



PREMIER NEWS

The Office of the Prime Minister's electronic newsletter, September - December 2019, Vol. 2 | Issue No. 3

Poor parenting contributes to youth criminality, 'says PM



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Japan donates 1.2 million for drought relief

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Karin is souring high – one step at a time!

From the Desk of the ED



Mr. I-Ben Natangwe Nashandi
Executive Director

As I reflect on this past year, one word springs to mind: commitment!

I found this interesting quote about commitment: "Commitment means to stay loyal to what you said you were going to do, long after the mood you said it in has left you." In other words, commitment is about seeing something through to the end.

Our mandate remains: to coordinate the executive function in Parliament, the work of Cabinet, and the Public Service for result-driven service delivery to citizens.

I am certain that, as the overseer of the Public Service, the Office of the Prime Minister has served the public with integrity and commitment.

One specifically would like commend all OMAs, Regional and Village Councils, and Traditional Authorities for their commitment to saving the lives of livestock and people during this difficult year of drought. Despite challenges experienced, drought intervention indicators show good progress.

Over 42,000 households received food. Food items distributed consist of 12.5kg maize meal (or mahangu grains), 750 ml of cooking oil and 4 tins of 440kg fish.

Water, bales for livestock support, transportation have been provided while livestock marketing incentives, subsidies for fodder and licks, subsidies for transportation to grazing areas, subsidies for lease of grazing have been paid.

My sincere gratitude also goes to all OPM staff members who have toiled days and nights to deliver quality services.

Let us to continue serving the Namibian House with dedication and renewed strength in 2020.

Happy Festive Season and a Prosperous New Year!!

PREMIER NEWS

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THE PUBLIC SERVANT

The *Premier News* is a quarterly newsletter published by the Office of the Prime Minister and produced by the Division: Public Relation and Communications.

The *Premier News* is one of the channels through which information and news about the Office of the Prime Minister is disseminated in and around Namibia.

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)

Hello family!. Welcome to Volume 2, Issue 3 of the electronic newsletter of the Premier News-the official newsletter of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Despite a few showers received country-wide recently, prolonged drought continued to negatively affect the livelihood of the people and the livestock. The latter necessitated the Prime Minister to request the National Assembly to extend the National Disaster for a further period of six months, until March 2020 to cushion the effect of drought on the country.

Therefore, in this addition we continue to bring you stories on drought, Prime Minister's standpoint on crime, safety and security, OPM donation to an orphanage in Havana, drought relief donations, various Office engagements and a human interest feature article on one of e-Governance and informatics enthusiasts, Dr. Karin Amukungo-Fröhlich.

Here is the flash news as a food for thoughts as we go into the festive season: "be a rainbow in someone else's cloud".

Enjoy the reading.

Happy festive Season and a Prosperous New Year!!

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Poor parenting contributes to youth criminality, 'says PM

Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila says many of the crimes taking place in Namibia are rooted in negative cultural practices, alcohol, drug abuse and lack of active parental involvement in the upbringing of their children.

She lamented that poor parenting deny these children parental guidance and support, adding that children are often exposed to negative influence such as peer pressure and some of the negative effects associated with Information and Communication Technologies such as unrestricted access to internet and social media.

The Prime Minister further urged communities to indefensibly show intolerance to crime (even when perpetrated by the youth) by reporting all suspected criminal cases to the Police, to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice for a better Namibia.

The PM made these remarks when she officially inaugurated the Omusati Police Regional Headquarters at Outapi Town, Omusati Region on 08 November 2019.

The completion of this facility is part of Government's efforts to decentralize functions related to law enforcement and ensure a conducive environment for the Namibian Police to serve communities efficiently and effectively.



Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

The PM further called on police officials who will operate from these new facilities to take good care of the facilities and make optimal use of the facilities to serve the people.

"These facilities are a significant booster to your capabilities that should improve both your performance and morale," she said.

She reminded the Police of their responsibilities, the honor and trust bestowed upon them and the importance of the uniform they wear.

"Those uniforms that you wear are not only a reflection of your membership to the service and the ranks in which you serve, but they reflect the honor that is bestowed only to those in whom societies have the utmost trust," she said.



She emphasized that the facility should remind them of the sacred duty that the nation has entrusted them with, and inspire them to serve the nation with unyielding commitment, and professionalism.

During this Financial Year, Government allocated N\$ 4 649 971 000.00 to the Namibian Police Force, of which N\$ 485 574 000.00 is allocated for the development budget.

PM calls for drought relief extension

By Tekla Nakale

Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila has requested the National Assembly to extend the National Disaster (Drought) for a further period of six months, from 06 October 2019 to 06 March 2020.

PM said the extension of the State of Emergency on the account of drought is necessitated by the prolonged drought that continues to negatively affect the livelihood of the people and the livestock.

By extending the State of Emergency period, the government will continue to expedite the relief efforts in an effort to cushion the impact of drought on the affected communities and build resilience of future impacts of future drought incidences.

She further emphasized that the condition of grazing continues to deteriorate; leading to reliance on fodder and other animal feeds distribution as a main way to sustain livestock. Shortage of water and local supply of fodder and animal feeds pose a risk to crop production and the sustainability of the livestock support program. The number of household beneficiaries has also increased from 42 000 at the inception of the programme to 172 938.

As a results, the Premier said, the overall drought relief budget has increased from a total amount of N\$572.5 million to 595.2 million due to the increase a number of beneficiaries and additional interventions relating to logistics, livestock support, water services and food provision.

While, acknowledging the generous donations received, in cash and in-kind from private individuals, corporate entities, international organisations and foreign Governments, she said the amount of donations received by that date was just over N\$129 million.

The Prime Minister made these remarks when she motivated to extend the President's declaration of the emergency on drought in the country in the National Assembly on 02 October 2019.

She informed the House that included in the livestock support is a N\$10 million administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, for the provision of seeds for the imminent crop season.

The Prime Minister further informed the National Assembly that progress has been made in the utilization for the budget of drought relief programs and so far the amount of N\$131 million has been spent and committed towards drought relief expenses. This include: N\$57.9 million spent on food provision; N\$18.9 million on logistics, N\$37.5 million on water provision and the amount of 16.6 million spent on livestock support.

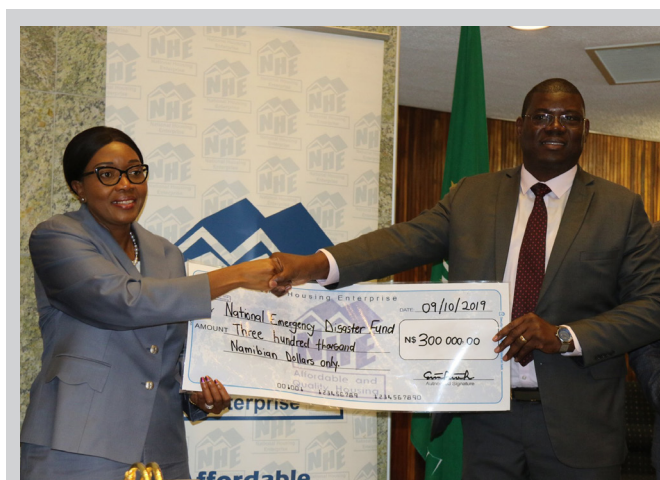
PM calls for drought relief extension

By Tekla Nakale



Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila

The National Disaster was declared a State of Emergency by the President, Dr. Hage Geingob with effect from 06 May 2019. This was declared in terms of Article 26(1) of the Namibian constitution, read with the section 30(3) of the Disaster Risk Management Act, 2012 (Act). The State of the Emergency period was then extended by the National Assembly to 05 October 2019.



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila gladly received a donation of N\$ 300 000.00 from the National Housing Enterprises (NHE) towards drought relief efforts on 09 October 2019.

Japan donates 1.2 million for drought relief

By Tekla Nakale



Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama received a donation of N\$ 1.2 million from the Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, H.E. Hideaki Harada in collaboration with the Namibian Red Cross Society towards drought relief support in Kunene Region, on 25 November 2019.

Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama, a Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, witnessed the signing ceremony of a Project for Drought relief funded by the Japanese Government in collaboration with Namibia Red Cross Society, on 25th November 2019.

The agreement provides for assistance of US\$ 85, 220 (equivalent to N\$1.2 million) towards the rehabilitation of 16 boreholes in Kunene Region to ensure safe clean drinking water for about 480 households and livestock. The beneficiaries will also receive purification tablets and water storage containers as well as training on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene).

Dr. Ankama said that the support is channeled for the direct benefit of the communities that are in need of water and to complement the Government's drought relief effort.

Government drought program also prioritizes the water provision to drought stricken communities. "It is in this light that to date, the Government has channeled about N\$250 million for the provision of water and for the extension of water pipes, rehabilitation and drilling of boreholes," confirmed Dr. Ankama.

These funds are expanded to Regional Councils, as part of decentralization efforts to ensure speedy implementation and correct identification of beneficiaries.

His Excellency Mr. Hideaki Herada, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia said the funds may have only come late, but he believes that it will support many people suffering due to lack of rain. "I can assure you that the project, through its grassroots activities will benefit vulnerable people directly and immediately and further promote human security," he emphasized.

The funds were given through the Japanese Government Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

OPM dismisses drought relief food trade-off allegations

By Rhingo Mutambo

The Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. I-Ben Nashandi says misleading allegation circulating in social media spheres that government officials are selling drought relief food items consisting of maize meal, cooking oil and tinned fish for a meagre N\$10, are not factual and are harmful to the reputation and integrity of the on-going national drought relief intervention.

“We further would like to assure the nation that the government remains focused on efforts to save lives and building resilience to reduce the vulnerability of our communities,” he said.

He made these remarks in a media release issued to the media by the OPM on 25 October 2019.

The media release warned that if officials entrusted with drought relief are caught indulging in unbecoming behaviour, swift punitive measures will be taken against them.

Mr. Nashandi assured the nation that despite the reality that the number of food relief beneficiaries has now increased to 172 938 following further beneficiary identification assessment, the drought relief intervention is progressing well and over 42 000 food insecure households have received food so far.

Food items distributed directly to disturbed insecure households consisted of 12.5kg maize meal (or mahangu grains), 750 ml of cooking oil and 4 tins of 440kg fish per household.

The government require the support of all Namibians to continue the programme in order to save lives instead of spreading detrimental rumours, which are counterproductive to the national drought mitigation efforts.



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila gladly received a donation of N\$ 5 million from the Bank of Namibia (BoN) towards drought relief. BoN's Governor, Mr. Ipumbu Shiimi handed over the donation. The money will be deposited in the National Emergency Disaster Fund.

The Prime Minister noted with appreciation positive response through donations by individual Namibians, business people, foreign governments, national and international organisations. She further urged individual Namibians to support drought relief efforts adding that “if Namibia as a country survives the drought situation, individual Namibians will also survive.”

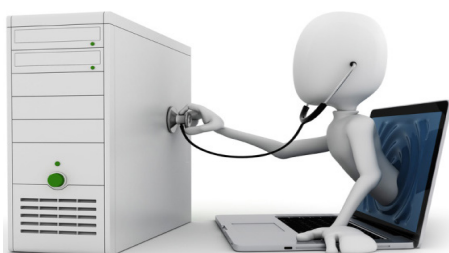


The Office of the Prime Minister received a combined donation of N\$ 6 655 000.00 from Meat Board and Contractors under the Roads Authority of Namibia towards drought relief on 19 September 2019. Of this amount, Meat Board donated N\$ 6 million and the Contractors donated a collective amount of N\$ 655 000.00.

HELP DESK

Spends long hours on a computer?

4 Tips on staying healthy.



1. Use A Standing Desk

The human body was never meant to sit at a desk for 8 hours a day, and doing so puts a lot of strain on your body and can cause a lot of negative health effects. Get a standing desk or try doing while standing for a while. After all, standing desks is now in fashion.

2. Make Sure That You Get Up And Move Around Regularly

If your job requires a lot of time sitting in front of a computer, make it a point to get up and move around regularly. If you have to, you can even set the alarm on your phone to go off every hour. Then get up, go for a walk, or do anything that is going to get you up and away from your desk for at least a few minutes. Even this small amount of activity will help improve your circulation, relieve strain on your neck and back, and also burn a few calories while you are at it.

3. Give Your Eyes A Break As Well

Staring at a computer screen all day long puts a lot of strain on your eyes. Computer screens can put a lot of strain on your eyes which over time can contribute to vision problems, headaches, and other health problems. Take a minute, close your eyes, and give them a break.

4. Avoid snacking all day

Snacking on junk food all day long while working at a computer is not healthy. Obviously, you have to eat so the key here is to make sure you are eating the right foods. Therefore, when you have to eat, bring home cooked meal or and do not have your lunch while working. Take a lunch break away from the PC.

Modified from: <https://balticassist.com>

OPM NEWS FLASH FROM THE ARCHIVES



Mrs. Melanie Tjijenda (Right), receiving the e-Governance Academy (eGA) Annual Award for the “Partner of the Year 2016” on behalf of the Government Office of Republic of Namibia at the gala of Tallinn e-Governance Conference in 2017. Seen with her is Mr. Arvo Ott, Director of eGA and Hannes Astok (Centre), Deputy Director of eGA.

‘No one should be left out,’ says PM

By Rhingo Mutambo

Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa is urging drought relief implementers that despite the drought relief selection criteria, Authorities at Regional level should assess, register and support food insecure households which do not fall within the given criteria, to save lives.

The Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila made this remarks when she engaged with Governors, Executive Directors, Chief Regional Officers and Chairpersons of Regional Councils on the implementation of the drought relief program to review the success and challenges to ensure effective management and implementation of the drought intervention program. The event took place on 02 October 2019.

The PM further lamented that the climatic conditions continue to be unfavorable with negative effect on communities and on livestock as the grazing conditions continue to deteriorate. The PM, however, assured the nation that government is prepared and remains focused on efforts to save lives and building resilience to reduce the vulnerability of our communities and volatile economy.

According to the vulnerability assessment report, the estimated number of household beneficiaries was 42 000 at the inception of the program. However, this number has now increased to 172 938 following further beneficiary identification assessment.

The PM urged the Regional Councils to maintain a good record of beneficiaries for verification purpose, adding that valid reasons on their situation that necessitated the drought relief support must also be documented.

“The same goes for the rations to be provided to households. Where circumstances dictate, the size of the food ration



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila engaged with Governors, Executive Directors, Chief Regional Officers and Chairpersons of Regional Councils on the implementation of the drought relief program, the success and challenges to ensure effective management and implementation of the drought intervention program. The event took place on 02 October 2019.

should be increased accordingly to ensure that those in need of special support do get that”, she stressed.

It was reported in relation to distribution points; some communities in some regions raised their concerns about travelling long distances to collect drought relief food. PM instructed that the Regional Councils must establish distributions points within the reach of communities, so that no beneficiary should incur high cost of transportation to collect their rations.

The government continue to require the support of all Namibians, the business community and the international community, and reiterate calling on all Namibians and development partners to continue assisting in any way possible, so that the government can continue providing assistance to effected communities.

The PM also addressed issues of Logistics, Water provision as well as Livestock support as part of the program.

Karin is soaring high – one step at a time!



Dr. Karin Amukungo-Fröhlich

Karin Amukungo-Fröhlich a System Analyst in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) recently graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Informatics from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in collaboration with a Finland based Alto University.

Her Doctoral Thesis focused on the Development of a Citizen Centric e-Government Model for Effective Service Delivery in Namibia.

The study went on to identify key supportive factors for a government to achieve citizen-centricity of its e-government services. This, inter-alia, included access to ICT infrastructure, ICT skills, citizen's attitude, creating local partnerships and understanding the citizen's information needs.

Her doctoral studies, experience in e-Governance, research work, and her unwavering drive to community development and the usage of technology to transform lives, drove her into partnership between a Finnish based Fusion Grid Research Project which is working closely with NUST and communities in rural settings.

The project is funded by the Finnish government through Business Finland and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other participating research partners include; LUT-LAHTI University of Technology and Alto University together with industrial collaborators such as GreenEnergy Finland (GEF), Finnish University Properties (SYK), Nokia and Solar Finland.

As a Post-Doctoral Researcher with Fusion Grid at Alto University she co-spearheaded a Fusion Grid project on 06 December 2019 which brought electricity, connectivity, and digital services at an informal settlement in Oniipa called Okalenova in the Oshikoto Region. "This Solar-Battery-Based Off-Grid System is new and first of its kind in the world, so Namibia is the first to use such a system," claimed Dr. Amukungo-Fröhlich. Five (5) households have so far benefited from this project. The beneficiaries were also provided with free mobile phones in a hope to access government services.

OPM as a custodian of e-Governance in the country applauds Dr. Amukungo-Fröhlich and the Fusion Grid Project team for their determination to support the Namibian government's effort to bring ICT services closer to the people as enshrined in Harambee Prosperity Plan, Pillar 4 on Infrastructure Development.

Karen is currently known as the only Namibian writing extensively on e-Governance and m-Governance and her work is deemed beneficial for SADC in general and Namibia in particular.

OPM wishes to extend its gratitude to the Finnish government, Karin and the Fusion Grid Project team in all their future endeavours.



Dr. Karin Amukungo-Fröhlich and the Fusion Grid Project team members; Prof. Marko Nieminen (right) and Dr. Atti Pinomaa (left) at an informal settlement in Oniipa called Okalenova in the Oshikoto region on 06 December 2019.

Office engagements at a glance!



Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila received a donation of N\$ 2 million from the Chinese Ambassador to Namibia, Mr. Zhang Yiming towards drought relief support, on 25 November 2019. The money was a voluntary donation from the Chinese Business Community from all over Namibia.

Hon. Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama, Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister met with Deputy Ministers in various Ministries to discuss the Revised National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, Coordination Mechanism and Implementation Action Plan on 07 October 2019, Windhoek, Namibia.



OPM Reviewing Quarter 2 of its Annual Plan on 14 October 2019.

Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila gladly received a donation of N\$ 40 000.00 from the Ark Fishing Industry (PTY) LTD towards the National Emergency Disaster Fund for drought relief on 09 October 2019.



DPSM donates to House of Prayer Orphanage



"It's the small gesture that often makes the biggest impact". This statement was well manifested when a team of Government employees from the Department Public Service Management (DPSM) led by the Deputy Executive Director; Ms. Tuyakula Haipinge, donated clothing and food items to 20 vulnerable children at the House of Prayer Pre-Primary School through 'Project Ubuntu' in Windhoek, Katutura, Havana on 18 September 2019.

Handing over the donation consisting of sugar, macaroni, tinned fish, maize meal, cooking oil, rice, tea, baking powder, body bar soaps, sanitary pads and clothing, Ms. Tuyakula said: "kindly accept this small humble gesture from us with hope that tomorrow will be better." 'Project Ubuntu' is a brainchild of DPSM in the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Department Public Service Management (DPSM) under the Leadership of Ms. Tuyakula Haipinge, Deputy Executive Director, visited the "House of Prayer Ministry" Orphanage Home in the informal settlement of Havana, Moses //Garob constituency, in Windhoek to hand over the donation of food items and clothing.

The donation form part of Ubuntu initiative by the staff members in the department to support the needy and underprivileged in the society. It is a complimentary move towards Harambee Prosperity in promoting inclusiveness. The centre was identified by the coordinating committee for social responsibility within DPSM to be the recipients of the well hearted gesture donation. The items donated include bags of rice, macaroni, tinned fish, maize meal, baking powder, tea, sugar, cooking oil, clothes, body soaps and sanitary pads.

All staff members in the department have contributed in one way or the other to support the project.

House of the Prayer ministry is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation established in 2006 out of the desire to provide shelter, security or secure environment, clothing, emotional care and hope for a better future for the parentless, abandoned, underprivileged and disabled children in our society. It was established by the Pastor Elias Apbnor Gaingob and family, as a fulfilment of a vow made some years back.

At this orphanage home, they believe that every orphaned child must have the same education, opportunity and basic amenities as children with parents. Thus, it became inevitable for the department to offer a hand of support.

In her remarks, Ms. Haipinge, indicated that the DPSM team, which is driven by the common will to share and make a

positive difference decided to join fellow Namibians, who have actively responded to the cardinal call by our National Leaders and Church Leaders to be loving, caring and unfolding our arms to the needy in our country and communities around us. She further stated that these same values have also been instilled by our parents.

On his part, the founder of the Orphanage Home, Pastor Gaingob, said that the Orphanage currently has a total of 23 orphans, with 19 boarding at the centre while the other 4 comes from outside. Due to the current economic hardship they were on fasting and prayer session for 16 days, and by the grace of God their prayers were answered.

"Our children have the chance to socialise and play with others. Seldom do they meet people. I believe all the stuff you donated will make an impact to them". These children are here for different reasons. Some of them are neglected by their parents; others come from abusive families, while others are orphaned.

But we are struggling to support them as a centre because we are not getting funds or sponsorship yet and only survive on hand-outs and child grants from government," said Pastor Gaingob. "The responsibility of running this orphanage lies on our shoulders, myself and my wife with the assistance of two (2) helpers, we had four (4) helpers but two (2) left because of lack of money," he said.

He continued to say that they welcome anyone with good gesture to reach out to them, by following the example established by others who continue to help and now the group under the leadership of Ms Haipinge. He made a passionate appeal to all well-meaning Namibians; Embassy's including organisation and companies to come to their aid.

Staff Movement in the Office of the Prime Minister

The following staff members graduated, transferred or appointed in OPM:



NAME : Ms. Cynthia Simasiku
RANK : Student Intern, Grade 12
DEPT. : Department: Administration IT
 Management Finance (Accounts Payable)
STATUS : **Appointed on 01 September 2019**
OMA to : Office of the Prime Minister
"Life is about learning every step of the way. OPM helped me to do just that. I really appreciate it."

NAME : Ms. Miriam Araxas
RANK : Student Intern, Grade 12
DEPT. : Department: Administration IT
 Management Finance (Payroll)
STATUS : **Appointed on 01 September 2019**
OMA to : Office of the Prime Minister
"I have learnt so much in a few months. The experience helped me to see the pieces of my educational puzzle come together."



NAME : Mr. Fillipus Jeremia
RANK : Student Intern, Grade 12
DEPT. : Department: Administration IT
 Management Finance (Accounts Payable)
STATUS : **Appointed on 01 September 2019**
OMA to : Office of the Prime Minister
"Overall, people in OPM have been supportive and welcoming."

NAME : Ms. Tekla Nakale
RANK : Student Intern, Grade 12
DEPT. : Department: Administration IT
 Management Public Relations Unit
STATUS : **Appointed on 01 October 2019**
OMA to : Office of the Prime Minister
"Interning at the OPM helped me to gain real work knowledge and practical skills. I really learnt a lot."



OPM 2019 Year End Function in Pictures

