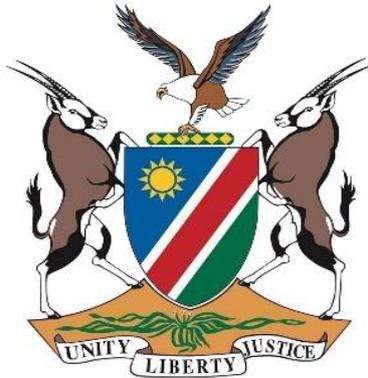


# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### STATEMENT BY HON. DR. KALUMBI SHANGULA, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD TB DAY 2022 SIDE MEETING WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS

**25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**

**ONAYENA  
OSHIKOTO REGION**

*\*Check Against Delivery.*

Director of Programme, Mr Ben Nangombe, Executive Director, of the Ministry of Health and Social Services,  
Tatekulu Omukwaniilwa GwaAandonga, Shuumbwa Nangolo,  
Esteemed Traditional Leaders,  
Hon. Penda Ya Ndakolo, Governor, Oshikoto Region,  
Honourable Local and Regional Authority Councillors,  
Chairpersons and Traditional Authority leaders  
Mr Josua Nghipangelwa, Health Director, Oshikoto Region  
Senior Government Officials representing various Offices, Ministries and Agencies,  
Distinguished Invited Guests,  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

**Otuuhalii po ngaa nawa atuheni?**

I would like to thank you for making time to join us at the commemoration of World TB Day. Your support as Traditional Leaders is critical in encouraging our communities to adopt health seeking behaviour and conform and adhere to treatment not only for TB, but all other ailments. This engagement was an arrangement for us, as stakeholders and citizens to exchange views about COVID-19 vaccination and how we can overcome vaccine hesitancy to protect our people. This is particularly so because many of our people have been misled and misinformed especially via information that reaches them through social media.

Otandi tameke noku gandja omapandulo kune amuhe sho mwa simaneke ehiyo lyetu opo tu kaleni pamwe mesikudhimbuluko lyomukithi gwoTB lyopaigwana. Omayambidhidho geni onga Aaleni yopAmuthigululwakalo olya simana noonkondo okutsa aakwashigwana yetu omukumo opo ya kale taya yi kiipangelo uuna kaayuvite nawa, yo yalandule woo, etaya dhiginine omapango ngoka ya tulilwa po. Kashi shi ashike shina sha noTB, ihe woo tuu nomauwehame giili nogiili ngoka taya tsakanene. Oshiithanene shino pethimbo lyomwiha nena, oshalongekidhwa opo tu tulilathaniimo omayele kombinga yomatuntulo goCOVID-19. Tse otwa mono ngaa sha pumbiwa opo tu new mo moombago dheni dhomayelee shaa otwa taalela eshongo lyaantu oyendji taya nkendankenda, notaya tindi okutuntulwa shaa shi oyendji oya pukithwa komayeleele ga puka unene tuu ngoka taga pitile momalungula.

Namibia has made significant and applaudable strides in its national COVID-19 response since we notified the first case in March 2020, two years ago. To date, we have registered an estimated 157,449 COVID-19 infections countrywide with about 14,814 requiring hospital admission. Unfortunately, 4,014 lives were lost as a result of COVID-19. Oshilongo shetweni Namibia osha kutha oonkaktu oonene lela nodhi shi okupandulwa moku ungaunga nomukithi gwoCOVID-19, oku za ngaa sho omuntu gwotango ngoka a li a kwatwa koCOVID-19 moNamibia a li a monika muMaalitsa 2020, oomvula mbali dha ka pita. Sigo oompaka, omukithi gwoCOVID-19 moNamibia ogwa kolekelwa maantu ye li 157,449 ayehe kumwe. Mokati kaamboka ya li ya kwatwa kuuwehame wo COVID-19, aantu ye li 14, 814 oya li ya pumwba oku taamebelwa moombete miipangelo. Mupya Munene, aantu ye li 4014 oya hulitha oondje dhawo molwa omukithi ogwo tuu nguka.

Specific to the regions represented here, which is Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati and Ohangwena regions, we have recorded the following statistics. Ngele tatu tala kiitopolwa yoshilongo, uyeleele miitopolwa ngaashi Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati nOhangwena, uyeleele nomiyalu otadhi ti ngeyi:

| 1. Hospital beds designated for COVID-19 admissions<br><b>Omwaalu gwoombete miipangelo dha nuninwa aavu yoCOVID-19</b> | <b>Region Oshitopolwa</b> |                 |                |                  |  |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--|
|  | <b>Oshana</b>             | <b>Oshikoto</b> | <b>Omusati</b> | <b>Ohangwena</b> | <b>National MoNamibia ayihe/pashigwana</b> |
| 2. Number of COVID-19 infections<br><b>Omwaalu gwaamboka ya kwatwa ko COVID-19.</b>                                    | 10 625                    | 7 967           | 7 587          | 6 048            | 157 449                                    |
| 3. Number of hospital admissions.<br><b>Mboka ya taambwa moombete:</b>   |                           |                 |                |                  | 14 814                                     |
| 4. Number of deaths<br><b>Omaso:</b>   | 394                       | 208             | 343            | 204              | 4 014                                      |
|  | 193                       | 224             | 96             | 281              | 2 107                                      |

The Government, with support from its partners, has taken decisive action to strengthen and expand the capacity of the public health system to withstand the impact of the pandemic. Although current statistics reveal low infection rates, there is a need for continuous preparedness on any upsurge of infection with regard to the availability of beds, medical oxygen supply and mortuaries. **Epangelo lyaNamibia, pamwe noma wathelo okuza kokuume ketu, otwa kutha onkatu opo tu nkondopeke omayakulo gopauhaku, tse twaa sindike ko COVID-19. Nonando omiyalu dhaantu mba ta ya kwatwa ko COVID-19 oamsiku ngano odhuuka pevi, oshapumbiwa opo tu kale pyakudhukwa opo tu vule okutaamba moombete ayehe mboka taya komukithi. Otunaa woo okukala tatu vulu okugandja ohapi kwaamboka ye yi pumbwa. Omahala gookiila dhomidhimba nago opo geli uuna puna mboka taye ti thigi po molwa oCOVID-19. Ano natu kaleni twa kotoka notwa tonata opo twaa kwatwe komukithi nguka.**

On infrastructure, 12 bed prefabricated facilities have been completed and are operational at Otjiwarongo and Andara hospitals. The Katutura TB Ward extension of 98 beds is anticipated to be completed by end of March 2022. This extension also includes a 4-chair dialysis unit. The Ministry has received a donation of 200 beds from USAID and these beds are being distributed at the newly created isolation units.

**Epangelo olya tunga omahala gayoololwa moka hamu taambelwa aavu yoCOVID-19. Omahala ngaka kehe limwe li na oombete 12 oga tungwa piingagelo pOtjiwarongo no poAndara. Piipangelo pOnandjokwe, Oshakati, Engela, Outapi, Okahao, napo woo opwali pwa tungwa omahala omape goku ungaunga noCOVID-19 moomvula mbali dha piti.**

In limiting referrals from district hospitals, the Government has embarked upon the establishment of intensive care units at district hospitals. The upgrading of a ward into an ICU at Katima Mulilo hospital is in progress, while consultants are to be appointed for other facilities for the design and documentation.

**Opo tu ngambeke omiyalu dhaavu taya falwa kiipangelo yokokule okuza kiitopolwa yiili no yiili moshilongo, unene tuumboka taa ehamenene, epangel olya tameke okweeta po omikunda dhokuyakula mboka taa ehamenene. Miipangelo yo kiitopolwa. Omikunda ndhika otadhi ka**

tulwa miipangelo ngaashi Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Engela, Outapi, Otjiwarongo, Rundu, Gobabis, Mariental, Opuwo, Mariental, Swakopmund, Otjiwarongo noNankundu.

The provision of medical oxygen at state facilities remains a priority. The Government, with its stakeholders (Government of Wales, USAID, CDC, and the Bank of Namibia), has continued to ensure medical oxygen availability. The upgrades have been completed at Katima Mulilo, Grootfontein and Outjo hospitals. Further upgrades are being undertaken at Rundu, Nkurenkuru, Gobabis and Onandjokwe hospitals.

Oku gandja ohapi miipangelo shimwe shomalalakano getu ga simana lela. Epangelo, melongel kumwe nohangano gopaumwene nomapangelo ngoka ha ge tu yambidhidha oga longa noonkondo opo tu ka twa gandja ohapi kiipangelo ngaa shi ya pumbiwa. Iikwa niipangitho yokugandja ohapi oya li ya ovololwa nokwoopalekwa piipangelo ngaashi Katima Mulilo, Grootfontein nosho Outjo. Iilonga oyi li metifa oku opaleka iikwa niipangitho mbika piipangelo po Rundu, Nkerenkuru, Gobabis nopOnandjokwe. Iilonga ya gwedha po otayi tsikile koombinga noombinga dho shilongo opo tu nkondopeke omayakulo gokukaleka po uukolele waaNamibia ayehe.

Honourable Heads of Traditional Authorities, we have to reiterate that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet. It is only with effective and continued use of preventative measures that we can move towards the goal of ending the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aaleli nAawiliki yetu yOpamuthigululwakalo Aasimnekwa, onda hala okutsa po omuthindo kutya omukithi gwoCOVID-19 inagu hula natango. Ano natu tsikileni nokwiiyutha komalandulathano ngoka ga tulwa po opo omukithi nguka gu hule po.

Vaccination is one of the effective strategies to reduce the severity and mortality of COVID-19. Despite the proven benefits that COVID-19 vaccination has, and that the Government of Namibia ensures that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for use in Namibia, we observe that vaccination coverage countrywide remains below the desired coverage level.

Okutuntilwa oko omulandu gumwe gwa simana moku shuna pevi uuwehame uunene tawe etwa ko COVID-19. Otuntula oyina ommawwanawa ogendji. Dho oowenda dho matuntulo goCOVID-19 odha lingithwa miilongo oyindji muuyuni awuhe. Iilongo mbyoka ya tuntula aantu oyendji miilongo ya wo ngashingeyi oya kutha po omangambeko ogendji ngoka ga li ga tulwa oku ngambeka etaandelo lyomukithi. Ano, natse woo AaNamibia natu longeleni kumwe, natu untilweni, tse natu iyutheni komilandu opo oshilongo shetu shi sinde omukithi nguaka.

I will narrate a few statistics in this regard and specific on the regions represented here.

Otandi kutha okampito haka opo ndi tye sha kombinga yetuntulo lyo COVID-19 miitopolwa ngaashi Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto, nOmusati.

| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Dose COVID-19 Vaccination vs the Targeted Population</b><br>(as of 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2022) <b>(Owenda yo tango, sha yelekwa nethanekomwaalu lyaamboka taa tuntulwa)</b> |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Regions</b><br>Iitopolwa   | <b>Targeted Population</b><br>Ethanekomwaalu<br>lyaamboka taa tuntulwa. | <b>Overall Vaccinated (1st Dose)</b> (Owenda yotango) | <b>Vaccination Coverage (%)</b><br>Ooperesenda<br>dhetuntulo<br>moshitopolwa |
| Ohangwena   | 174,546   | 28,136  | 16.1%  |
| Oshana  | 143,395   | 23,070  | 16.1%  |

|  |                  |                |              |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Oshikoto   | 144,912          | 22,647         | 15.6%        |
| Omusati  | 179,370          | 27,510         | 15.3%        |
| <b>National</b><br>(MoNamibia<br>ayihe/<br>pashigwana) | <b>1,779,271</b> | <b>444,529</b> | <b>25.0%</b> |

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose COVID-19 Vaccination vs the Targeted Population

(as of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022). **Owenda ontiyali, sha yelekwa nethanekomwaalu lyaamboka ya pumbwa okutuntilwa)**

| <b>Regions</b><br>Iitopolwa                            | <b>Targeted Population</b><br>Ethanekomwaalu<br>lyaamboka yapumbwa<br>okutuntilwa. | <b>Overall Vaccinated</b><br>(2nd Dose) Omwaalu<br>gwaamboka ya wendwa<br>olutiyali. | <b>Vaccination</b><br><b>Coverage (%)</b><br>Ooperesenda<br>dhetuntilo<br>moshitopolwa |
|--|--|--|--|
| Oshana   | 143,395  | 15,555   | 10.8%  |
| Omusati  | 179,370  | 18,337   | 10.2%  |
| Ohangwena  | 174,546  | 17,595   | 10.1%  |
| Oshikoto   | 144,912  | 13,935   | 9.6%   |
| <b>National</b><br>(MoNamibia<br>ayihe/<br>pashigwana) | <b>1,779,271</b>   | <b>252,543</b>   | <b>14.2%</b>   |

### Fully vaccinated against COVID-19 vs the Targeted Population

(as of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022) **Mboka ya tuntilwa okuudha tashi yelekwa nethanekomwaalu lyaamboka yapumbwa okutuntilwa.**

| <b>Regions</b><br>Iitopolwa                            | <b>Targeted Population</b><br>Ethanekomwaalu<br>lyaamboka yapumbwa<br>okutuntilwa. | <b>Overall Fully</b><br><b>Vaccinated</b><br>Omwaalu gwaamboka ya<br>wendwa okuudha. | <b>Vaccination</b><br><b>Coverage (%)</b><br>Ooperesenda<br>dhetuntilo<br>moshitopolwa |
|--|--|--|--|
| Oshana   | 143,395  | 20,658   | 14.4%  |
| Oshikoto   | 144,912  | 20,451   | 14.1%  |
| Ohangwena  | 174,546  | 24,166   | 13.8%  |
| Omusati  | 179,370  | 24,298   | 13.5%  |
| <b>National</b><br>(MoNamibia<br>ayihe/<br>pashigwana) | <b>1,779,271</b>   | <b>378,339</b>   | <b>21.3%</b>   |

The low uptake of vaccination in Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati and Ohangwena regions below the national average is a concern. Cumulatively, these regions have the greatest contribution to the national population. Being densely populated, it is critical to reach more people with COVID-19 vaccination in these regions to shield them ahead of any potential future waves.

Otweetelwa oshimpwiyu oshinene omolwa omiyalu dhi li pevi dhaantu mboka yatuntilwa miitopolwa mbika: Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati nOhangwena. Iitoplwa oyo ya humbata omwaalu omunene gwehwata nenge gwembwinda lyaantu ayehe moshilongo shaNamibia. Shaashi ihe embwinda lyaantu moshilongo oli li miitopolwa mbika, oshina oshasimana opo aantu oyendji miitopolwa mbika ya kale yatuntilwa yo yagamenwe komauwehame ngoka ha geetwa komukiithi gwoCOVID-19.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, urges and pleads with you as the Honourable Heads of Traditional Authorities and as gatekeepers to your communities, to help address vaccine hesitancy and to advocate for greater uptake of COVID-19 amongst the Namibian population.

Oshikongo shUuhaku nOmazulunkalo otashi indile nokupopya nomuthondo ngeyi kutya, Aaleli nAawiliki yetu yOpamuthigululwakalo naya ninge ashike shoka tashi vulika no shi li moonkondo dhawo opo ya tse omukumo aakwashigwana mboka taya kendakenda shi nasha noku tuntilwa, opo ya ye yaka tuntilwe.

To reiterate my message to you today. COVID-19 vaccination can:

- Save lives by providing strong protection against serious illness, hospitalization, and death,
- The Government of Namibia provides the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge to everyone at public health facilities and the COVID-19 vaccines are given to anyone who wants to be vaccinated,
- The Government will ensure that there are sufficient vaccine stocks in the country.

Pitikiindje opo ndi thamune natango paufupi etumwalaka ndi nde mu etele nena mpa. Ootuntila dhoCOVID-19:

- Ohadhi gamene oomwenyo. Mboka ya tuntilwa ihaya kwatwa kuuwehame tau konene, na itayi iyadha yataambelwa moombete miipangelo. Ohaya gamenwa woo keso ta li etwa ko COVID-19,
- Epanglo oha li gandja oowenda ndhika oshali kwaayehe mboka yapumbwa okuntuntilwa,
- Epangelo olya shilipaleka kutya moshilong om una ootuntila dha gwana okutuntila ayehe mboka ya pumbwa okutuntilwa.

National solidarity is needed to increase vaccine uptake in the country. Solidarity and cooperation are required as we continue to rebuild our country following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had on our society. We must ensure that no one is left behind. I have come before you today to seek for your cooperation in this national effort. I have come before you to request you to continue engaging with your communities and encourage them to get vaccinated. It is the right thing to do.

I thank you.

Uukwawo waNankali owa pumbiwa opo tu indjipalekeni omwaalu gwaamboka ya tuntilwa. Elongelokumwe olya pumbiwa opo tu tungululeni oshilongo sho sha li sha mbonyonwa komukithi nguka omudhigu gwo COVID-19. Mokunnga ngeyi, natu shilipalekeni kutya kapuna ngoka ta thigala konima. Ondeya komeho geni, Aaleli Aasimanekwa opo ndi mu pule tu longeleni kumwe moshinakugwanithwa shika shasimana sho pashingwana. Ondeya komeho geni nena opo ndi mu pule mu tsikile noku poya naakwashigwana, muya tse omukumo opo yaye yakatuntile. Osho oshinima shomondjila.

Tangi, tangi unene.