

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

SEPTEMBER ISSUE:2020



South African High Commission Namibia

Website: www.dirco.gov.za



**# STAY HOME
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*H.E. Archie Whitehead
Head of Mission*

From the High Commissioner's pen...



The sizzling winds of August have traversed the landscape of our country, a dark reminder of winter's desolation, melancholy slowly ebbs away with the prospects of a better tomorrow even though the month of August is the advent of spring and will soon usher in the herbage that will soon envelope the forest and the hills. It is also a period of pensive meditation. It is contemplative recess in which we all ruminate over the role that our grandmothers, mothers, sisters and the girl child played in our liberation. We all salute and pay homage to the heroic women intergenerationally who were the torch bearers of our struggle. They were persecuted, detained without trial, languished in prison or even faced the ultimate penalty – death. They are those without whom we would not be able to taste the sweet nectar of freedom.

There is however, a category of women who are unheralded who were like the unknown soldier, the camel's hump of our struggle. These were the unobtrusive militants who were like the she elephant (Ndlovukazi) who throughout the pernicious drought led us to the distant life waterhole of freedom. I tenderly reminisce about the women who were in the dark trenches when selflessness, courage, and tenacity was the badge of honour that they carried on their lofty shoulders.

It was a time in which cowardice was frowned upon and material gain scoffed upon contemptuously. I think about Florence Mophosho who was to us more of a mother than a leader, Dilis Marema who delivered material with the purposefulness that would shame any young militant. I remember Antana Monare whose home housed combatants in their droves, never complaining and never questioning any activity. My mind rewinds to the painful murder of Jabu Nywose and her husband in an early morning car bomb.

How can we forget the disappearance and martyrdom of Nokothula Simelane for whose family there is yet to be closure. We remember the role of Amanda Kwadi, O'hara Diseko and Baby Tyawa in the revival of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW), the Youth Movement of the 70's and their role in the underground. How can we forget the role of mama Frances Baard and Mama Winnie Kgware in support of these initiatives.

The altruistic tapestry unfolds, a reminder of the "Roses", a quartet of the most dedicated unassuming and fearless young women who at the drop of a coin pronounced "I am ready for the next order". They were the link between exile and the internal structures, carrying men, material and eternal hope into the evil citadel of apartheid. These names: Itumeleng Mokate, Totsie Memela, Mbali Mngadi and Pilisiwe Twala are a shining beacon of our illustrious struggle. They were fearless and unrepentant in their commitment and discipline. The "Roses" were anchored by Grace Cele who as a single parent disregarded her personal safety and that of her family.

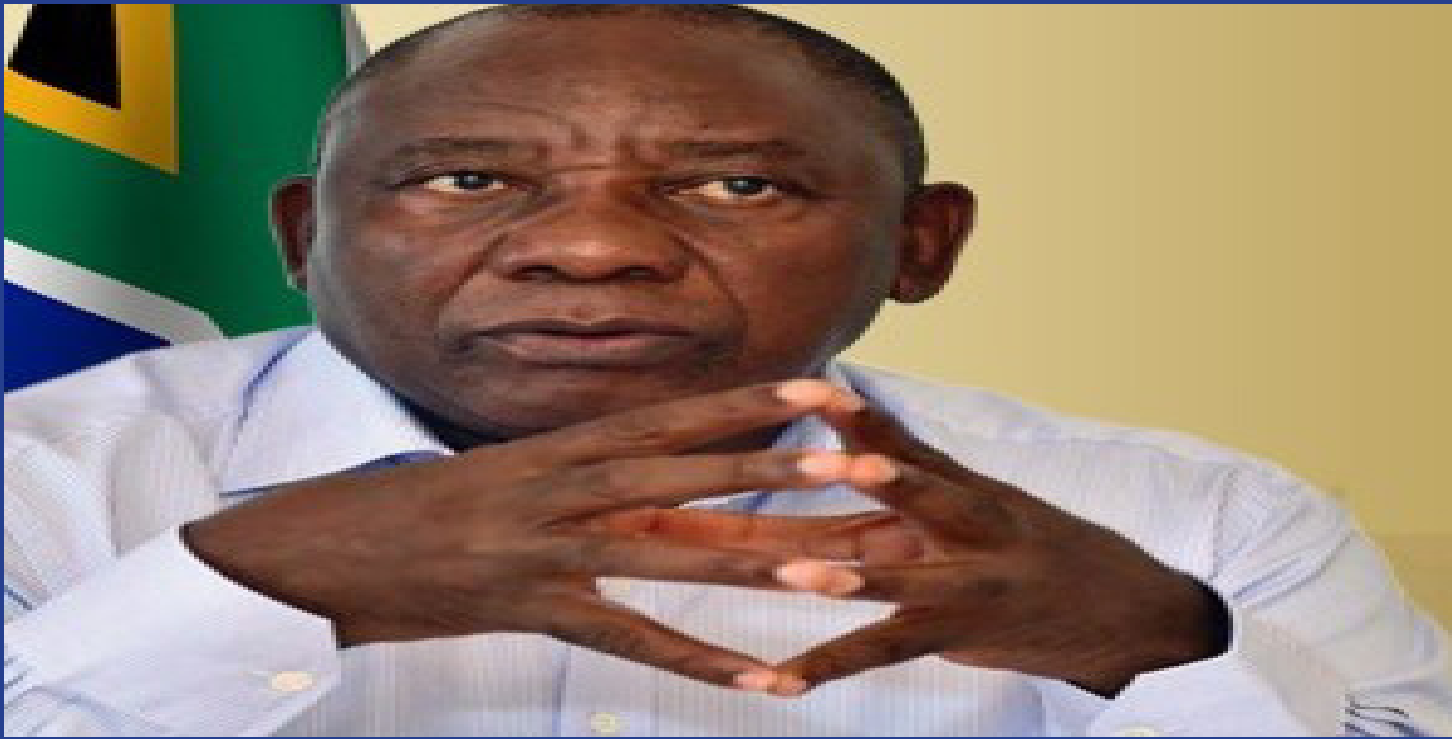
Then there is Sue Rabkin who threw her children on her back and moved into a forward machinery that serviced both the political and military structures of our liberation cause. There is an umbilical cord that links these militants to many other unassuming and unsung women who walk in urban and rural areas, still so forgotten and are a fading light in our consciousness.

During these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, we especially as men, need to navigate from our own sense of self preservation and passionately reconsider our obligation towards our women. What should we do to honour these women and sanctify their unequalled sacrifices? The plague of gender based violence is currently ravaging societies globally. President Ramaphosa has said “In South Africa, we are fighting two pandemics one of which is the scourge of gender based violence.”

The President calls on us to mobilise against this bullwhip and terminate the cancer. Men need to be at the forefront of arresting GBV with a clasp of an octopus’ paw and the commitment and perseverance of a Jesuit priest. Lest I too shall forget to mention other selfless and dedicated women of my continent Africa and globally, I am now reminded of a Persian poet Saadi who said: “Human beings are members of a whole in creation of one essence and soul. If one member is afflicted with pain other members will uneasy remain. If you have no sympathy for human pain the name of humanity you cannot retain.”

This litany cannot be concluded without recalling an important historical milestone which moors the centrality of the sacred sacrificial role women played in our past, present and future. During the defiance campaign in a Limpopo village there was violent protest against the hated pass laws. The police threatened to end the protest taking place at the Chief’s kraal if the protesters did not disperse. Village men fearful of the loss of their manhood immediately, slunk away into the bush with their tails between their legs like a jackal caught in the act of attempted poaching on Thompson’s gazelle’s fawn. Heroically the village women stood steadfast and pelted the police who in turn fled shamelessly. The following day the police interrogated the hief wanting to know who the women ring leaders were upon which he philosophically replied “When house sparrows descend upon your maize fields how do you distinguish between one that ate your maize and the one that did not?” My fellow men let us heed the old Sepedi saying “Mosadi ke bogosi ba monna”, morena, moshate!!!

Stay safe, keep your family safe and remember Covid-19 is yet not over, it is like a serpent ready to strike at the first available opportunity.



“AS SOUTH AFRICAN MEN, LET US TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS, WE MUST TREAT THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF OUR COUNTRY WITH CARE AND RESPECT.”



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HONOURING THE CUSTODIANS OF OUR IDENTITY AND HERITAGE



Florence Mophosho



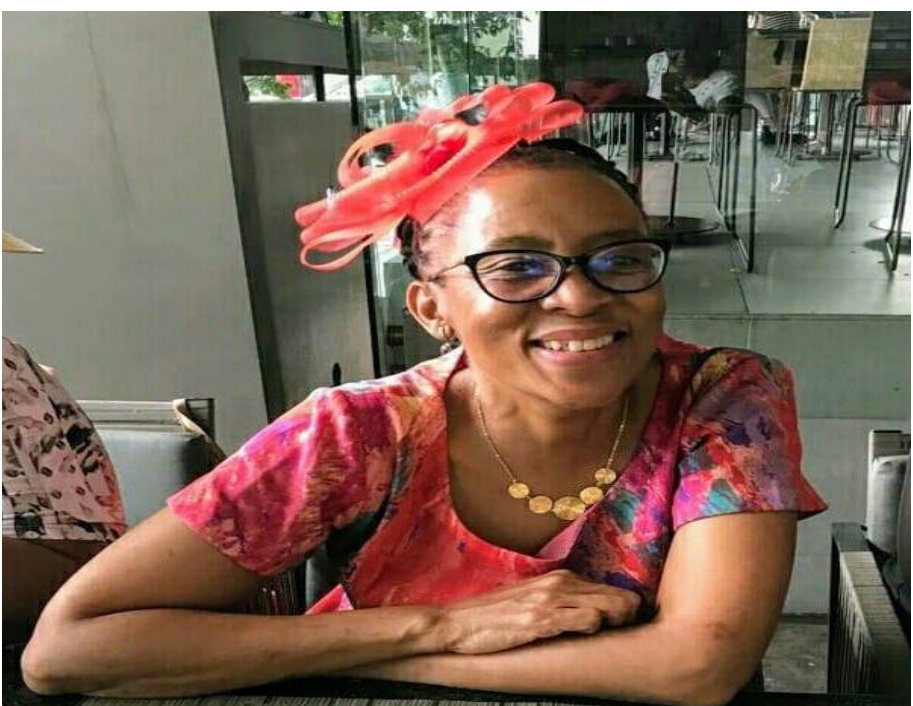
Sue Rabkin



O'hara Diseko



Totsie Memela



Itumeleng Mokate



Baby Penelope Tyawa



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LOCKDOWN ALERT LEVEL 1, THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR SOUTH AFRICA



Amid declining corona virus infections, South Africa has adopted a new strategy of easing restrictions previously imposed by government to delay the spread of the deadly pandemic. In his television address on Wednesday 16 September 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the country's transition from level 2 to 1, in order to revive the country's flagging economy after a period of great hardship for the country.

The imminent global crisis has inflicted pain on the country leading to a battered economy. It comes with the negative consequences of job losses, weak fiscal accounts and the consequent shrunken growth. It presupposes that government will be faced with servicing an elevated debt in the coming years.

The decision to ban the sale of alcohol during lockdown has led to South Africa's alcohol industry losing R18 billion in revenue and R3.4 billion in excise tax. The loss of excise tax is a direct result of increasing sales of illegal alcohol products which don't pay taxes. Conservative estimate of around R6 billion in taxes being lost from cigarette sales to date has been reported.

It is anticipated that the South African Revenue Services will record massive losses of revenue, leading to sizeable collection deficit. However, the current steps taken to ease economic activity during level 1 are already promising to revive the economy.

The rand immediately responded by strengthening and is currently trading well against other currencies like the US dollar.

Consumers have been spared by the Monetary Policy Committee of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) to lower repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 3.50% to make it new record low. This is on the back drop of the previous 50 basis points adopted in 21 May 2020. The move will assist consumers to become active in the country's economy, meanwhile some analyst believe that the consumers rebound in the fourth quarter although recovery will be lower than the previous year this time.

Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni has proposed to extend some tax relief measures for small and medium term businesses (SME's), enabling them to defer tax payments for two to six months.

It has also been proposed that deferral for payment on tobacco and alcohol exercise tax be extended likewise. The deferral make it possible for payment of tax in future without incurring penalties.

The social partners in National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) are expected to set up a high level team for the finalisation of the country's economic recovery programme. Constituencies will nominate members to serve on a team to draw up a set of priority action for economic recovery and transformation. The team is expected to present the economic recovery action to the President for cabinet consideration and ratification for implementation.

South Africa still has a prolonged journey to economic recovery post the Covid-19 global pandemic. Ours as a nation is to keep hope alive, support the government's initiatives including adhering to Covid-19 protocols.

Statistic sources: Businesstech and Financial Times



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MZANSI WETHU...HERITAGE DAY

September not only ushers in the beginning of Spring with flowers blooming and the dawn of a new season, it also brings with it the annual celebration of heritage month in South Africa. The 24th of September encourages South Africans from all walks of life to embrace and celebrate all their cultures, diversity, various beliefs and traditions with pride.

Under the theme “Celebrating South Africa’s living treasures”, regardless of the reality that the 2020 heritage celebrations takes place within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, that has reminded us that human life is our biggest asset and should be protected as best we can. The theme brings back emotive nostalgic memories of umkhulu “grandfather” telling indigenous stories to children around a bon fire, with the sight of ugozo “grandmother” knitting away in between the moments. These moments carry with unforgettable african practices that inspire strong characters and unshakeable beliefs in ensuring that our African culture and heritage does not fade out.

The theme brings with it a call from government on all South Africans to use heritage month to foster greater social cohesion, nation building and a shared national identity which instils in us the importance of giving flowers to the living while they can still smell them, and it is a true reflection of the South African spirit of Ubuntu.

Heritage day is a moment in which all South Africans celebrate their heritage, and to spice up this year celebration the South African hit song Jersualema by Master KG will be nibbled on throughout the festivities. On 16 September 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa words of encouragement to the nation were “There can be no better celebration of our South African-ness than joining the global phenomenon that is the Jerusalem dance challenge , so I urge all of you to take up this challenge and show the world what we are capable of.”



#Flytheflag



South African High Commission, Windhoek personnel celebrating Heritage day



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



TOURISM: EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA

There are many exciting attractions to savour for the visitor to South Africa. While some of the tourist destinations are better known, for example the magnificent Table Mountain or Robben Island in the Western Cape, the glitzy bright lights of Sandton in Johannesburg, or the world-famous parks such as the Kruger National Park – South Africa has many more hidden “gems” for the explorer who is bold enough to take the road less travelled. Some of these can be found in the Eastern Cape Province.

Not only is EC endowed with natural beauty, it also has a lot of historical significance. The province is home to many of the country’s struggle leaders, such as the first president of a democratic South Africa, Nelson Mandela. Mandela was born in Qunu, which is 25km from Mthatha, the former capital of the Transkei.

Other prominent struggle icons who called EC home included Oliver Tambo, Govan Mbeki, Thabo Mbeki, Walter Sisulu, Steve Biko and Chris Hani. The province is also the ancestral home of the Xhosa people.

Bisho is the provincial capital, but Port Elizabeth and East London are the two largest cities. These two cities have some of the most pristine beaches in South Africa, with the warm Indian Ocean waters providing ample opportunities for a dip in the ocean.



Hole in the wall

The EC province in SA is astoundingly diverse and, in parts, deliciously underdeveloped. From the sea to the inland desert, the scenery of this province is breathtakingly beautiful. It provides spectacular views, some of which you can take in as you drive along the scenic N2 route. Animal lovers can view a dazzling array of wildlife such as the Cape Mountain zebra, white lions and rhinos in various national parks and game reserves, including Addo Elephant National Park, and Tsitsikama National Park.

Visitors can also savour views of towering dolomite rock pillars and the surrounding countryside, where the shifting light plays upon the sweeping landscapes of the Great Karoo, to the east Graaf Reinet to the north Sneeuberg.

If you like picturesque towns then you have to visit Grahamstown, which sits between Port Elizabeth and East London. Grahamstown is a British settler town, but despite its history it is today a vibrant city where Rhodes University is situated, and the annual Grahamstown Arts Festival provides visitors with a relaxing and memorable celebration of various forms of art.

For the adventurer or young at heart there are opportunities to bungee jump at Bloukrans, where the jump of 216 meters makes it the highest commercial bungee jump in the world, certainly something to consider adding to your bucket list.

Should you wish to pursue your studies, the province provides a rich selection of options: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Rhodes University, Walter Sisulu University, and Fort Hare University, which produced leaders such as Tata Nelson Mandela and others. For refreshments, one can visit Mbuqe Braai place in Mthatha to level up with fresh braai meat.

Next time you are thinking of taking a tour, why not take the path less travelled and enjoy the historic, natural and modern wonders of the Eastern Cape. Go ahead put it on your bucket list!!!



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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 1st 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 immortal remains of a South African National who dies abroad)
2. Distress and destitute South Africans in a foreign country.

Frequently asked questions:

Question: Under Alert Level 1 Lockdown will I be able to apply for a new Study, Visitor's, Spousal, Critical skills, General Work and Intra-company transfer visa?

Answer: Yes, you will be able to apply for short or long term visas.

Question: I applied for a civic document in South Africa i.e passport, smart Id card, unabridged birth certificate can I give permission through the High Commission for someone to collect such a document on my behalf?

Answer: No, the High Commission cannot give permission in such instances as the application was not lodged through our office.

Question: Under the current circumstances will I still be required to submit a South African police clearance certificate for the extension of a study visa application?

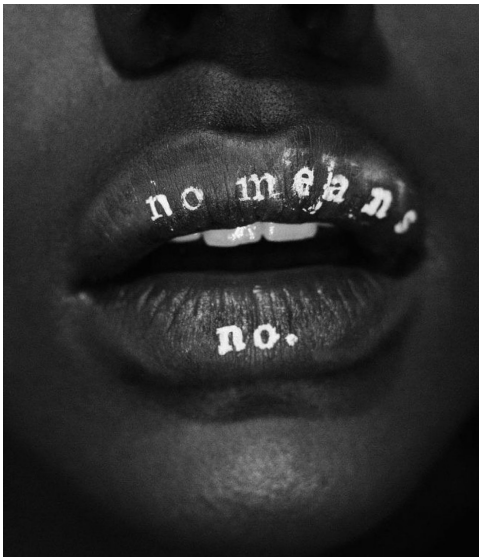
Answer: Yes, you will still be required to submit a South African police clearance certificate not older than six months.



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GENDER BASED VIOLENCE...WE SHALL NOT BE SILENCED



WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence that is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex or gender identity. It includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse, threats, coercion and economic or educational deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life.

(definition provided by womenforwomen.org)

THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF GBV

PHYSICAL

- Beating
- Kicking
- Burning
- Hitting
- Causing any type of bodily harm to a spouse or partner
- Female genital mutilation (FGM) or other harmful traditional practices

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- Neglect
- Controlling a spouse or partner's actions
- Disrespect
- Shaming
- Verbal threats

SEXUAL

- Forced marriage
- Forced prostitution
- Rape
- Harassment
- Denying someone the right to have protected sex
- Any type of unwanted sexual activity

ECONOMIC

- Withholding family finances from a spouse
- Preventing someone from owning property
- Denying an individual's right to work or go to school based on their gender



MY BODY SHOULDN'T BE A CRIME SCENE



We Can - We Shall - We Will
STOP
 The Violence

COVID-19 PRONOUNCEMENTS

SOUTH AFRICA

[@PresidencyZA](#) | www.stateofthenation.gov.za

Alert Level 1

The **curfew time** will be from **midnight to 04:00am**

The **sale of alcohol** at retail outlets is now permitted from **Monday to Friday**, from 09h00 to 17h00

Alcohol will be permitted for **on-site consumption** in licensed establishments with **strict adherence to the curfew**

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

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Borders will be opened for international travel from 1 October, subject to the following conditions:

Travel may be **restricted to and from certain countries** that are deemed **high risk**

Only King Shaka International, OR Tambo International and Cape Town International airports will be **open for international flights**

A **limited number of border posts** will remain open at South Africa's **land borders**

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

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The following restrictions will remain in place to prevent the spread of the virus

The number of people allowed in a retail store, restaurant, cinema or other public space remains **limited to 50% of its normal capacity** to prevent the spread of the virus

Gatherings may not exceed 50% of venue capacity, with a maximum limit of **250 indoors** and **500 outdoors**

Masks must be worn in public places and **social distancing** must be maintained

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

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International travelers must meet the following requirements to ensure safety

On arrival, travellers will need to **present a negative COVID-19 test result** not older than 72 hours from time of departure

All **travellers will be screened on arrival** and those presenting with symptoms will be required to have a COVID test

Where necessary, travellers will need to **enter mandatory quarantine facilities** at their own cost

Travellers will be asked to **download the COVID Alert South Africa mobile app**

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

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What can you do to stop the second wave?

Download the COVID Alert South Africa app now and get notified if you are exposed to coronavirus

Keep wearing a mask whenever you are in public

Maintain a **distance of one-and-a-half metres** from other people at all times

Wash or **sanitise your hands** regularly

South Africa will move to Level 1 from Monday 21 September 2020

NAMIBIA

18TH COVID UPDATE

COVID-19 RESPONSE

17 SEPTEMBER 2020

FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS IN NAMIBIA ON 13 MARCH 2020, I DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY ON ACCOUNT OF COVID-19 AS A NATURAL DISASTER FROM 17 MARCH 2020. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTED THE EXTENSION OF THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS, WHICH WILL LAPSE AT **MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, 17 SEPTEMBER 2020.**

H.E DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

18TH COVID UPDATE

COVID-19 RESPONSE

17 SEPTEMBER 2020

THIS WEEK CABINET HELD EXTENSIVE DELIBERATIONS TO CONSIDER EXPIRY OF THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY AND TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PUT IN PLACE, BEYOND 17 SEPTEMBER 2020. GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY TO PROTECT NAMIBIAN LIVES, IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER, MEANS PRESERVING THE HEALTH OF NAMIBIANS, WHILE MITIGATING THE BROADER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

H.E DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Restrictions to remain in place

- °Wearing of face masks remain mandatory
- °Public gatherings remain at 50 people
- °Restriction of passengers on public transports will remain
- °Resumption of face to face teaching and learning will continue

Lifted restrictions

- °Curfew has been lifted
- °Onsite sales and consumption of alcohol is now allowed up to 22h00
- °Casino, gambling houses and night clubs are similarly allowed to operate till 22h00
- °Contact sports will now be allowed, subject to health measures.
- °Day to day business operation allowed subject to health measures
- °Movement in and out of restricted areas now allowed

