

14 March 2016

IMMINENT WATER SHORTAGES AND POSSIBLE WATER RESTRICTIONS IN THE CENTRAL AREAS OF NAMIBIA (CAN): A POLICY STATEMENT AND AN UPDATE, PRESENTED BY JOHN MUTORWA, MP AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY (MAWF): MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2016, 10H00, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.

1.1 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS

- (a) Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution, under the heading: “SOVEREIGN OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES,” succinctly states the following: “Land, Water and Natural resources, below and above the surface of the land and in the Continental Shelf; and within the Territorial Waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone of Namibia, shall belong to the State, if they are not otherwise lawfully owned,” (my underlining for emphasis).
- (b) The Namibian State is thus the legal owner of all the water resources and sources, as per Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution.

- (c) The prudent, judicious and sustainable management, utilization, allocation and development of this lifegiving and life sustaining natural resource (water) are principally done, as per the relevant provisions of the WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT, 2013 (ACT NUMBER 11 OF 2013), through the MAWF's Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRSM).
- (d) The Namibian Water Corporation (NamWater), a 100% Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) owned Company, is legally responsible for the supply of water, in bulk or in very large quantities, to large entities (customers), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Namibia Water Corporation Act, 1997 (Act Number 12 of 1997).

1.2 **THE CENTRAL AREAS OF NAMIBIA (CAN) DEFINED:**

- (a) The CAN is that geographical area or areas, , which is or are supplied, with water, from the following three DAMS (RESERVOIRS):
 - (i) Omatako Dam (Otjozondjupa Region);
 - (ii) S. Von Bach Dam (Otjozondjupa Region);
 - (iii) Swakkoppoort Dam (Erongo Region).
- (b) The aforementioned THREE DAMS mainly receive their underground water from:

- (i) Kombat Mine;
 - (ii) Berg Aukas (Grootfontein)
- (c) The said underground water from Kombat Mine and from Berg Aukas is conveyed or transported, through the EASTERN WATER CANAL, over hundreds of kilometres, into the Omatako Dam – further into the Von Bach Dam and still further into the reservoirs that in turn, supply Windhoek and its surrounding areas with water.
- (d) It is also very important to point out here that: the town of Okakarara, as well as all those areas NORTH of Okakarara, that are supplied with water, by the MAWF's Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC) get their water, that is equally transported 24 hours and Seven Days a week, from the Kombat Mine and from Berg Aukas, through the EASTERN WATER CARRIER OR CANAL (EWC).
- (e) In summary therefore, and in terms of Water Supply, the CENTRAL AREAS OF NAMIBIA (CAN) literally and practically consist of all of the following towns, villages, settlements and big industrial- commercial entities:
- (i) Windhoek;
 - (ii) Okahandja;
 - (iii) Karibib;
 - (iv) Otjimbingwe;
 - (v) Navachab Mine;

- (vi) Otjihase Mine;
 - (vii) Hosea Kutako International Airport (HKIA);
 - (viii) Von Finkenstein Estate;
 - (ix) Herbothsblick;
 - (x) Elisenheim;
 - (xi) Meat Corporation of Namibia Tannery (MEATCO);
 - (xii) MEATCO Feedlot (Brakwater);
 - (xiii) Namibia Poultry Industries;
 - (xiv) UNAM Neudam Campus;
 - (xv) Namibia Breweries;
 - (xvi) Namibia Beverages (Coca Cola);
- (f) During times of plenty of rains and therefore big inflows into the mentioned THREE DAMS, the pumping of water from Kombat and Berg Aukas pumps, into the three dams, is logically substantially minimized or reduced.
- (g) No significant dam inflows, from rain, has been recorded into Omatakao, Von Bach and Swakkoppoort DAMS, for the past FIVE (5) years, that is: from 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and including 2016! That is frightening and worrying!
- (h) Undoubtedly, the CAN must be seen and accepted, as probably the most important areas, because the said areas include WINDHOEK, the Nation's Capital City and the seat of the Namibian State's three organs, namely: the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.

1.3 **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES TO AVOID TOTAL WATER SHORTAGES:**

Various strategies have been, are being and will, most certainly, have to be practically implemented to avoid the CAN running dry:

- (a) Treatment and recycling of the WASH WATER from the Von Bach Water Treatment Plant; (NamWater);
- (b) Improve treatment of Swakkoppoort Dam; (NamWater);
- (c) Upgrade of Gammams Waste Water Treatment Plant (CoW);
- (d) Construction of an additional RECLAMATION PLANT in Windhoek (CoW);
- (e) Enlargement of the WINDHOEK UNDERGROUND WATER AQUIFER's storage capacity; (CoW);
- (f) Development of the ABENAB and KARST AREA II ground water sources and subsequently connecting them to the EWC, (MAWF and NamWater);
- (g) Savings of 10% - 15% in water usage, by and through the implementation of water demand management measures (WDMM) by all consumers of Water in the CAN.

1.4 **SECURING LONG TERM SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE CAN:**

Only two viable options are available:

- (a) Desalination of Seawater;
- (b) Drawing Water from a permanent reliable water source ,
e.g. from the Kavango River, which is a shared water
course!

1.5 **SECURING LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY TO THE COASTAL AREAS OF NAMIBIA (ERONGO REGION):**

Only ONE viable and sustainable solution or option exist:

- Desalination of Seawater!

1.6 **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

- (a) The ESSENTIAL ENGLISH DICTIONARY, defines the word WATER as follows: “the clear, thin liquid, that has no colour and no taste, when it is pure. It falls from clouds as rain and enters rivers and seas. All animals and people need to drink water in order to live.” The CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY, likewise, defines the word WATER as: “the liquid that forms the seas, lakes, rivers and rain and is the basis of the fluids of living organisms.”

- (b) The absolute essential importance and indispensable needs of and for water are sometimes, or frequently, taken for granted; by us human beings, but, only strongly come to the fore when it is lost or when one does not have water i.e. when the taps, the wells, the lakes, the boreholes, rivers are dry!.
- (c) We are all strongly implored and urged to:
- To use any available water judiciously sparingly and sustainably;
 - Save water;
 - Use water wisely;
 - Not waste water;
 - Stop all water leakages;
 - Continue praying for more rain!

1.7 Thank you very much!

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John MUTORWA, MP

MINISTER

Monday, 14 March 2016, 10H00, Windhoek, Namibia.