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PRESS STATEMENT

Update on COVID-19 in Namibia.

1. As I stated a few days ago, we continue to draw samples from suspected individuals in order to determine whether they are infected or not. As of today the 5th April 2020, two more positive cases of Covid-19 were reported. This brings the total number of confirmed cases in Namibia to sixteen (16). I take this opportunity to commend our medical professionals for their dedication and hard work. They are literally, the tip of the spear in this war against an invisible enemy. They are serving this nation, detecting, treating and caring for the COVID-19 patients.
2. To date, the number of suspected COVID -19 samples taken in Namibia and submitted to laboratories in Namibia and South Africa for testing stands at 362. Of these, two hundred and six (206) were submitted to the Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP) and 156 were submitted to PathCare, which in turn sends the samples to South Africa for testing. I will now explain the two latest cases I mentioned earlier.
3. Case No 15 is a 31-year old Namibian male who had close contact with a friend from South Africa from the 26 March 2020. The friend had since returned to South Africa. This contact reported at Robert Mugabe Clinic on 30 March 2020, with complains of cough, body pain, sore throat, and shortness of breath. He was tested and the results came out positive on 4 April 2020. He is a teacher by profession. He has been isolated. His condition is satisfactory.
4. Case No 16 is a 46-year-old medical practitioner who traveled to SA. He presented himself at Robert Mugabe Clinic on 30 March 2020 with complaints of fever, chill, body pain, and sore throat. The specimen was taken and the test came out positive on 4 April 2020. He is in isolation. His condition is satisfactory.
5. Globally, health care workers are at increased risk of contracting infectious diseases because when the patient first present at the health facility, one may not know if the person is infected or not. Therefore, employers must ensure that health workers are well protected and taken care of, by providing adequate and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment

(PPE) and well trained on their correct use. Equally, health care workers are cautioned to take extra precautions and treat each patient as a high-risk case.

6. I am pleased that all sections of the government are fully involved in combating this pandemic. We appreciate support received from private sector and business fraternity. This gesture is very welcomed as the impact of this devastating situation cut across all sectors of the society. We would like to see political parties playing a part in educating their members and supporters, especially with the observance of measures which are put in place to contain the disease.
7. As a reminder, all Namibians should be adherent to the regulations described during the declaration of a National State of Emergency on 17 March 2020. The public is encouraged to avoid crowded places, wash hands with soap and running water, avoid touching faces, and stay away from other people when sick. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

I thank you.

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