



**WALVIS BAY
CORRIDOR
GROUP**

HEAD OFFICE: P.O. Box 25220, 31 General Murtala Muhammed Avenue, Eros, Windhoek, Namibia
T. +264 61 251 669, F. +264 61 251 683, E. marketing@wbcg.com.na

DRC: Lubumbashi, T. +322 386 5109, E. bdm@wbcg.cd
BRAZIL: São Paulo, T. +55 11 2655-7301, E. ricardo@wbcg.com.br
ZAMBIA: Lusaka, T. +260 21 129 4494, E. bdm@wbcgzm.com
SOUTH AFRICA: Johannesburg, T. +27 11 258 8912, E. bdm@wbcg.co.za

WEBSITE: www.wbcg.com.na

COMMUNIQUE

16 MARCH 2020

RE: UPDATE ON THE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AT THE NAMIBIAN BORDERS ON THE WALVIS BAY CORRIDORS

Introduction and Summary

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The outbreak started in Wuhan, Hubei Province in China in December 2019 and has now affected 143 countries/territories around the world. The disease is characterised by fever of more than 38°C, cough and difficulties in breathing.

In response to this declaration, Namibia continues to strengthen our preparedness to deal with eventualities that may arise as a result of this outbreak. This includes putting in place capacities for screening and laboratory testing for suspected cases.

Following engagements with various relevant stakeholders, the following information specific to the surveillance and screening measures implemented on the Walvis Bay Corridors, has been gathered:

- I. The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) has the sole responsibility to give the health clearances of all the vessels, vehicles and passengers entering our borders and ports.
- II. MoHSS has set up surveillance and screening measures at all Namibia's cross border posts, ports and international airports.

The Ports of Walvis Bay & Lüderitz

- I. Officials from Namibia's Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) who operate in the port (referred to as 'Port Health') have intensified the screening of all vessels entering the Ports of Walvis Bay and Lüderitz.
- II. A memo was issued by Namport on the 28th January 2020 to all ship captains, ship agents, shore skippers and skippers detailing the process to be followed before, as well as when a vessel arrives in port. This screening and clearing process will be carried out by Port Health.
- III. Before a vessel arrives on Namibian shores the vessel agent will be required to provide all background documentation to Namport about the last port of call, the number of passengers and the general conditions on board. Once a vessel docks alongside the quay at the port, all persons on board are screened by the Port Health before disembarking.

- IV. Any passenger suspected to be infected with the virus will be isolated on board, and if need be, evacuated as per Port Health procedures. The vessel will in this case also be quarantined.

Cross Border posts

Screening and surveillance points are operational at all cross border posts around the country to screen everyone who enters the country. The stations are manned by the MoHSS in line with border operational hours (07h00 – 24h00).

WBCG's support

The following measures have been put in place by the WBCG to date:

- I. The WBCG operates Roadside Wellness Clinics at Oshikango, Katima Mulilo, Walvis Bay and Windhoek, with new clinics to be opened in Gobabis and Otjiwarongo soon.
- II. Drivers or any clients/patients who access health services at these clinics will be screened as per the MoHSS guidelines. Exception to be made to patients presenting the cardinal symptoms, who will be referred to the MoHSS for further assessment. This is done to ensure that the MoHSS uses the national surveillance framework to report cases as they are detected.

Way forward

The Government of Namibia undertook to provide information to the nation on a regular basis. According to an announcement made by the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula (MP) at a press briefing held in Windhoek last week, this will be done either through press conferences or via press releases.

A toll-free number has been opened for members of the public to receive necessary information on coronavirus disease and to communicate any queries to the relevant authority. The Toll-Free Number is 0800 100 100.

The Walvis Bay Corridor Group encourages our members and the transport community to use precautionary measures to limit the potential exposure of your employees to this global pandemic.

Yours Sincerely,



Mbahupu Hippy Tjivikua
Chief Executive Officer

Important Disclaimer: The information contained in the communique does not reflect the view of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group. The document merely states the information gathered from engagements with various stakeholders involved.