



PREMIER NEWS

The Office of the Prime Minister's electronic newsletter, January - April 2021, Vol. 3 | Issue No. 3



UN-JSF SUPPORTS NAMIBIA

To lessen the impact of:

COVID-19, DROUGHT AND STRENGTHENING FOODSYSTEMS

④

Consultations on NFNS - a success story

⑧

OPM teams up with Regions to mitigate drought effect

⑨

Namibia faring well on Global HDI

From the Desk of the ED



Mr. I-Ben Natangwe Nashandi
Executive Director

Namibia is hit by a number of emergencies: drought, Covid-19, floods, and the army of attacking locust. The elements have affected all Namibians from all walks of life in terms of health, economy and food security.

However, it is comforting that in the spirit of Harambee and wanting to see everyone on the other side of these challenges, we have shown some degree of solidarity in supporting the most vulnerable. Let us continue to embrace each other and our neighbours like those from Southern Angola who are fleeing into Namibia in search of livelihood.

The Office of the Prime Minister has noted with appreciation positive responses in terms of donations and support by friendly nations, Individuals, Political Parties, Private Sector Corporates, Trade Unions, State-Owned Enterprises, Traditional Authorities and Churches, to assist in mitigating the effect of these emergencies and help build resilience. These support have been streamlined to relocate communities, provide food, shelter, and clean drinking water and fodder for animals.

The recent multi-pronged Japanese Supplementary Funding through the United Nations Agencies is also highly appreciated by the Namibian government and its people, to mitigate the impact of Covid-19, recurrent droughts, floods and to strengthen food systems.

Early this year, government has conducted Regional consultations on the Draft Revised National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, Implementation Action Plan and Coordination Structure and it also made financial provisions to assist affected communities.

We are not out of the woods yet, let us continue serving the Namibian House with dedication and renewed strength in 2021—each one of us in our own little ways. *We shall overcome the challenges!*

PREMIER NEWS

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The editor welcomes news items, press releases, letters, feature articles and photos relating to public service matters. Any contributions and enquiries should be addressed to the editor.

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Editor's Note



Rhingo Mutambo (CPRP)
Chief Public Relations Officer

Hello family!. Welcome to Volume 3, Issue 3 of the electronic newsletter of the *Premier News*- the official quartetly newsletter of the Office of the Prime Minister.

In this edition, we will bring you information on the UN-Japanese Funding, drought, green hydrogen, nutrition and food security, land, ICT, how Namibia performed since 1990 on the Global Development Index as well as general office engagement highlights.

It is my please to draw your attention to the story on the report on human development in Namibia.

I am particularly intrigued by what Namibia has been able to achieve up to a status of a Middle-Income-Country while many see all these feat as nothing and how Covid-19 swiftly came in and changed the human development index in over one year. These stalled many development efforts and disrupted social lives, but resilient Namibia is still a land of the brave.

This is a rude awakening to the fact that we need to appreciate the little we have everyday, because tomorrow is not guaranteed.

Enjoy the reading. Protect yourself and protect others!

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UN-JSF SUPPORTS NAMIBIA

The United Nations (UN) through its various agencies in Namibia is set to fund numerous projects running into millions of dollars to lessen the impact of Covid-19, recurrent droughts and to strengthen food systems in Namibia. This funding is mainly made possible through the Japanese Supplementary Fund (JSF) as follows:



1. WFP Project “Food and Nutrition Assistance to Vulnerable Households Affected by COVID-19, recurrent droughts and Africa migratory locust invasion” The objectives of this project will be achieved through implementing the following interventions:

- **Food Assistance: WFP will implement food assistance** with vouchers to assist communities whose livelihoods and ability to access food have been severely disrupted by the effects of COVID-19 and years of recurrent drought in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

- **Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC):** A “people-centered” SBCC campaign will be undertaken targeting community members particularly women and youth, community leaders, households, health workers and cultural/traditional institutions to promote general financial management, nutrition messaging, improved maternal diets, infant and young child feeding practices and hygiene. This will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and coupled with messages on COVID-19 prevention and gender discrimination. The project will be implemented in Kunene and Ohangwena Regions for an amount of USD 500,000.

2. UNICEF Project: “Preventing and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and overlapping emergencies on nutritional, learning and health outcomes of vulnerable children in Namibia.

UNICEF Namibia will implement this project to ensure continued equitable quality learning for 737 children with disabilities and other special needs, and 4,165 from under-served indigenous communities, who have been adversely affected by the prolonged drought, COVID-19 and its negative impacts on their development.

This will be done by addressing barriers to improved WASH, education and nutrition for pre-primary learners through Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and for primary and secondary children through resource and mainstream schools.

The project will be implemented in Omaheke, Kavango, and Zambezi Regions for an amount of USD 586,800 for 12 months (March 2021 – February 2022).

3. WHO Namibia Project: “Improvement of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services to mitigate the impact of COVID-19”

The project aims to improve and increase the uptake of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child health (RMNC) services to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by strengthening the capacity of health care workers to provide quality reproductive and maternal health services, procuring and distributing portable ultrasound machines to selected health centres and revive services and health interventions that have disrupted due to the pandemic.

The project will run for 12 months and be implemented nationwide through the Ministry of Health and Social Services with targeted interventions in Khomas, Kavango and Kunene regions for an amount of USD270,000.

4. UNDP Project: “Strengthening Namibia food systems to recover from emergencies and disease-related shocks through the Build Back better programme.”

This project aims to support efforts towards strengthening the Namibian food systems and recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, emergencies and related shocks by, inter-alia, ensuring improved hygiene infrastructure and safer and more hygienic food handling practices, strengthened local food supply chains, capacity building through policy frameworks and partnerships and helping Municipalities to become food self-sufficient (e.g. garden operations). The project will be implemented in Khomas, Erongo, Kavango East and Hardap regions for an amount of USD 1,000,000.

Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila expressed profound appreciation to the Government of Japan for the continued generosity and support and urged local business people and individuals to emulate the UN-Japanese support.

Consultations on NFNS - a success story



Mr. I-Ben Nashandi (1st from left), Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister is leading a Regional Validation Workshop and Consultations on the Draft Revised NFNS Policy, Implementation Action Plan and Coordination Structure. In this picture, he is joined by representatives from the //Kharas and Hardap regions on 22 February 2021 where the NFNS workshop started.

Regional consultations on the Draft Revised National Food and Nutrition Security (NFNS) Policy, Implementation Action Plan and Coordination Structure which took place from 22 February- 08 March 2021 was a success, despite limitations of participants to 50 persons due to Covid 19-regulations. This follows the launch of the Draft Revised NFNS Policy by the Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila during the Stakeholder Meeting on the Food and Nutrition Security Policy in Windhoek on 06 August 2020.

The objectives of these validation workshops and consultations were to:

- Consider the proposed revised NFNS Policy, its Implementation Action Plan (IAP) and Coordination Structure.
- Validate the content of the NFNS Policy, IAP and FNS Coordination structure.
- Make recommendation on the way forward for further dissemination of the revised NFNS Policy and its IAP, as well as commitment towards coordination of future activities.

The workshops was participatory and inclusive in nature, with presentations by experts in the field of Food and Nutrition Security. Participants also had opportunities to visit individual food security initiatives in all regions.

‘Harness the power of IT,’ says PM



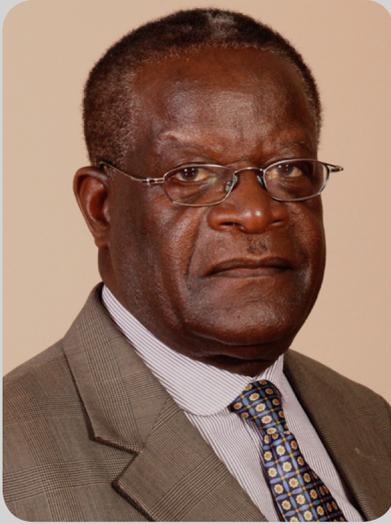
Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

Speaking during her 2021 Staff Annual Address, Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said Covid-19 has changed the way we do business, and implored the staff in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to leverage the Information Technology (IT) to improve service delivery.

Last year, OPM launched the Public Sector Innovation Policy aimed at promoting innovation within the public sector and improve public service administration and service delivery.

“We should all strive to make use of the opportunity provided by the policies to put to use our talents to develop innovative products to provide useful solutions to address the need for innovative ways of doing things in this era of technology,” she emphasised.

OPM NEWS FLASH FROM THE ARCHIVES



Amb. Eddie S. Amkongo was a visionary leader who has been at the apex of the Public Service Commission (PSC) for 10 years (2006-2016).

Upon his return from exile, he was appointed as the Secretary to Cabinet from 1990 to 1996 which was then in the Office of the President, before it was transferred to the Office of the Prime Minister.

He served as Namibia's Ambassador in different capitals of the world with his last posting to the DRC, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) and Gabon before he was appointed as Chairperson of the PSC in 2006.

Amkongo, a renowned diplomat, former educator, journalist and a devoted freedom fighter, retired from the Public Service in 2016.

The Prime Minister's Question Time is BACK!!!



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and NBC TV Anchor, Mr. Yarukeekuro Ndorokaze during the first PMQT interview in 2021

Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila is seen here speaking with NBC TV's anchor, Mr. Yarukeekuro Ndorokaze during the first Prime Minister's Question Time (PMQT) in 2021 after it has been suspended temporarily due to Covid-19.

The Prime Minister, responded to public questions relating to Covid-19 and its effects, Public Sector Innovation Policy, report of the Commission of Inquiry into Claims of Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution, reports on unfair labour practices by investors, and Opening of the Parliament.

PM on Land Question Report

Pursuant to the release of the Commission of Inquiry Claims on Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution report on 21 January 2021, Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila said government shared the report with the public as well as the High Level Committee on Land to familiarise themselves with the report to allow them to share their views as representatives of various quotas.

Among the many recommendations made, the Report recommended that a framework involving a body and a law to guide on land rights in Namibia.

She also reiterated that the "One Namibian, One Farm" proposal is constitutional adding that any Namibian has the right to sell or acquire any land.

The Commission of Inquiry into Claims of Ancestral Land Rights and Restitution was appointed by the President of the Republic of Namibia by Proclamation No.5, Government Notice No. 59 published in Government Gazette of the Republic of Namibia No. 6558 dated 15 March 2019, in terms of section 1 of the Commissions Act, 1947 (Act No.8 of 1947).

Namibia faring well on Global Human Development Index



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (2nd from left) launched the Global Human Development Report 2020 and the Namibia National Human Development report 2019, on 24 February 2021.

Despite startling statistics revealed in the Global Human Development Index (HDI) and Namibia Human Development report about the adverse impacts of the actions of global communities on the environment and people's livelihoods, Namibia's human development has improved since independence, says Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

"I am pleased to note, as indicated in the reports, the progress we have made in the areas of human development based on improvements in life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling as well as Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

The reports indicate that Namibia's human development, represented by the human development index, improved since 1990 from 0.581 to 0.646 in 2019, positioning Namibia at 130 position out of 189 countries. Although the HDI decreased, the report still shows high skewness, with the Gini coefficient standing at 0.560 for the 2015/2016 Financial year. However, it places Namibia's HDI at a Medium Human Development level.

She made this remark when she launched the Global Human Development Report 2020 and the Namibia National Human Development report 2019 under the theme: "*Addressing Inequality and Disparities: Towards a New Dignified Life for All Namibians*", on 24 February 2021 at the UN House in Windhoek, Namibia.

Acknowledging the inequities, the Prime Minister advised that addressing inequalities and sustainable development require that we do business not as usual, and that there is coordination and cooperation amongst all stakeholders in development.

HELP DESK

Computer key Board Usage Tips



The Magic of Viewing Two Screens on the same Computer

Using Windows button on the key board + Left Arrow & Windows + Right Arrow or Windows + Up and Down Arrows

Want to look at two windows simultaneously? Windows 7 makes it easy. All you need to do is hit the Windows button + Right Arrow key to snap a window to the right and Windows + Left Arrow key to snap a window to the left. Windows + Up Arrow will maximise a window and Windows + Down Arrow will minimise it. This shortcut also works in the desktop view of Windows 8.

Try it now and have fun!!!

Source: <https://blog.grantmcgregor.co.uk/2015/keyboard-shortcuts>

Office engagements at a glance!



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila speaking at the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)'s Strategic Retreat held Midgard Resort on 15 February 2021 via ZOOM. She said government prioritises the maintenance of a supportive environment for the private sector, as a precondition for economic growth and development.

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Adv. Nangula Mbako and OPM Executive Director Mr. I-Ben Nashandi donate food items to the food insecure communities settling outside Opuwo due to drought in the region. This happened during the National Regional consultations on the Draft Revised National Food and Nutrition Security (NFNS) Policy, Implementation Action Plan and Coordination Structure which took place from 22 February- 08 March 2021.



Prime Minister, Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (R) together with Secretary to Cabinet, Dr. George Simataa during the Prime Minister's Annual Address to the Executive Directors held via ZOOM, on 04 February 2021.

The Executive Director in OPM, Mr. I-ben Nashandi, and Ms. Anastasia Amunyela, Deputy Director: Policy & Coordination at Disaster Risk Management joined representatives from MAWLR to discuss drought related issues in Namibia-Kunene in particular, on 11 March 2021.



OPM teams up with Regions to mitigate drought effect



Seen here above is bale consignment dispatched to Kunene region as part of the disaster risk management, to assist the farmers whose livelihood is severely affected by drought and lack of grazing and the carcasses of farmers which died as a result of drought in the region.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) through the National Disaster Risk Management Committee are working closely with the Regional Disaster Risk Management Committees and Stakeholders in an effort to mitigate the drought and floods situation in the country. The two main affected regions are Kunene, parts of Erongo, parts of Omusati West with Kavango West affected by floods. Cabinet recently took note of the drought situation in the Kunene, parts of Erongo and parts of Omusati Regions due to insufficient rain in the 2020/2021 Financial Year; and endorsed the following immediate relief interventions:

- a) Continue with the supply of food assistance to the affected communities; and
- b) Develop a livestock support scheme for the provision of grazing and/or animal feed to affected farmers, and the transportation of needy farmers to/from grazing areas.

At an earlier meeting held on 16 February 2021, Cabinet deliberated on the *2020-2021 Rainfall and its Impact on the Livelihood, Food and Nutrition Security*. As a result, the following provisional interventions have been identified and are being implemented;

SHELTER

Relocation camp has been indentified and cleared for immediate relocation of affected communities to higher grounds. OPM has dispatched 25 tents while others are being sourced from Oshana Government Warehouse and from NDF. OPM further dispatched 300 matrasses and 1800 blankets.

FOOD RELIEF

OPM has also procured and delivered 3 600 bags of Maize meal, enough to feed the affected communities for two months. In addition, 10 800 tinned fish were as well dispatched. Fresh vegetable such as potatoes, cabbage and onions are being procured through AMTA vegetable hub at Rundu, Kavange East.

WATER AND SANITATION

Consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and the Ministry Urban and Rural Development are under way to ensure water supply and sanitation.

HEALTH

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has availed water purification tablets and mosquito nets to Kavango West Regional Council. The Namibia Red Cross Society and the United Nations Office in Namibia have been consulted to assist in this regard.

Government further continues to conduct impact assessments to accelerate it's response to the emergencies affecting communities and build resilience to natural shocks.

PM reminds OPM of its Coordinating role



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila (Front Row: Centre) posing for a group picture with OPM Management at its 2021 Annual Planning Workshop held at NIPAM, on 17 March 2021.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) held its 2021 Annual Plan workshop at NIPAM on 17 March 2021, attended by OPM management. Officially opening the planning workshop Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila reminded management that OPM plays an important government coordination role. She made this remark in line with the OPM's Mission which charges the Office to lead, support and coordinate government institutions towards effective execution of Government functions and service delivery

“We play an important coordination role and if things are not happening in other Offices/Ministries/Agencies (OMAs), then we must look at ourselves,” she said. The Prime Minister added that OPM must continuously find ways to support OMAs to do what they are supposed to do and not vice-versa.

She also placed emphasis on automation of services and the operationalisation of the Customer Service Charter, starting with OPM

Farmer to Farmer: donation from Rehoboth to Opuwo

The Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. I-Ben Nashandi together with Deputy Director: Policy Coordination, Ms. Anastasia Amunyela (far left) and Deputy Director: Support Services, Ms. Helen Likando (left) received 600 bales of lucerne grass from the Rehoboth Farmers Association delivered by the Chairperson of the Association Mr. Frans Fisch. Mr. Fisch said “it is important for farmers to work closely together to assist the government to achieve its objectives”. Mr. Nashandi commended the Association for setting a good example by supporting other farmers in need, adding that the people of Kunene, parts of Erongo and parts of Omusati bordering Kunene are severely affected by the drought.

“We cannot say lack of grazing, there are literally no grazing in Kunene,” he emphasised.

Mr. Nashandi further said the Office of the Prime Minister has plans to deliver a total of 41 990 bale of grass from Government Green Schemes. A total of 11 385 bales have already been delivered.



Data is the New Gold. Protect it!!!

Contributed by: Mrs. Melanie Tjijenda

Data is the new gold and as such data breaches and password attacks are becoming very common and this is largely attributed to weak passwords. The easiest way to protect yourself, and Office of the Prime Minister (and Government at large) from cyber threats and attacks is by having a strong password.

It is simple; the longer and more complex your password, the more difficult it is to crack. Shorter and simpler passwords take less time and resources for hackers to compromise.

Password Attack

As its name implies, password attack is an attempt to steal passwords from a user. Since passwords are the most common authentication means, attackers are always on the lookout for ways to use this cyber-attack.

Two common techniques they use to get a user's password are:

- Brute-force guessing

This entails using different random words, hoping that one of them would be the correct password. If the hacker knows his or her victim, they can apply logic while guessing and try the person's

title, name, job, or hobbies as the password

- Dictionary Attack

In this case, the hacker uses some of the common passwords to gain access to the user's device

For instance, 1234 or 'abede' are passwords that a lot of people use on their devices and these two are at the top of the list of common ones an attacker will try out.

What Makes a Good Password?

To start, your password should be at least eight (8) characters long, with at least one capital letter, one number, and one special character (“@”, or “%”, etc.).

As an added layer of security, change your passwords on a regular basis to ensure that you stay ahead of the hackers.

Remember, the best passwords contain as much randomness as possible – using unlikely combinations and random characters is a great strategy.

Traits of a Bad Password

Hackers have created databases of the most common words, phrases, and number combinations that they can run your password through to find a match.



Mrs. Melanie Tjijenda
Director: DQA, DPISTM

The following are some common password themes that you should avoid:

- Birthdays;
- Names;
- Phone numbers;
- Sports teams;
- OPM information; and
- Simple obfuscation of a common word (“P@\$w0rd”).

Treat your Password like an underwear.

1. Change them regularly
2. Never share them with anyone
3. Keep off your desk



“Green Hydrogen is a welcome idea,” says PM

The Australian Fortescue Future Industries delegation paid a Courtesy Call to Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila with the objective to explore Green Hydrogen as a more environmentally friendly forms of energy in Namibia, on 30 March 2021.

Fortescue says Green hydrogen is fuel that is created using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.

Prime Minister said Namibia has reformed its policies to allow for the diversification of the energy sector and this is a welcome investment proposal, adding that the Namibian government is looking forward to a win-win partnership with potential investors like Fortescue.