



**SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS:
CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE RE-OPENING OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL
OPEN MARKETS AND TRADING ACTIVITIES IN THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS
HELD ON 18 APRIL 2020**

Below are action points to be executed by each Regional Council and Local Authority to be submitted to MURD 19 April 2020

1. Ownership

- Each authority to identify an entity responsible for the execution and success of the actions points listed from 2-9.

2. Education

- **Before commencement of trading a compulsory comprehensive community education campaign must be activated.**

3. Products to be sold

- It is expected that each Regional Council and Local Authority identify products to be sold at Markets and such identification must be in compliance to the Provisions of the State of Emergency COVID-19 Regulations as amended.
- Identify raw food products to be sold
- Cooked food to be pre-prepared and sold as “take away”. No cooking permitted on site

4. Facilities

- That each Regional Council and Local Authority identify the trading areas/sites
- Specify the capacity of such areas/site
- Registration status, i.e. formal /informal/, e.g (Big tree, Open market)
- Traders in urban areas will only be allowed to operate at **designated sites or spaces**, and hawkers or street or un-authorized vendors are not allowed to operate;

5. Compliance requirements

- Who is responsible for water provision at trading sites
- Identify availability of water for both traders and customers
- Identify the accessibility of water for both traders and customers

- Availability of Sanitation products (sanitizers/water and soap)
 - Entrance and Exit points to be marked and manned
 - Traders and their employees, where applicable, should wear **face masks** during trading hours;
 - Sanitizers and other disinfectants must be provided to ensure that all those who enter and exit the trading areas follow set sanitizing or disinfecting requirements/procedures.
- 6. Identification of traders**
- Traders must be clearly identified at sites
 - Authorities to indicate the measures for identification
 - Organize traders by rooster/shit for control purposes
- 7. Social distancing**
- Clearly mark distances and must be visible (tapes/stones/powder)
 - (Traders assistants/employees only allowed if /when social distancing is complied with)
- 8. Disinfection of sites**
- Disinfection of sites by Authorities is mandatory and in compliance with the provisions of Public and Environmental Health Act 1 of 2015 (section14)
 - Indicate intervals of disinfection
- 9. Regulation/Enforcement**
- Structures such as committees in place to minimize risks and contain the outbreak of COVID-19 at trading sites
 - Authorities to ensure that Local Authority and or Settlement DRMC are activated and fully functional
 - Community policing
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Markets to only remain open between 08H00 – 17H00 daily;

Attached herewith for ease of reference

Speech of Hon Minister of MURD, Honourable Erastus A. Uutoni

Presentation of ED MURD, Mr Daniel

PROPOSED STRATEGY AND MODALITIES FOR THE RE-OPENING OF OPEN MARKETS AND INFORMAL TRADING ACTIVITIES IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

Background

In terms of Regulation 12(1)(b) as published in **Government Gazette Notice 7159 – Proclamation No. 9 State of Emergency – COVID-19 Regulations**, “all open markets, informal trading activities...may not operate” during the period of lockdown.

The implementation of the afore-mentioned measure has serious negative effects on informal traders especially producers and vendors of fresh food produce, which products are perishable and the producers risk a great loss if they do not sell on time. It has also been recognized that food is one of the listed essential goods, and that a large section of the population depends on informal trading and markets as the main avenue for them to either sell or source the essential produce or products, which in turn are their main source of income and survival.

While recognizing the reality of the threat being posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country and the need for the strict enforcement of the preventive and mitigating measures as gazette in Notice 7159, the Ministries of Urban & Rural Development (convener); Health & Social Services; Agriculture, Water & Land Reform, Industrialization & Trade and Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety & Security have been tasked to work out and submit a proposal on a strategy and modalities on how informal trading activities may be allowed without compromising the enforcement of the COVID-19 measures.

In light of the above, a Committee of Deputy Ministers from the above-listed Ministries, the Mayor of the Windhoek Municipality supported by senior officials from the listed Ministries and the Municipality as well as the Agronomic Board of Namibia, the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) and the Namibia Association of Local Authorities Officers (NALAO) met on 8 April 2020 and hereby submit its analysis and recommendations.

1. **Products to be allowed to be traded during the State of Emergency**
 - **Raw Food products**
 - Fresh vegetables and fruits
 - Raw meat and fish
 - Raw dried food
 - Dairy products
 - Raw poultry products
 - Cereals and flour products
2. **Facilities / Places of trade (formal and informal)**
 - Open markets (fenced and not-fenced in)
 - Informal trading areas/spots

3. Who is to be allowed to trade?

- Producers and vendors registered by authorities (local authorities, regional councils, traditional authorities, MAWLR and MIT);
- Unregistered vendors (outside local authority areas)

4. Compliance requirements

- Availability of **water**, sanitation and hygienic facilities (toilets, **soap, sanitisers** and disinfectants) is a mandatory prerequisite;
- Customers to be allowed inside the trading area in strict adherence to the social distancing requirement;
- **Social distancing** must be strictly enforced between traders and between traders and customers (**markings/demarcations**);
- Customers are only allowed to buy, "**pick-and-go**", and will not be permitted to hang around the market or trading area;
- Traders will be issued **permits** to trade or a form of **identification** by the authority in their areas of residence or business operation, which they are required carry and present when so required for verification and compliance enforcement purposes;
- Traders may be required to alternate on a daily basis (**roster/shifts**) to ensure that all traders have an opportunity to trade in cases where the area does not enable social distancing measures to be effected, and traders will be assigned alternate trading space to ensure social distancing requirements;
- Employees or assistants to the traders can only be considered where the required social distancing can be maintained (only one employee and owner/trader);
- Traders and their employees, where applicable, should wear face masks during trading hours;
- Traders in urban areas will only be allowed to operate at **designated sites or spaces**, and hawkers or street or un-authorized vendors are not allowed to operate;
- Markets to only remain open between 08H00 – 17H00 daily;
- **Access** to and activities at trading areas will be **controlled** and monitored to ensure adherence to the prescribed social distancing and the regulation of permitted activities and products;

- The **packaging** of the produce must be done in a manner that will prevent or minimize contamination (buyers having to search through and pick what please them using their hands). Where this is not possible, prior thorough hand washing (tippy-tappies) or sanitizing must be done before the touching of the produces/products
- Producers/traders should endeavor to **pre-wash** their fresh produce before selling, and also for buyers to properly wash the products upon reaching home
- Sanitizers and other disinfectants must be provided to ensure that all those who enter and exit the trading areas follow set sanitizing or disinfecting requirements/procedures.

5. Enablers

- Intensification of **education and awareness creation** on COVID-19 among the informal traders and producers in particular and the public in general (various media of communication including radio and social media, prior to and during the re-opening of trading);
- **AMTA** to be capacitated to procure and distribute fresh produce (Cabinet directive);
- Close **collaboration** between regional councils, local authorities, traditional authorities and law enforcement agencies in ensuring the monitoring, facilitation and enforcement of set compliance measures in respect of the movement of food products within or between regions as well as at areas of trading; and
- Development of a **database** on informal traders in urban and rural areas (for statistical purposes).

6. Implementation Modalities

- A **Directive** to be issued by the Minister responsible for Local and Regional Government and Traditional Authority affairs regarding the resumption of informal trading activities;
- The above authorities (local authorities, regional councils and traditional authorities) are required to reach out to the target operators through various media and communication channels to give **notification on the modalities on the re-opening** of the trading as well as the conditions and measures to be complied with;
- The Directive and guidelines that will be issued to the authorities at regional and local government levels may be domesticated to suit or accommodate prevailing unique local conditions, but only to the extent that adherence to the national regulations is maintained

- **Local authorities** will be responsible providing access to **water and sanitisers at open markets**, while **traders outside local authority-run open markets** will be responsible for providing **water with soap for their own use and for their customers**;
- Active involvement of **community/local leaders** and community members in policing and enforcing compliance as well as community education and awareness creation;
- Central Government (MoHAISS and MoHSS) to provide the requisite **compliance enforcement support to regional councils and local authorities** at the areas of informal trading (patrols and spot checks);
- Non-compliance to measures set out in the Directive will be dealt with in accordance with Regulation 16 of Proclamation No. 9 (Government Notice no. 7159);
- ***Compliance to the measures contained in this Directive will periodically monitored and evaluated, and be subject to change***