

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



THE PRESIDENCY

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. NANGOLO MBUMBA,
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE OCCASSION OF THE 40th COVID-19 PUBLIC BRIEFING
ON THE NATIONAL RESPONSE MEASURES
14 February 2022**

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Check against Delivery

Right Hon. Prime Minister,
Minister of Health and Social Services,
Honourable Ministers,
Senior Government Officials,
Members of the Media

Fellow Namibians,

I greet you and welcome you to the 40th COVID-19 Public Health Briefing. The coronavirus pandemic remains in our midst. It is an ever-present danger to public health not only here in Namibia, but in other parts of the world too. The trajectory of the pandemic differs across different countries around the globe. The common denominator is that all countries have been negatively affected both in lives lost and livelihood disrupted and thus forced to continue implementing measures to address the

spread of the virus and the impacts of the pandemic.

Here in Namibia, the last 30-day Observance Period has offered our country and communities some respite. The country is now in the latent stage of the Fourth Wave as cases have declined. We are recording a low positivity rate across the country. It is a source of encouragement that the situation has been manageable in the past three weeks.

I commend the Namibian people, who continue to comply with the public health Regulations. The collective effort, vigilance and discipline have enabled us to withstand and overcome the Fourth Wave, characterized by high transmission rate, albeit with moderate hospitalizations and a relatively low fatality rate.

Special commendation goes to our Traditional and Spiritual Leaders, Business personalities, Academic, Trade Unions and Youth Organizations for encouraging their members and all our people to get vaccinated.

The Government continues to observe, with concern, the public apprehension and hesitancy on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. In this regard, as of February 13, 2022, the coverage of fully vaccinated population remains low at 20.6 percent of the Country's target population, whereas the WHO recommended population required to achieve national herd immunity is 60%.

I offer assurances to members of the public, that the Namibian Government will not do anything to compromise the health of our People. The COVID-19 vaccines are effective measure to mitigate

severe illness and death from infection and I urge all eligible members of the public to go and get vaccinated, or their booster shots as a means of bolstering their immunities. The Minister of Health will provide a more detailed update on the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign.

Fellow Namibians,

The current Regulations are due to expire tomorrow midnight on 15 February 2022. The status quo will be maintained and extended for a period of 30 days, from 16 February to 15 March 2022.

With regards to the size of Public Gatherings, for the next dispensation the size of Public Gatherings will be adjusted from 200 to 500 people. The

Minister of Health will momentarily elaborate on the new measures for this period.

As we settle into the New Year 2022, the Year of Reimaging, let us redefine and reimagine this year through the positive lenses of hope, optimism and faith which can help us realize our personal and collective visions. As His Excellency President Hage Geingob always emphasizes, it is only by pulling together in the same direction, in the spirit of Harambee, that we can build a stronger, prosperous and united Namibian House, in which no one feels left out. Similarly, it is only through unity of purpose and action, focus and determination that we will collectively defeat this pandemic, to rebuild our economy and our lives.

The responsibility remains upon every citizen to maintain hand-hygiene by washing and sanitizing

them, to wear a face mask in public and to maintain appropriate social and physical distancing. I once again appeal to all eligible Namibians to receive their vaccination and/or booster shots. These are the most secure preventative measures against the spread, severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Let us remain steadfast to combat this invisible enemy.

Last but definitely not least, once again I thank the nation and congratulate our frontline workers the Doctors, Nurses and other health workers, members of the Safety and Security cluster for the courage, perseverance and unprecedented commitment to combat and defeat this virus.

I now invite the Minister of Health and Social Services to provide further update on the Regulations.

I thank you.