



Republic of Namibia

## *Ministry of Health and Social Services*

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Date: 27 March 2020

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Chairperson  
Health Industry forum of Namibia

Dear Esme Botes

#### **RE: ACTIVATION OF RAPID RESPONSE TEAM AT PRIVATE AND STATE HOSPITALS**

The World Health Organization has declared COVID19 a global pandemic. Following this, a declaration of a state of emergency by His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, was made on the 17 March 2020.

An Inter-ministerial Task Force was activated to co-ordinate the response to this pandemic, and the Standard Operating Procedures, (SOPs) for Preparedness and Response to COVID-19 Outbreak in Namibia have been created and shared.

It is against this backdrop that the Ministry of Health and Social Services is informing your membership that all hospitals (state and private) should kindly:

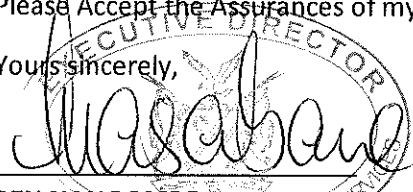
1. Set up rapid response teams, consisting of:
  - a. Dedicated Medical doctors
  - b. Infection Prevention and Control Nurses
  - c. Environmental Health Officers
  - d. EPCs and Ambulance personnel
  - e. Additional personnel as needed
2. Ensure that Rapid Response Teams are responsible for screening & testing facilities, as well as preparation of isolation rooms/wards for admission of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 according to the Standard Operating Procedures.
3. Equip their isolation rooms with intensive care capabilities should the need arise.
4. Mobilise your members to be ready to help with treating critically ill patient especially when the need for ventilation arise.

Attached kindly receive a copy of the Standard Operating Procedures which should guide the Rapid Response Teams to co-ordinate their response appropriately.

Furthermore, I would like to request your organization to kindly submit a list of General Practitioners and Specialists who would be used to assist with calls for the National Emergency Operating Center. These doctors would be on call specifically for suspected or confirmed COVID19 cases.

Please Accept the Assurances of my highest regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Nangombe", is written over a circular official stamp.

**BEN NANGOMBE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

