



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

**RIGHT HONORABLE SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE
“GET VACCINATED, HELP KICK COVID-19 OUT OF NAMIBIA” CAMPAIGN**

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION CENTRE,

FRIDAY, 6 AUGUST 2021

Director of Ceremonies;

Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Information and Communication Technology;

Hon. Dr. Kalumbi Shangula, Minister of Health and Social Services;

Hon. Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region;

Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses, WHO country representative;

Senior Government Officials;

Key Stakeholders from both Private and Development Partners;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. I am happy to join you at the officiation launch of the *Get Vaccinated, Help Kick COVID-19 Out of Namibia*, a comprehensive National Campaign aimed at disseminating timely, and accurate information, generate awareness and alleviate apprehensions and fears regarding COVID-19 vaccines in Namibia.
2. The campaign is part of Government's National Response Strategy to create awareness and educate the public about the importance of COVID-19 vaccines.

3. I wish to specifically thank the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development in partnership with development partners for developing and producing the campaign materials we are launching today.
4. The campaign materials are designed to motivate and provide information on the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination process, generate awareness, assist in managing myths and misinformation and thereby helping in developing people's trust and confidence to improve acceptance and uptake of vaccine.
5. This campaign will assist Government with rolling out the vaccine by:
 - Strengthening and implementing the Communication Strategy for public education, awareness creation and management of misinformation on COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Developing and implementing a national public education and awareness mass media campaign on COVID-19 and Vaccination.

- Engaging Regional Governors, Regional Councils, Local authorities, Faith-based leaders and Traditional leaders to participate in social mobilization campaigns towards the mass vaccination.
 - Identifying and proposing strategies to mobilize the nation to be vaccinated.
6. Vaccination is the right thing to do if we are to protect and shield ourselves and loved ones from irreparable harm and risks posed by COVID-19.
7. We are pleased to note the increase in the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination by the people. Government will continue to pursue efforts to secure more doses for the country. We are expecting to receive more consignments of vaccines in the next few weeks and months to ensure enough stock for all eligible people.
8. Further, with the availability of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, multiple efforts have been made to strengthen and equip our health delivery mechanisms for expeditious roll-out of the vaccine. Communication is an

important cornerstone of these efforts, as it is important to share clear, accurate and transparent information to build vaccine confidence in the community.

9. The materials we are launching today will therefore help us convey consistent information through multiple communication channels and platforms to help in the voluntary uptake of the vaccine.
10. Namibia aims to vaccinate **1 503 684** citizens which is about **64 percent** of the population. As of 01 August 2021, more than **164 221 Namibians** have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while **49 274** have received two doses. We are informed that the Vaccines help our body to learn to fight the virus well before the infection. Vaccination also helps prevent severe illness or hospitalization in an event of an exposure to COVID-19.
11. We call on the Ministries of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to continue engaging key stakeholders such as media professionals, traditional and religious leaders

and influencers in communities to spread the message and to assist in maintaining COVID appropriate behaviors to reduce the risks of infection.

12. Further, we need to build capacity for our people to be able to differentiate between fake news and factual information for them to be able to make informed decisions. This capacity can only be achieved through pro-activeness and responding timely to public queries and managing misinformation. In addition, our citizens will need to have timely access to translated information on vaccines in their own languages.
13. It is only through joint efforts that we will ensure vaccine acceptance and positive behavioral change among our citizens.
14. With these few words, it is now my honour and privilege to declare the **“Get, Vaccinated, Help Kick COVID-19 Out Namibia”** national campaign officially launched.

I thank you.