



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

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HON MINISTERS
HON GOVERNORS
YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYORS
CHAIRPERSON OF SOES BOARDS

Attention: All Accounting Officers

SUBJECT: DIRECTIVES TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND SECTORS WITH REGARDS TO MOVEMENT OF ROLE-PLAYERS IN THE SECTORS RENDERING CRITICAL AND ESSENTIAL DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PERIOD

1. His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, in terms of Sub Article (5) of Article 26(1) of the Namibian Constitution, declared by Proclamation No. 7 of 18 March 2020 a State of Emergency in the whole of Namibia, following the worldwide outbreak of the disease known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and subsequently issued the. State of Emergency COVID-19 Regulations covering the Lockdown measures due to the COVID-19 by Government Gazette No 7159 of 28 March 2020.
2. Government Gazette No 7159 of 28 March 2020 Article 6 that deals with prohibition relating to travel and permit requirements, under sub article (6) states amongst others that A person is exempted from the requirement of

obtaining a permit to travel as contemplated in sub regulation (5), if that travel is necessary to amongst others

- (a) Transport goods during the course of business or trade;
- (b) Perform an action necessary for the enforcement of law or public order;
- (d) Facilitate the production, processing and distribution of food or other necessities of life;
- (e) Maintain or repair infrastructure necessary or useful for the provision of water, electricity, communication or financial services; or
- (f) To perform any other critical service that cannot reasonably be postponed.

3. Article 9 of the Government Gazette No 7159 of 28 March 2020 further states that:-

For the period of lockdown, every person must be confined to his or her place of residence, except for any of the following reasons –

- (a) Performing a critical service;
- (b) Obtaining essential goods or services;
- (c) Seeking medical attention;
- (d) Visits to pharmacies, food supply stores, courts or banks; or
- (e) For physical exercise: Provided that the number of person does not exceed three persons.

4. The essential and critical services referred to above are outlined in Annexure B

5. In line with the above and in accordance with Government Gazette No 7159 of 28 March 2020 Article 14 (1) (a) and (b) of Government Gazette No 7159 of 28 March 2020, the following directives are issued in order to amplify the provisions referred to above and to ensure that the objectives thereof are attained in an efficient manner.

6. The rationale hereof is to adhere to the measures set in place to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

7. For the Agriculture, Water and Land sectors the following are the details of critical services rendered by the MAWLR that are referred to **Annexure B Part 2**

of Government Gazette No 7159 of 28 March 2020. paragraphs 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, and 16:

- a) Ministerial Management Services' provided by the Minister, Deputy Minister, Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, Directors, Deputy Directors, Regional Heads and their support staff (Personal Assistants, Secretaries, Drivers and Messengers).
- b) Veterinary services, Plant Health services and Phytosanitary services at entry points to ensure continued production, processing, storage including cold storage, transportation and delivery of food.
- c) Auctions and Abattoirs operations.
- d) Veterinary Cordon Fence maintenance teams and International Border fence maintenance teams.
- e) Export Certification, Import and Export Control and Diagnostic Laboratory Services.
- f) Livestock Movement Permits, transportation of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats and animal feed and remedies, fertilizers and chemicals).
- g) Water Supply Services.
- h) Water Maintenance teams.
- i) Grain Millers, agro processors and feed manufacturers (livestock, cereals and horticulture).
- j) Agriculture and Water Logistics (cattle trucks, grain trucks, water tanks, vegetables and fruits etc.).
- k) Deeds administration and Registry (Deeds Registrar and Surveyor General and their administrative support staff.
- l) Electricity Supply Services.
- m) Information Technology Services.
- n) Security Services.
- o) Plant and Fleet Management and maintenance.

- p) Building and Mechanical maintenance services.
- q) Procurement Management Services.
- r) Farm operations, by farmers on their respective farms and by operators at Green Schemes, to be allowed under strict supervision by farm owners.
- s) Drought relief subsidy claims processing team.

8. In rendering the above services, all stakeholders are required to adhere to the following measures:

a) Movement of farmers and farm workers during the covid-19 lockdown period

Movement of full time farmers, farm and manufacturing plant workers residing on their farms/manufacturing plants, will be allowed for the purposes of accessing medical services, procuring essential supplies for themselves, their family members and their employees and or for family members of the employees, transporting animals to auctions/abattoirs. Part time farmers are prohibited to commute between their farm and urban residence.

b) Movement of farm workers on the farm to execute critical and essential services

Transportation of farm and factory farm workers in groups must adhere to the World Health Organization (WHO) on social distancing (maintain at least one (1) meter distance between two people during transportation, and where appropriate provide the necessary protective clothing.

c) Movement of private critical and essential service providers

Farmers or member of the public or employees of companies that render critical and essential services at farms or rural households, including:

- i. farming equipment/machinery suppliers and service providers;

- ii. Agricultural production and manufacturing input suppliers and transporters (suppliers and transporters of seeds, agro-chemicals, fertilizers, veterinary drugs, food and livestock feed);
- iii. Transporters of livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, pigs) from farms to or from auctions/feedlots/abattoirs and livestock products (meat, dairy products and eggs) from production facilities to the markets;
- iv. Water supply equipment and machineries suppliers and providers;
- v. Plumbing, electrical, welding, farm fence repair and septic tank draining services.

d) Gathering of farm and manufacturing workers when executing their critical and essential services

- i. When conducting essential services at farms or manufacturing plants, where public gatherings (more than ten (10) people) cannot be avoided must adhere to the World Health Organization (WHO) on social distancing (maintain at least one (1) meter distance between two people during transportation, and where appropriate provide the necessary protective clothing.
- ii. When gathering at livestock auctions, precautionary measures at the work place as set out by the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC), as well as directives by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) must be adhered to so as to prevent transmission of the virus. These measures include inter alia; the following:
 - ✓ Only peoples with a role in the specified animal gathering event, specifically the veterinary officials, auctioneers, buyers, and sellers can attend auctions after they have gone through temperature screening;
 - ✓ Strictly no children should be allowed at any animal gathering event neither the vendors;
 - ✓ The animal gathering event must make a provision for hand washing, hand dryer, respiratory hygiene, sanitizer and social distancing at the event;
 - ✓ It is imperative that personnel should be available to do the spraying of sanitizer after hand washing;

- iii. Trade fairs, sports, events, and demonstrations are to be postponed;
- iv. In addition to the above, for a period of thirty (30) days starting from the 17 March 2020:
 - ✓ All animals gathering premises must be equipped with a workplace Standard Operating Procedure to prevent the risk of contracting/spreading the Covid-19 virus in line with the provision of the World Health Organization and Guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, in consultation with the local state Veterinarian.

e) Daycare facilities for farm and manufacturing plant workers' children

- i. Daycare facilities used to take care of farm and manufacturing plant workers' children must be closed down with immediate effect to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- ii. Children of affected farm or manufacturing plant workers must be confined to their parents/guardians' houses/residential during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

9. Guidelines for operation of abattoirs, processing, packaging plants milling plants and auction events referred to under 8 (d) above are as follows:

- a) Operating hours – Normal operating hours
- b) Hand sanitizing is compulsory for all customers upon entry of the store as per the MOHSS and WHO guidelines.
- c) Social distancing within queuing systems to be 2 meters apart both inside and outside the abattoir/plant.
- d) Social distance to be demarcated with clear signs to ensure adherence.
- e) All staff working in the service areas to wear protective equipment.
- f) Truck delivery drivers and 3rd party merchandisers should be allowed into abattoir/plant to do their work albeit following the same rules and procedures as outlined above.
- g) Supervisors within the abattoir/plant (clearly identified) to manage the social distancing inside and outside of the stores.

- h) Police/NDF to assist with managing crowds at the livestock auction events as and when necessary.
- i) Abattoir, processing, packaging, milling plants to introduce shifts/shorter hours/less staff and work scheduling without restriction within the prescribed legislation framework.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



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