

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

*Media Briefing was
today 24/4/15 at
10: Am*

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Tel No: (061) 287 9111
Fax No: (061) 234 296

Private Bag 13338
WINDHOEK

URGENT**PRESS RELEASE 24 APRIL 2015****GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA: ACTION TO ATTEND TO DROUGHT
SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY**

The purpose of this briefing is to inform the nation of the details of measures approved by Cabinet and action taken to implement the short, medium and long terms measures to mitigate the impact of the drought. These measures were taken by Cabinet after the result of the Crop and household food security assessment conducted by MAWF and other stakeholders in February 2015.

These measures are implemented by the Directorate Disaster Risk Management in the Office of the Prime and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

The assessment confirmed that the large parts of the country received poor rainfall and as a result, farmers are expecting poor agricultural output this year. The assessment has also noted the weakening of household food security in the country. In addition, regions confirmed the effect of drought in their respective regions and requested Government to intervene.

Cabinet authorised the implementation of an interim drought relief programme. The programme includes distribution of maize meal to an estimated 417,944 affected people for three months (May –July 2015). The interim measures are implemented while awaiting the outcome of the post harvest Crop and Vulnerability assessment planned for May/June 2015 to determine the impact of drought on food production, livelihood and the number of people affected.

Approved intervention table:

Interventions	No: of beneficiaries	Cost for short term (three months) N\$	Cost for medium to long term (N\$)
1.1 Food Commodities	417 944		
Maize grain		54 080 043.75	
Milling of maize grain		23,513,062.50	
1.2 Logistic (Transport, DSA for drivers, casual labourers and warehouse operations)		15,000,000.00	
1.3 Water provision			
Drilling of 50 boreholes, equipping of 80 boreholes, purchase of 2 drilling rigs	9 100 people and 22 500 animals		66 000 000.00
1.4 Livestock			
Marketing incentives	6 500		60 000 000.00
Lease of grazing	400		4 000 000.00
Transport subsidy to grazing	300		2 000 000.00
Fodder/hay, licks and health package	2 500		90 000 000.00
Transport subsidy to marketing facilities	1 000		8 000 000.00
1.5 Seed provision			
Free seed distribution for communal farmers	30 000		6 500 000.00
Subsidized input costs (seed and fertilizer) for commercial farmers	200		30 000 000.00
Sub total		92 593 106.25	266 500 000.00
Total			359 093 106.25

The amount of grain is available from the strategic silos of the MAWF is indicated in the table below: which will be milled and distributed to the beneficiary's country-wide.

The Office of the Prime is currently distributing food aid donated by the Federal Republic of Nigeria consisting of 300 metric tons of rice and 700 metric tons of maize grain and 3 metric of fish powder.

FOOD ALLOCATION AND DISTRIBUTION TABLE

Region	Allocated maize Meal 12.5kg	Delivered Quantity of Maize Meal	Date Delivered	Allocated Rice 25 Kg bags	Delivered Quantity of Rice	Date Delivered
Ohangwena	6000	6000	15-20 April 2015	1440	-	-
Oshikoto	6500	2500	15 April 2015	1560	470	15-20 April 2015
Oshana	3000	2200		720	720	15-20 April 2015
Omusati	7000	7000	15-21 April 2015	1680	-	-
Kunene	4500	4500	14-20 April 2015	1080	-	-
Kavango East	7500	-		1800	-	-
Kavango West	5000	-		1200	1200	10/4/15
//Karas	2000	-		1440	480	8/4/15
Hardap	1000	-		240	240	9/4/15
Omaheke	1000	1000	31/3/15	240	240	25/4/15
Otjozondjupa	3500	3500	15-20/4/15	840	840	24/4/15
Erongo	1500	1500	20/4/15	360	360	13/4/15
Khomas	500	500	9/4/15	120	120	20/4/15
Zambezi	1000	1000	15- 20/04/15	240	240	11/4/15

The medium to long term measures include:

- 1) Livestock marketing incentive scheme, transport and lease of grazing subsidies
 - The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry have started to advise farmers to sell some of their livestock while they are still in good condition. The livestock incentive scheme rates are: N\$80 per small stock and N\$400 per large stock sold.
 - Farmers are further advised to keep proper record of the number of animal sold.
 - Farmers who transport their livestock to emergency grazing areas qualify for a subsidy of 50 per cent of the freight transport tariff to a maximum of N\$16 per kilometre, to a maximum of 500 kilometers.
 - Lessee will qualify for 50 per cent of the lease tariff per head per month. The maximum to qualify for is N\$40 per large stock per head/unit per month for a maximum of a 100 herd of cattle. For small stock a maximum amount of N\$5.00 to a maximum of 600 herd of small stock or a combination of the two (small and large stock).
 - As directed by Cabinet, MAWF will in consultation with the farmers and other stakeholder work out a strategy to assist farmers to restock after destocking as a result of the current drought situation.
 - The MAWF through Extension technicians will be monitoring the implementation of the marketing incentive scheme.

- 2) Water provision through drilling and rehabilitation of existing boreholes
 - MAWF is currently busy installing borehole drilled during the 2013/14 drought program
 - The drilling and rehabilitation tender has been awarded and activities will start in May 2015
 - MAWF is currently consulting the regions to identify the specific villages where the 50 boreholes will be drilled.
 - The annual tender for pipeline extensions is approved by Tender Board and MAWF is currently busy receiving quotation from contractors to evaluate and award.
 - Water tanker services is currently being implemented in Omaheke and can be extended to other regions for emergency water supply

- 3) Production of improved pearl millet seeds under irrigation during the off season period
 - MAWF will produce pearl millet seeds from August 2015 through irrigation.

- 4) Provision of fodder/hay, licks and health package subsidy for breeding stocks
 - This is aimed at encouraging farmers in communal area to keep a core herd of livestock for breeding purposes to a maximum 50 herd of large stock or 300 herd of small stock .
 - Farmers qualifies for Fodder subsidy worth N\$60 per large stock unit per month and N\$10 per small stock unit per month

- 5) Provision of free seeds to communal farmers for next agricultural season
 - Free seeds will be provided to communal farmers from August 2015

- 6) Provision of subsidised inputs (seed and fertilizer) for resettled, affirmative and commercial farmers
 - Input subsidy to commercial rain fed crop farmers will be provided during the 2015/16 crop season.

The Government has established a technical team for the implementation of the drought mitigation measures consisting of: Directorate Disaster Risk management in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Information, and Communication Technology. The implementation team is chaired the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Deputised by the Acting Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The technical team will issue information to the public on a monthly basis indicating progress made.

