire.

It is vital to acknowledge that without the discovery of the vaccine coupled with the vaccine nationalism expressed by certain developed nations and considering that 4.5 billion doses would then be immediately required, the current wholly antidote is but to observe social and hygiene discipline as advised by scientists.

The presence of the pandemic raises critical questions of the future from politicians, economists, scientists and all Africans at large; "is there life within and after Covid-19?" , "how do we meet this challenging scenario of cohabiting factors of growing economies while providing health care"?. Clearly it is not one or the other but both.

We need to build on the experience and innovation learnt during this crisis. In South Africa we are seeing the unleashing of innovation and creativity particularly in the health sector. Entrepreneurs are engaged in the manufacturing of PPEs, respirators and related mechanical equipment. Medium and small companies have reengineered their production lines to meet the country's current needs.

At community level structures have adjusted in order to meet the challenges of Covid-19. Inventions such as these will have positive spinoffs for our country's future economic rehabilitation. At both national and local governments we have witnessed grater professionalism and caring service delivery within the framework of achievable masterplans.

Despite all attempts to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic through some of the above measures, the pandemic has exposed the pitfalls of the current world economic order.

Capitalism has been characterised as being able to adapt to changing conditions, this is primarily due to assistance it receives whenever there is a crisis and this happened during the 2008 financial crisis....*Continued on page 2*

However, the relief always ends up in the financial sector not in the hands of working people. Covid-19 has exposed the flaws in our economic structures, the increasing precarity of our work owing to the rise of greater concentration of wealth in the hands of the few and the deterioration of worker's bargaining power. President Ramaphosa has realised these inequalities and is calling for more equitable just and inclusive dispensation.

The greatest opportunity we have in Africa to escape lasting economic depression and dependency is to consolidate and operationalise the African Confederation Free Trade Area (ACFTA). Given the current pressing needs, irrespective of Covid-19, negotiations pertaining to the phased implementation of ACFTA needs to be accelerated and completed.

The eight regional economic communities should hasten to programatise and integrate while simultaneously acting as catalyst to the ACFTA. Utilising the ACFTA, Africa needs to exploit its competitive advantages of abundant mineral resources, unharnessed agricultural potential and the youngest growing global population which offers a limitless human resource potential. We must emphasise a focused approach on building a strategic infrastructure, beneficiation and investment in science and technology.

The creation of an ICT infrastructure platform is the backbone that will translocate Africa into the 4th Industrial Revolution, We need to remain cautious of potential pitfalls that may detract us from this objective.

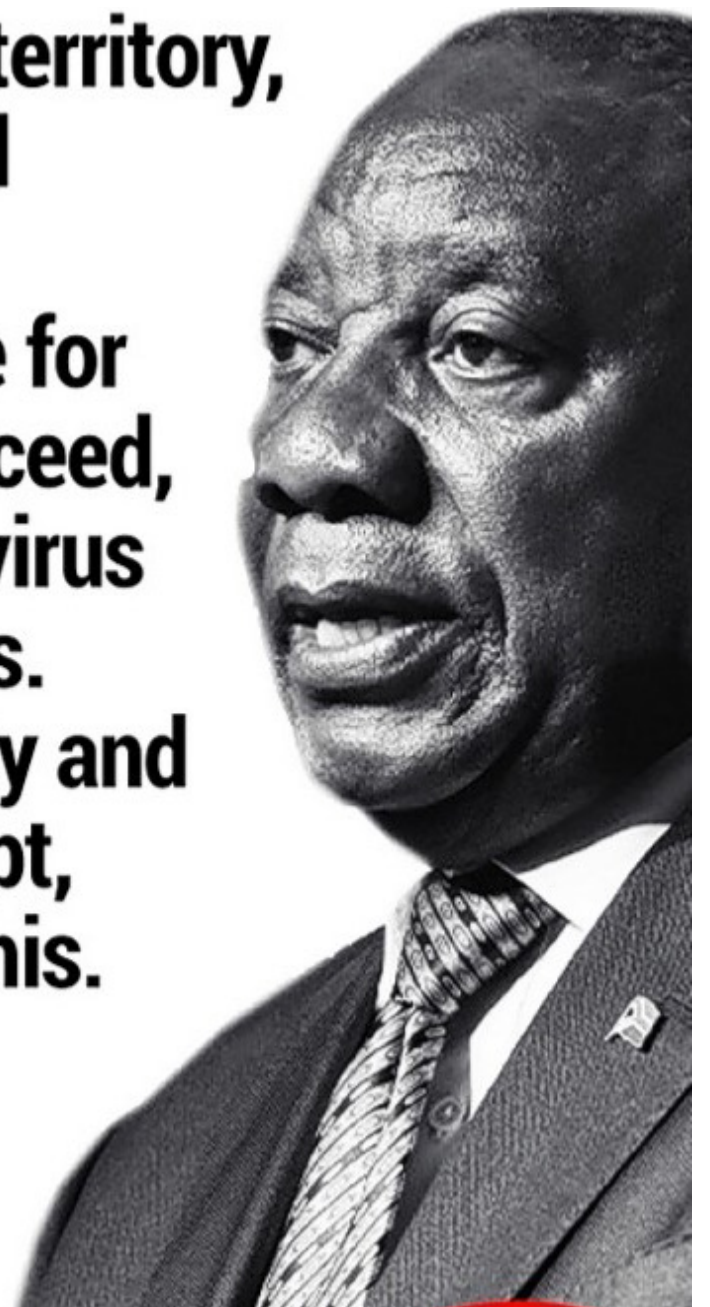
One of the major threats to the ACFTA could be a reactive policy approach, delayed execution of plans as well as the varying levels of preparedness by member states due to both objective and subjective factors. These are however exciting challenges that we should grasp with both hands.

In conclusion, all is not doom and gloom. The international Covid-19 crisis presents Africans and all developing countries with a timeous opportunity to introspect on the kind of future we all seek to create. It is an equaliser of society. The current nature of international relations need to be refined on the basis of equity and principles of justice. This is an epoch in which mankind needs to re-examine their relationship with nature and how we share and use these limited and finite resources. It is a moment of re-visitation of relationships universally.

As Africans it is a moment to consider shedding our narrow local and regional approaches and invest in the universality of our future but with our feet firmly on African soil.

**We are going through uncharted territory, never experienced before. We will make mistakes, but we ask for understanding: this is being done for the best of everyone. We will succeed, because we will take this coronavirus threat seriously as South Africans. We are going to adapt as a society and all act responsibly. I have no doubt, however, that we will overcome this.**

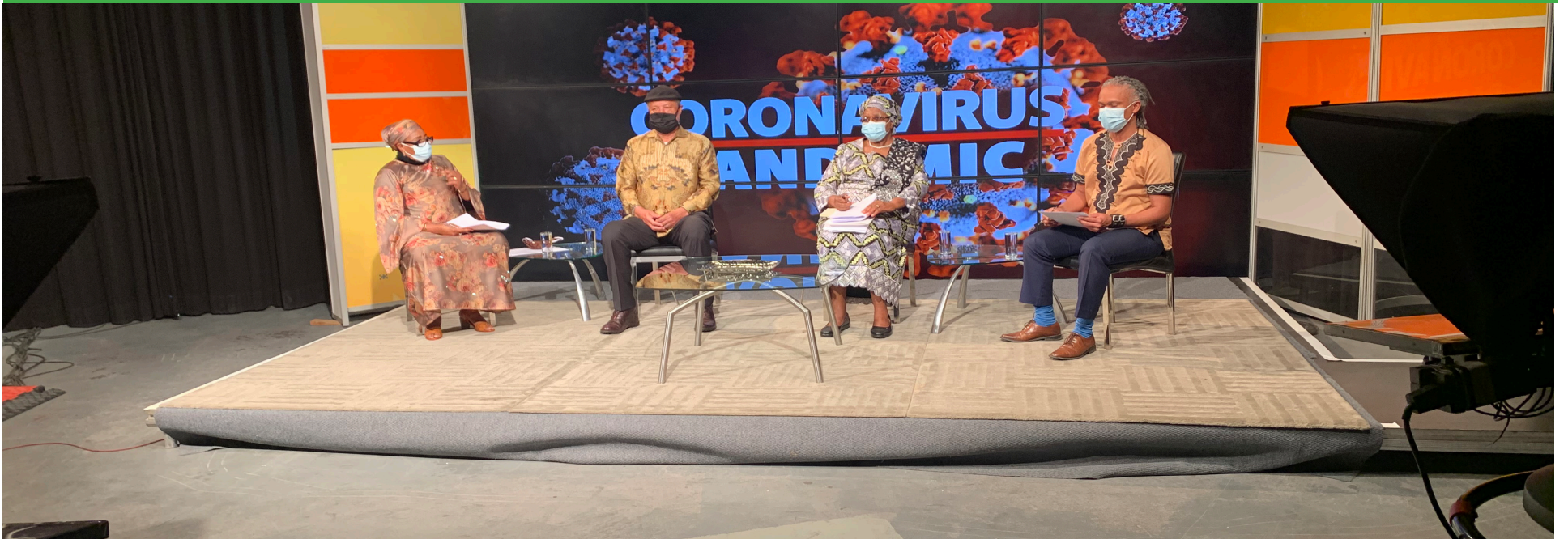
**President of South Africa  
Cyril Ramaphosa**



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# Africa Day Celebration: Health Security in the context of COVID-19 in the region



H.E. Archie Whitehead together with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Ghana High Commissioner H.E. Elizabeth Forgor in a NBC interview on the significance of Africa Day and regional security.

# NAMIBIA COVID-19 COMMUNITION CENTRE



From left to right: Minister of Health and Social Services Hon. Dr Kalumbi Shangula, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister International Relations and Cooperation Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and H.E Archie Whitehead discussing African government response to Covid-19.

# Africa Day Celebration: Health Security in the context of COVID-19 in the region



From left to right: Chinese Ambassador to Namibia H.E. Zhang Yiming , Cuban Ambassador to Namibia H.E. Sidenio Acosta Aday and H.E Archie Whitehead in a discussion on the global impact of Covid-19 at the NBC studios.

# SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC MEASURES TO COUNTER COVID-19



The Last century saw the outbreak of the Spanish flu which broke out between 1918 and 1920. An estimate number of about 500 million people, a third of the world's population were affected as it struck with four successive waves. The economic impact was felt throughout the globe. The current COVID-19 pandemic embalming the world has had deep recessionary impact on world economies with particular impact on the working class and the poor.

South Africa which before the crisis had been downgraded by the rating agencies is facing the double impact of COVID-19 and a slowing recessionary economy. It is for these reason that the government has undertaken preemptive measures to mitigate potential economic meltdown.

COVID-19 epidemic has added woes to the already ailing South African economy. According to the latest gross domestic product (GDP) figures released by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), South African economy shrank 2% in the first quarter of 2020. The projected GDP fall of up to 6.1% by the end of this year, increasing unemployment rate at more than 30% as a result of unprecedented job loss.

Meanwhile the government has declared National Disaster Act to ensure that the country is protected against the economic consequences of this pandemic. President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced a 500 billion rands (\$26.3bn) rescue package, equivalent to 10 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country, to try to cushion the economic blow of the

pandemic. This package ensures the balance of saving lives and continued economic activities.

The President has further announced special increases to the monthly social grants, upon which about 16 million of South Africa's 57 million people rely for survival. However, the relief of hunger and social distress across communities has also been prioritised within this package and the remaining 350 billion rands has been given to other responsible stakeholders.

To consolidate measures the Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni tabled an adjustment to the existing budget to address the ailing economic activity, decline in revenue collection and re-evaluation of fund allocated to COVID-19 response. The adjusted budget includes no increase in taxes on the minority of individuals who will maintain stable incomes in the current year. Employees earning R6 500 or less will get a tax subsidy of R500 a month over a period of four months. R500-million is available immediately to assist small and medium enterprises that are in distress through a simplified application process.

The government has contributed R15-million to the new Solidarity Fund to fight COVID-19. The South African Reserve Bank has cut interest rate of 100 basis points and interest rates have been lowered to cushion consumer's spending problems. In the interest of addressing the situation of vulnerable firms and fast-tracking financing for companies, the Industrial Development Corporation and the department of trade and industry have set up a package of more than R3-billion in industrial funding in manufacturing, export and tourism.

In boosting economic growth through investment, South Africa held a successful investment conference in November 2019. The President reiterated the 2018 country's objective to raise \$100 million or R1.2 trillion in new investments over a five year period with the aim to address low economic growth and reducing unemployment.

The government proudly announced that eight of the 31 projects announced in 2018 have been realised. This represents the total value of R238 billion of the investment announced.

*Compiled by: Isaac Modiba Choshane*



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# TOURISM: EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA

In the midst of COVID-19 and the impact it has had and is still having on people, families, businesses, livelihoods and freedom of safe movement, it is a fair question – what do you mean tourism?

Even if you cannot make definitive plans for holidays or travelling right now, you can dream and start thinking of what your ideal South African holiday would entail. South Africa is a tourist paradise and you only have to choose which interest you wish to explore.....

Our coastal borders are 2 798 kilometres long and we share borders with Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. And in the midst of the South African geographical landscape lies the Kingdom of Lesotho. Basically, South Africa spans the Southern African region from east to west and has an abundant natural fauna and flora that inspires and leaves onlookers in awe of the beauty of nature. There are nine provinces and each are known for something different and have something special to discover.

## Gauteng

Gauteng hosts South Africa's administrative capital, Tshwane formerly known as Pretoria and Johannesburg which is the business centre of the country. Gauteng means "place of gold" and it is also the origin of the gold mines that laid the foundation for the city of Johannesburg.

Places of interest in Gauteng include the Cradle of Humankind, the Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill and the Hector Peterson Memorial as well as, the house of Nobel Peace Laureate, Nelson Mandela. You can cross the Nelson Mandela Bridge where marathons are held annually and you can stroll around the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens on a lovely morning.

A trip to Tshwane, also called the Jacaranda City in spring will showcase the glorious purple blossoms of the Jacaranda tree in early Spring. On your list should be a visit to the Union Buildings which will leave you in awe at the Statue of Nelson Mandela in the park grounds and you can do an outing to see diamond mines when visiting the quant town of Cullinan. Last, but not least a trip to the popular Gold Reef City allows you to step back in time and see the old mine town whilst being invited to pick up a gold bar!



Union Buildings: Statue of Nelson Mandela



Mandela House Museum



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# MZANSI IN NAMIBIA...



*Brian in action on the Tennis court*



*Brian in action on the Cricket field*

Brian Marcus Edwards has loved sport from a very young age, he played age group sport for his first school Swartklop Primary in Centurion, South Africa representing in cricket, rugby and tennis. In 2018 at the age of eight he embarked on a journey to Namibia in support of his mother's posting to the South African High Commission in Windhoek. At the age of eight Brian has represented his current school Windhoek Afrikaans Privaat in U/11A cricket and helped them manage to win the Namibia Schools League for the year. He is eagerly looking forward to the rest of the 2020 cricket season where he will represent his school in the U/11 and U/13 age groups respectively. His passion for the game is boundless and one can see him in all extra mural Namibia Africa Personnel Services cricket tournaments.

Brian's other passions are tennis and rugby, which unfortunately are not fully offered as a school sports on a junior level. However, this did not stop Brian from pursuing his passion for tennis as he joined the Johan Theron Tennis School in Olympia, Windhoek. He is coached by retired professional tennis player Mr Johan Theron and has so far been on two international tours to South Africa. Even though he is only 11 years old all his hardwork and effort has already started paying off for him in a good way as he briefly held the top rank in the U/12 boys category in Namibia, a ranking he achieved after he competed in his first two National Tennis Association tournaments.

It is very evident that Brian has a bright future ahead of him in any sport discipline that he wishes to pursue professionally. He will have many life stories to tell not only as a tennis, cricket and rugby player but also as a young boy accompanying his mother on international duty. He is hopeful that he will one day represent South Africa professionally in all the sport disciplines that he currently excels in.



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# CONSULAR SECTION

Consular Section renders the following Civic and Immigration Services:

## Civic Services

- Application for a new, lost or stolen passport
- Application for a Unabridged Birth, Death & Marriage Certificate
- Application for Registration of Birth for babies under 1 year
- Application for first time Identity Document or replacement of ID
- Application for Determination and Renunciation of South African Citizenship
- Application for Confirmation of South Africa Citizenship
- Application for Letter of No-Impediment
- Application for Emergency Travel Certificates for South African Citizens

## Immigration Services

- Application of Visitor's, General Work, Relative's, Critical Skills, Intra-Company Transfer Visas
- Application for refund of repatriation deposit lodged
- Application of New Study visa
- Application of Transfer of Study visa

## The following services are also provided at the South African High Commission

1. Commissioning of documents to be used in South Africa.
2. Certification of documents to be used in South Africa.

## The following Consular assistance services are also provided to South African Nationals in a foreign country:

1. Death (acquiring permits for removal of mortal remains of a South African National who dies abroad)
2. Distress and destitute South Africans in a foreign country.

## *Frequently asked questions:*

**Question:** Can I apply for a South African passport, Emergency Travel Certificate, ID, Letter for no-impediment, Renunciation, Permanent Residence, Registration of birth, Unabridged birth, Marriage and Death certificate during the Lockdown?

**Answer:** Yes, you can Monday to Friday 09:30-11:30.

**Question:** Can I apply or extend a Study, Visitor's or Work Visa during Lockdown?

**Answer:** No, immigration services have been put on hold till further notice. You will be informed as soon as restrictions are lifted.

**Question:** Will I be subject to quarantine when I travel back to South Africa?

**Answer:** Yes, you will be subject to 14 days mandatory quarantine.

**Question:** Can I be refunded an application fee if I do not submit the application.

**Answer:** No, the application fee is non-refundable.

**Question:** As an expatriate in Namibia without a long term status in Namibia can I apply for a visa to South Africa?

**Answer:** No, you cannot apply for a visa if you are in Namibia on a visitor's visa.

**Question:** As a South African in Namibia my fiance is a Namibian can the South African High Commission marry us?

**Answer:** No, The South African High Commission can only marry two South African citizens in Namibia.

**Question:** Will I be allowed to claim my repatriation deposit without my original receipt?

**Answer:** No, Unfortunately without the original receipt the money is forfeited.

**Question:** Can I renew my South African driver's license at the High Commission?

**Answer:** No, you cannot renew your driver's license at the High Commission.



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## TRIBUTE



international relations  
& cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### IN MEMORY OF AMBASSADOR ZINDZISWA MANDELA



Employee Health and Wellness would like to inform the department of the passing of Ambassador Zindziswa Mandela on 13 July 2020. Daughter of struggle stalwarts, former President of South Africa, Mr Nelson Mandela and Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela, the late Ambassador Mandela was an activist in her own right. She was South Africa's Ambassador to Denmark at the time of her untimely death.

Her loss is felt by many across the world.

The family may be contacted on 082 674 0880 – Mr Zweli Hlongwane.

The Minister, Deputy Ministers, the DG and colleagues wish to convey their sincere condolences to the family of the late Ambassador Mandela. May her soul rest in peace.



international relations  
& cooperation

Department:  
International Relations and Cooperation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### IN MEMORY OF AMBASSADOR CLAUDINAH RAMOSEPELE



Employee Health and Wellness would like to inform the department of the passing of Ambassador Claudinah Ntini Ramosepele on 10 July 2020. The late Ambassador Ramosepele has served in various capacities, both at Head Office and at missions abroad. Her last position at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in the Branch Asia and Middle East was Director: North-East Asia and Oceania, responsible for our Missions in Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Before that she inter alia served in Berne as South Africa's Ambassador to Switzerland; in England; Canada; Cameroon; and at the Branch: Global Governance/Continental Agenda (dealing with multilateral affairs).

Her loss will be felt by many. May her soul rest in peace and the memories of her elegant personality and many contributions, be celebrated by all. Our thoughts are with her family during this time of mourning.

The family may be contacted on 072 901 0836

The Minister, Deputy Ministers, the DG and colleagues wish to convey their sincere condolences to the family of the late Ambassador Ramosepele. May her soul rest in peace.

# NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

## COVID-19 STAGES OF RESTRICTIONS

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

### STAGE 4

#### NAMIBIA STAGE 4 ALERT

APPLICABLE TO ALL 13 REGIONS WITH EXCEPTION OF THE ERONGO REGION

A. POINTS OF ENTRY REMAIN CLOSED EXCEPT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF IMPORTED GOODS.

B. PUBLIC GATHERINGS LIMITED TO 250 PERSONS.

C. MANDATORY WEARING OF FACE MASK IN PUBLIC, HAND WASHING AND SANITIZING, SAFE PHYSICAL DISTANCE OF 1M, LOG BOOKS WITH FULL DETAILS.

D. ALL NAMIBIANS & NON-NAMIBIANS MUST SUBMIT TO A COVID-19 TEST ON ARRIVAL AND MANDATORY, GOVERNMENT SUPERVISED QUARANTINE, AT OWN COST. CITIZENS WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO QUARANTINE AT OWN COST (AS DEFINED) MAY APPLY TO BE QUARANTINED AT COST TO GOVERNMENT.

E. NAMIBIANS, PRP & WORK PERMITS HOLDERS (AS DEFINED) SHOULD NOTIFY NAMIBIAN EMBASSY/HIGH COMMISSION 2 WEEKS BEFORE DEPARTURE.

F. ALL NON-NAMIBIANS MUST PRESENT A NEGATIVE COVID-19 PCR TEST RESULT, VALID FOR 72 HOURS BEFORE ENTERING THE COUNTRY.

G. NO. OF PERSONS INSIDE AN ESTABLISHMENT REVISED FROM 2SQM TO 1SQM P/P.

H. TARGETED TOURISM INITIATIVE FROM 15 JULY- 15 AUGUST 2020.

I. CASINOS & GAMBLING HOUSES PERMITTED TO OPEN.

J. LIQUOR OUTLETS, SHEBEENS & BARS: BUYING AND SELLING OF ALCOHOL IS ONLY PERMITTED FOR TAKEAWAY.



## Level 3 restrictions remain in place

Restaurants for sit-down meals, with limited capacity:

- A register must be kept of all employees, delivery agents and patrons to assist with contact tracing if necessary.
- Restaurants are required to conduct a screening questionnaire on guests and may refuse admission if they deem a guest is a safety risk.
- Masks must be worn at all times except when eating and drinking.
- Customers should be seated 1.5meters apart.
- No self-service buffets are allowed.
- Employees, delivery agents and patrons should sanitise upon arrival.

Personal care services, including hairdressers:

- A register must be kept of all employees and clients to assist with contact tracing if necessary.
- Equipment must be santised before and after each use.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Stylist must also wear a face shield/Visor that must be cleaned after serving each client.



Conferences and meetings:

- A maximum of 50 people allowed in the venue
- Restricted to work purposes only.

Casinos, Cinemas and Theatres:

- A maximum of 50 people at any time (in the case of casinos the number of people is restricted to 50% of the available floor space.
- Performers and crew limited to maximum of 15 people.

Museum, Galleries, Libraries and Archives:

- A maximum of 50 people at any time.

New measures to reduce infections:

- Wearing masks in public places is mandatory.
- Taxis must have some windows open during all journeys
- Sale of alcohol is suspended
- Curfew in place between 9am and 9pm-this excludes permitted workers or for urgent medical assistance.
- The sale of Tobacco products and cigarettes remains prohibited.

## Why COVID - 19 is Spreading Fast?

### 3 Major Reasons



They are my colleagues  
So I can speak without Mask



They are my close friends  
So I can speak without Mask



They are my relations  
So I can speak without Mask

Don't Do Above 3 Mistakes  
Wear your mask properly always  
Save yourself & Society

